

JOINT COMMITTEE FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

9 JUNE 2005

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Appointment of Councillor Members to the Nottinghamshire Police Authority

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the appointment of Councillor Members to the Nottinghamshire Police Authority in the light of the result of the recent County Council elections and the period of office of certain Members.

2. Information and Advice

- 2.1 The Joint Committee last met two years ago following the City Council elections in 2003 to determine the political composition of the Nottinghamshire Police Authority having regard to the political balance of the two Councils taken as a whole.
- 2.2 New Members of the Joint Committee may find the following explanation of the background to how the nine Councillor Members on the Police Authority are appointed useful. On the basis of statistical information for the City and County Councils on population, precept and electorate it was previously agreed by the Joint Committee that the County Council would provide seven Councillor Members and Nottingham City Council two. The political balance of the nine Councillor Members was then determined having regard to the political balance of the two Councils taken as a whole.
- 2.3 Following decisions made at the last meeting of the Joint Committee and appointments made since then, current appointments and terms of office can be set out as follows:-

County Councillors

Name	Party	Expiry of Office
W J Clarke	Labour	1.6.05
M J Cox	Conservative	1.6.05
G Gilfoyle	Labour	1.6.05
John M Hemsall	Conservative	1.6.05
Richard Needham*	Labour	1.6.05
Rita Sharpe*	Labour	31.5.05
Parry Tsimbiridis	Labour	1.6.05

* no longer County Councillors.

City Councillors

Ian Malcolm	Labour	1.6.07
Brian Markin	Liberal Democrat	1.6.07

2.4 In the light of the outcome of the recent County Council elections it is now necessary to undertake a further review of Police Authority membership and the remainder of the report deals with this matter.

2.5 Following the County Council elections the political composition of the two Councils has changed and is as set out in the table below.

	CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIB DEM	IND
Nottinghamshire County Council	25	38	4	0
Nottingham City Council	7	38	8	2
TOTAL	32 (26.23%)	76 (62.29%)	12 (9.84%)	2 (1.64%)

2.6 On the basis of the revised figures in the table above and rounding percentages to the nearest whole number, the following political composition is arrived at:-

Conservative – Two Members (rounded down from 2.36)

Labour – Six Members (rounded up from 5.60)

Liberal Democrats – One Member (rounded up from 0.89)

Independents – 0 Members (0.15).

2.7 In the circumstances, therefore, the Joint Committee needs to consider the appointment of five Labour Members and two Conservative Members from the County Council.

2.8 In connection with the period of office for these appointments, it is suggested that these be made for four years.

2.9 With regard to the task of appointment, I again attach information received from the Local Government Association setting out guidance for those bodies who have responsibility for appointing members of Police Authorities. Although this guidance on skills and competencies was issued in 2002, it remains relevant to the task in hand.

2.10 The attention of the Joint Committee is also drawn to proposals set out in the White Paper “Building Communities, Beating Crime – a Better

Police Service for the 21st Century” issued in November 2004, which, if adopted, will have implications for the future composition of the nine Councillor Members on the Police Authority.

- 2.11** The current arrangements would be replaced so that of the nine Councillor Members, three places would go to the Unitary Council in the police area (the City Council), two to the County Council and four to the District Councils. Furthermore, the Councillors with Cabinet responsibility for Community Safety in the City and County would be Police Authority Members. The second County place and the four District Council places will be selected with regard to the political balance and geographical spread. It is understood that these proposals are still under review following the General Election.
- 2.12** When consultation on these proposals was held earlier in the year, the County Council expressed reservations which are set out in the background paper referred to in this report. At the time of writing this report, I am not aware of any views expressed by the City Council.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1** That consideration be given to the appointment of seven Councillor Members from the County Council, comprising five Labour Members and two Conservative Members, for a period of office of four years expiring on 1st June 2009.
- 3.2** That the position with regard to possible changes to membership of Police Authorities, as set out in paragraph 2.10, 2.11 and 2.12 of the report, be noted.

ROGER LATHAM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

4. Statutory and Policy Implications

This report has been compiled after consideration of the implications in respect of finance, legal, equal opportunities, personnel and crime and disorder and those using the service and where such implications are material they have been described within the text of the report.

5. Background Papers Available for Inspection

Letter dated 19 January 2005 from Councillor David Kirkham responding to the White Paper “Building Communities, Beating Crime”.

6. **Director of Resources' Financial comments**

There are none associated with the proposals. PH 27.5.05

7. **Legal Services comments**

The legal position with regard to appointments to the Police Authority is as set out in the report. JMF 27.5.05