

## Item 4 (iii) ETAP meeting 19 June

### **Final Report to ETAP - Election 2024 Task and Finish Group**

#### **Introduction**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was created and is governed by The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Election for office is required to be held every four years. The first election for a PCC took place in November 2012 followed by the second election in May 2016. The 2011 Act was amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2017 enabling PCCs to take on the governance of the local Fire and Rescue Service in addition to the existing role overseeing Police. In Staffordshire, since 1 August 2018, the Office has operated as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC). The election due to take place on 7 May 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid 19 Pandemic it was eventually held on 6 May 2021. The most recent election took place on 2 May 2024.

#### **Background**

As has happened at previous elections, an Election Task and Finish Group was set up. I was asked to attend the meetings as an Observer and report back to ETAP. There have been 8 meetings in total, the first meeting took place on 27 November 2023 and the final meeting on 7 May 2024.

#### **Approach and Objectives**

In preparation for the election a Joint Protocol was set up between the Office for Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner's Staff (Commissioner's Office) Staffordshire Police Officers and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Officers and copied to the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO). In addition, the Terms of Reference was agreed and ratified at the meeting on 5 January 2024.

Regular updates at the election meetings provided assurance that the election process was closely monitored and extremely well organised with each person present at the meetings undertaking the tasks assigned to them in a professional and competent manner. The

meetings also provided assurance that the assigned tasks were being conducted timeously.

Each meeting had 6 main agenda items: Action Log; Horizon Scan of Candidate's activity, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and Parliament; Candidate Request Log; Communications and Media; Election Action Plan; Strategic Risk Register; 100-day plan. The Oath Signing and Ceremony to follow the Election was also agreed at the meetings.

### **Election and Candidates**

In late March 2024 only two prospective candidates had come forward, one being the incumbent PFCC Ben Adams and the other Alistair Watson, a Labour & Conservative Party member. When it came to the time for Registering as a Candidate 3 nominations were received.

The Candidates were

- Ben Adams (Conservative)
- Alastair Watson (Labour & Co-operative Party)
- Alec Sandiford (Liberal Democrat)

The result was announced at Burton on Trent. Mr Adams received 45% of the votes cast and retained his position as The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire. His term of office will continue until May 2028. The overall turnout was low – 19.23%.

### **Conclusion**

ETAP can be assured that appropriate management of the pre-election period and the post-election formalities were demonstrated throughout the process as undertaken by the Election Task and Finish Group

Jane M Barr  
ETAP Member  
12 May 2024