



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 08 May 2014

## THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER POSITION

### 1. Recommendation

1.1 The current interim OPCC Head of Finance to act into the post of Interim Chief Finance Officer (with associated section 151 responsibility and duties) until the substantive appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioner Director of Finance.

### 2. Background

2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (PRSRA) 2011 under paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 requires every PCC outside London to appoint a CFO. An identical duty under paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 and paragraph 1 of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Chief Constable is also required to appoint a CFO. The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires both CFOs to comply with relevant provisions within the Local Government Acts.

2.2 Since Sir Graham Bright took office on 22<sup>nd</sup> November the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) for the Police and Crime Commissioner has been a permanent established post within the PCC Office, undertaken by a member of the PCC Office team. The position became vacated on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014. At this time Niki Howard, the Director of Resources for the Chief Constable agreed to undertake the role and responsibilities of the PCC CFO until a suitable replacement was appointed.

2.3 After an initial attempt to fill the position on a permanent basis proved unsuccessful, the Police and Crime Commissioner is undertaking a second recruitment round to find a suitable permanent appointment.

- 2.4 A recent HMIC Valuing the Police Inspection identified a need to bring to an end the period in which the Director of Resources also undertakes the Chief Finance Officer function for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **3 Current Position and Proposed interim arrangements**

- 3.1 An interim Head of Finance was appointed to the Police and Crime Commissioners Office on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014. The main function was to develop a common Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Scheme of Governance, provide support to the PCC, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer and to provide advice and guidance as appropriate whilst allowing the dual role of Director of Resources for the Chief Constable/Chief Finance Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioner to continue.
- 3.2 The appointee (Robert Vickers) is a CIPFA qualified accountant, with significant post qualification experience and previous experience working in the Police and Crime Commissioner environment, having occupied the Chief Finance Officer Role at Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner during his last assignment.
- 3.3 It is important that both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable have access to independent advice and the Police and Crime Commissioner retains the Chief Finance Officer as an established position within his office. Therefore this would keep the roles of the Chief Finance Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Finance Officer (Director of Resources) for the Chief Constable separate, as is implied in both the PRSRA 2011 and CIPFA statement on “the role of the chief financial officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Finance Officer of the Chief Constable”.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the responsibilities and duties of the Chief Finance Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner are transferred to Robert Vickers, with effect from 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

### **4 Recommendation**

- 4.1 The current interim OPCC Head of Finance to act into the post of Interim Chief Finance Officer (with associated section 151 responsibility and duties) until the substantive appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioner Director of Finance.