

**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 must have a minimum of 10 elected representatives (councillors or elected mayors) from the local authorities within the area covered by the police force.
5. The 2011 Act places a duty on local authorities, the Home Secretary and Panels themselves when nominating, appointing or co-opting members, to produce a balanced panel, so far as reasonably practicable. This means having councillor members to represent all the police force area and the political make-up of the local authorities (both in terms of the number of seats won by each political group and the administration of the constituent local authorities). It should also take account of the differential between the number of seats held by each group across the county and the number of seats they would be entitled to on the Panel.
6. So long as the total number of panel members does not exceed 20, panels may co-opt additional members to achieve the balanced appointment objective. Any co-options must be approved by the Home Secretary.

**Panel composition in 2022/23**

7. The Panel membership for 2022/23 was:

Ashfield District Council (1 Ashfield Independent); Bassetlaw District Council (1 Labour); Broxtowe Borough Council (1 Independent); Gedling Borough Council (1 Labour); Mansfield District Council (1 Labour); Newark & Sherwood District Council (1 Conservative); Nottingham City Council (2

Labour); Nottinghamshire County Council (2 Conservatives); Rushcliffe Borough Council (1 Conservative), plus 4 Independent Member co-optees.

### **Panel composition 2023/24**

8. Following the district/borough and city council elections in May 2023, together with a County Council by-election, the political balance across the County has been recalculated.
9. The table below sets out options through which the balanced appointment objective could be met. It shows the total number of seats held by each of the groups across the county and their percentage of the total seats. Please note that there are smaller groups that were included in the original calculations but are not shown in the table below as they would not hit the threshold for being entitled to representation on the Panel.
10. In calculating political proportionality, the percentage of seats won by each party is calculated. This percentage is then used to calculate the number of seats to which a group would be entitled based on different numbers of elected members. The table shows the proportion of seats to which each group would be entitled to two decimal points, as well as the rounded figure (shown in brackets).

	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Ashfield Ind.</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
<b>Total Seats</b>	204	108	42	29	14
<b>%</b>	50.1%	25.5%	10.3%	7.1%	3.4%
10	5.01 (5)	2.65 (3)	1.03 (1)	0.71 (1)	0.34 (0)
11	5.51 (6)	2.92 (3)	1.14 (1)	0.78 (1)	0.38 (0)
12	6.01 (6)	3.18 (3)	1.24 (1)	0.86 (1)	0.41 (1)
13	6.52 (7)	3.45 (3)	1.34 (1)	0.93 (1)	0.45 (1)
14	7.02 (7)	3.71 (4)	1.44 (1)	1.00 (1)	0.48 (1)
15	7.52 (-)	3.98 (-)	1.55 (-)	1.07 (-)	0.52 (-)
16	8.02 (8)	4.25 (4)	1.65 (2)	1.14 (1)	0.55 (1)

11. In the first instance, where numbers are below .5, they are rounded down, where they are .5 or above there are rounded up. These rounded numbers are added to see whether they equal the total number of seats. Where, when the rounded figures are added together, all of the available seats are not filled, the party with the next highest total is considered. The figures following the decimal points are compared against the next largest group and those groups where the number of seats to which they were entitled was rounded down. The seat is then allocated to the group with the highest decimal point, which is why the Liberal Democrats would be entitled to a seat with 12 to 14 elected member seats despite their entitlement sitting below 0.5 members.
12. In considering which option best meets the balanced appointment objectives, Panel members should disregard having 15 elected members, as the balanced appointment objective cannot be met.

13. When thinking about the differential between the number of seats held and the number of seats on the Panel, members will observe that in the option with 14 elected members, the Ashfield Independent allocation would be rounded down to 1 member whilst the Liberal Democrats would be rounded up to 1 member. To put this in context, the groups would share the same level of representation on the Panel when one holds 14 seats across the county and the other holds 42.

14. The administration of each Council is set out in the table below:

<b>Council</b>	<b>Administration</b>
Ashfield District Council	Ashfield Independent
Bassetlaw District Council	Labour
Broxtowe Borough Council	Labour
Gedling Borough Council	Labour
Mansfield District Council	Labour
Newark and Sherwood District Council	No overall control
Nottingham City Council	Labour
Nottinghamshire County Council	Conservative
Rushcliffe Borough Council	Conservative

15. The practice of the Panel has been to offer any additional places required to achieve the balanced appointment objective to members of the city and county councils, rather than compelling any of the district or borough councils to send a representative from a particular political group.

### **Council Representatives**

16. Constituent Councils have been asked to confirm their appointees for the 2023/24 municipal year. Where Nottinghamshire County Council has received formal confirmation of constituent councils' representative prior to the publication of this paper, they are recorded in the table below. This also lists the political group to which they belong:

<b>Council</b>	<b>Representative(s)</b>
Ashfield District Council	To be confirmed
Bassetlaw District Council	Councillor Madelaine Richardson (L)
Broxtowe Borough Council	Councillor Teresa Cullen (L)
Gedling Borough Council	Councillor David Ellis (L)
Mansfield District Council	Mayor Andy Abrahams (L)
Newark and Sherwood District Council	To be confirmed
Nottingham City Council	Councillor Linda Woodings (L) To be confirmed
Nottinghamshire County Council	Councillor Scott Carlton (C) Councillor Mike Introna (C)
Rushcliffe Borough Council	To be confirmed

17. Where councils have not been able to confirm their representatives prior to the publication of this paper, those members will be confirmed verbally at the Panel's Annual Meeting.

## **Independent Members**

18. 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 15 November 2021 that the term of office of all four Independent co-optees be extended by two years to 31 May 2024.

## **Other Options Considered**

19. The Panel is required to ensure that its membership meets the balanced appointment objective.

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

20. The composition of the Panel needs to be reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the balanced appointment objective. It is for the Panel to consider the best way it can meet the balanced appointment objective and provide for the successful transaction of business.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) That the Panel agrees its composition for 2023/24, ensuring that it meets the balanced appointment objective.
- 2) That the changes in Council representation on the Panel, as detailed in paragraph 16 above and updated verbally at the meeting, be noted.

## **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 15 November 2021 and minutes of that meeting (published)

## **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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