

**REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP – BALANCED APPOINTMENT  
OBJECTIVE**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Panel's membership and any changes required to meet the balanced appointment objective as required by legislation.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 specifies that Police and Crime Panels must represent all parts of the police force area, be politically balanced and that members should have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary.
3. The Panel needs to review its membership at its Annual Meeting in June (or following elections which may have affected the Panel's political balance).

**Elected members and proportional representation**

4. The recent local elections have seen some changes in control and the overall numbers of seats held by the various political groups across the County (there has also been a reduction in seats due to boundary reviews completed for some of the District Councils).
5. Legislation stipulates that Police and Crime Panels must represent all parts of the relevant area, be politically balanced and have a membership that has the necessary skills, knowledge and experience.
6. Following the establishment of the Police and Crime Panel in 2012 the City Council agreed to offer one of its two additional co-opted places to a Conservative Member to help achieve overall political balance across the City and County. The Panel also agreed to offer the County Council Liberal Democrat Group a co-opted place on the Panel to ensure overall political balance.
7. Similarly, following the elections in May 2013, the Panel also agreed to offer the County Council's Conservative Group a co-opted place to maintain overall political balance.
8. The panel membership for 2014/15 was:-

Ashfield District Council (1); Bassetlaw District Council (1); Broxtowe Borough Council (1); Gedling Borough Council (1); Mansfield District Council (1); Newark & Sherwood District Council (1); Nottingham City Council (2 & 2 co-optees); Nottinghamshire County Council (1 & 2 co-optees); Rushcliffe Borough Council (1), plus 4 Independent Member co-optees.

9. The overall political balance has been recalculated following the recent election results, including the changes in control at Broxtowe Borough Council and Newark & Sherwood District Council.
10. The City Council has nominated four Labour members to take the two places and two additional co-opted places it is entitled to. Therefore it is proposed that a minimum of 8 Labour seats should be made available on the Panel. To enable overall political balance, the following ratio of seats is proposed:-

<b><u>Cllr Seats</u></b>	<b><u>Labour</u></b>	<b><u>Conservative</u></b>	<b><u>Lib Dems</u></b>	<b><u>Independent</u></b>
15	8	5	1	1

11. To achieve this ratio, the Panel would need to co-opt a further Conservative member. In line with the Panel Arrangements, any proposal to increase the number of co-options for elected members requires the unanimous agreement of the Panel and will be subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State.
12. There is a legislative requirement to nominate any elected mayor to be a Member of the Panel and therefore the new Mayor of Mansfield, Kate Allsop (Mansfield Independent Forum) has been appointed in place of the former Mayor, Tony Egginton.
13. Following the change in control at Broxtowe Borough Council, the ruling Conservative Group will be nominating a member in place of Councillor Pat Lally (this nomination will be confirmed ahead of the meeting).
14. There have also been some further changes to representation on the Panel made by the relevant Councils. These are as follows:-
  - i. Councillor Tony Roberts has replaced Councillor Bruce Laughton as the Newark & Sherwood District Council representative;
  - ii. Councillors Jon Collins and Linda Woodings have replaced Councillors Georgina Culley and Rosemary Healy as two of the City Council's representatives;
  - iii. Councillor Cheryl Butler, the new Leader of Ashfield District Council, has replaced Councillor Chris Baron as that Council's representative.

#### Independent Members

15. Each Police and Crime Panel is required to co-opt at least two independent members. The Panel previously agreed a proposal arising from the Nottinghamshire Leaders Group that appointments should be sought from local Magistrates and Nottinghamshire Probation Trust as a means of bringing in relevant knowledge from those areas. Those Panel Members were reappointed for a further two years at the Panel meeting of 24 June 2013 and therefore their term of office is due to expire after today's meeting.

16. The Panel subsequently co-opted a further two independent members in October 2013 in order to capture a more diverse range of skills and experience. Their terms of office are due to expire after the September 2015 meeting.
17. In order to retain the existing knowledge, to ensure greater continuity of membership (in light of the various changes to the elected member representation) and to help the Panel's membership reflect the communities it serves, it is proposed that the term of office of all four Independent co-optees be extended to June 2017.
18. The Panel Arrangements allow for this approach to be taken, with no limit on the total number of years an Independent member may be asked to serve.

### **Other Options Considered**

19. In enabling each Council's leading group to be represented appropriately on the Panel, there is no alternative means of achieving overall political balance than to seek a further co-option.
20. The Panel could choose to seek new Independent members but this would lose a great deal of knowledge and experience at a time when there have been a number of changes amongst the Panel's elected members.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

21. To enable the Panel to continue to meet the balanced appointment objective to the best of its ability.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) That the Panel seeks Secretary of State approval for a further co-option of a Conservative elected member to enable continued political balance across the overall area of the Panel;
- 2) That subject to Secretary of State approval, the Panel agrees which Authority should be approached to provide the additional Conservative member;
- 3) That the Panel agrees to re-appoint the four existing Independent members until June 2017.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

- 1) Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (published)
- 2) Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel's Panel Arrangements (published)
- 3) Minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meetings of 24 June 2013, 30 October 2013 and 16 December 2013.
- 4) Political Balance calculations

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