

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
4 JUNE 2018

6

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 as politically balanced as possible and have a membership that has the necessary skills, knowledge and experience.
4. At the Panel meetings of 29 June 2017 and 18 September 2017 it was agreed to reduce the number of elected members on the Panel, subject to further review of the additional 2 co-optee places previously granted to Nottingham City Council (this had been a long-standing arrangement initially agreed by the Panel in October 2012, in light of the City’s relative population).
5. The Panel membership agreed for 2017/18, subject to further review of the City Council’s co-options, was therefore:-

<u>Council</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Political Party of Members</u>
Ashfield District Council	1	Labour
Bassetlaw District Council	1	Labour
Broxtowe Borough Council	1	Conservative
Gedling Borough Council	1	Labour
Mansfield District Council	1	Mansfield Independent Forum
Newark & Sherwood District Council	1	Conservative
Nottingham City Council	2 (subject to review)	Labour x 2
Nottinghamshire County Council	1	Conservative
Rushcliffe Borough Council	1	Conservative

6. Following the recent change in control at Ashfield District Council (through which Labour no longer hold the majority), the political balance across the County has been recalculated. The Leader of the Ashfield Independents Group is now the Leader of the District Council and has been nominated as that Council's representative on the Panel.
7. In light of this change of nomination it is no longer possible for the Panel to be politically balanced with 10 elected members (as Labour are entitled to 5 seats, the Conservatives are entitled to 4 seats and the Mansfield Independent Forum are entitled to 1 seat). By increasing to at least 11 members, a further place becomes available for the Ashfield Independents (on the basis that they are the next largest political party across the Panel's area).
8. The following options are therefore available:-

Option A – increase to 11 elected members, apportioned as follows:-

Total Seats	Labour	Conservative	Mansfield Independent Forum	Ashfield Independents
11	5	4	1	1

Option B – increase to 12 elected members, apportioned as follows:-

Total Seats	Labour	Conservative	Mansfield Independent Forum	Ashfield Independents
12	6	4	1	1

Option A – Increase to 11 Elected Members

9. This is the smallest increase which the Panel could make to achieve political balance.
10. If this is the Panel's preferred option then the Panel will need to agree which Council should be approached to provide the additional Labour member co-optee required.
11. One option would be for Nottingham City Council to be approached in light of the previously mentioned Panel decision to reduce their number of co-optees, which was subject to further review.

Option B – Increase to 12 Elected Members

12. This option offers the Panel greater resilience in terms of widening the pool of Panel Members available to attend meetings.
13. It would also offer the opportunity to reinstate both of the previous co-optee places for the City Council, should the Panel so wish.

Council Representatives

14. Other than the change in Ashfield, at this stage there have been no other changes to representation on the Panel reported by the relevant Councils. Any subsequent changes received will be reported to the Panel meeting.

Independent Members

15. The Panel has agreed to commence a recruitment process in November 2017 to review the existing co-options.

Other Options Considered

16. The Panel could continue to operate with 10 elected members but political balance would not then be possible.

17. The Panel could ask Ashfield District Council to nominate a Labour representative but each Council is entitled to decide its own representative. The Panel is required to try and ensure that its membership is as politically balanced as possible.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the Panel decide whether to increase the elected member representation on the Panel to 11 or 12.
- 2) That the Panel decide which Council/s be asked to provide the additional Labour elected members co-option/s required.
- 3) 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 meeting of 19 October 2012 and minutes of that meeting (published)
- 5) Reports to Police and Crime Panel of 29 June 2017 and 18 September 2017 and minutes of those meetings.

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