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The Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal for Councillor Ray Bisby to become Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner was given approval by the Police and Crime Panel on Tuesday (19) under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner assists the Police and Crime Commissioner in delivering the Police and Crime Plan in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Councillor Bisby has 19 years operational policing experience in the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). His work involved a local policing role and working with other partners, stakeholders and blue light services.

Following his retirement from the RUC he undertook a range of voluntary work with the prison service, local communities, schools and associations. In 2015 he became a councillor for Peterborough City Council, representing the Stanground South ward. In addition he sits on council scrutiny committees and is Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

Edward Leigh, chair and independent co-opted member of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel, said: "Given Councillor Bisby's experience, the Panel felt he could act as complementary support to the Commissioner. His experience in the police service will enable him to sense check the reality of policing matters from a distance, enabling him to inform a more strategic approach. We are confident that he will maintain operational independence between the role of Commissioner and the Constabulary.

"It was also felt that his experience as a councillor, and working with partners and stakeholders to understand issues, look for solutions and bring about change, will be beneficial in supporting,

empowering and scrutinising others in the delivering of the Commissioner's Plan."

Jason Ablewhite, Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "I am pleased that the Police and Crime Panel have formally endorsed my proposal. Ray's experience and personal qualities made him the stand out candidate for the role.

"I look forward to Ray joining me at a time of significant change within the police and across public services as a whole."

The Police and Crime Commissioner will now formally respond to the Panel's recommendation, with a view to Councillor Bisby starting his new role in early January 2018.