

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 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

3. The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 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.
4. The Panel membership for 2020/21 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); Nottinghamshire County Council (1); Rushcliffe Borough Council (1), plus 4 Independent Member co-optees.
5. Following the recent Nottinghamshire County Council election, the political balance across the County has been recalculated. The recalculation also takes account of the results of by-election results for district and borough Wards.
6. In light of the results of the recent election, the option that best ensures that the balanced appointment objective is met is to increase to 11 elected members, apportioned as follows:

Total Seats	Labour	Conservative	Ashfield Ind.	Independents
11	5	4	1	1

7. This option provides the best balance while respecting the percentage differential between the groups. To increase the number of members further, while representing a greater number of political groups, would lose that differentiation.
8. With the County Council appointing a Conservative Councillor to its seat, only one further Conservative co-optee would be required. An additional Conservative appointment should therefore be sought from Nottinghamshire County Council in line with previous Panel practice.

Council Representatives

9. There have also been some changes to representation on the Panel made by the relevant Councils. These are as follows:
 - i. Councillor André Camilleri has been appointed as Nottinghamshire County Council's representative
 - ii. Councillor Kevin Greaves has replaced Councillor Tony Eaton as the representative for Bassetlaw District Council

Independent Members

10. In order to retain the existing knowledge, ensure greater continuity of membership and help the Panel's membership reflect the communities it serves, the Panel agreed on 23 November 2020 that the term of office of all four Independent co-optees be extended by one year to 31 May 2022.

Other Options Considered

11. The Panel could continue to operate with 10 elected members but, with the nominations made by Council's within the Nottinghamshire Police Force area, would not meet the balanced appointment objective.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. Increasing the size of the Panel by a member will ensure it meets the balanced appointment objective.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the Panel decide to increase the elected member representation on the Panel to 11 to enable political balance to be best achieved.
- 2) That a further Conservative co-optee from Nottinghamshire County Council be sought to achieve political balance.
- 3) That the changes in Council representation on the Panel, as detailed in paragraph 9 above, be noted.
- 4) That the Home Office be informed of any changes in the Panel's membership as appropriate.

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) Political Balance calculations
- 4) Report to Police and Crime Panel of 23 November 2020 and minutes of that meeting (published)

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