

# **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

## **29 JUNE 2017**

7

### **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 2016/17 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 Conservative co-optees and 1 Liberal Democrat co-optee); 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. Previously the Panel had gained Secretary of State approval to use co-options to increase its elected member representation to 15 elected members in order to achieve political balance.
6. In light of the results of the recent election, it is no longer possible for the Panel to be politically balanced with 15 elected Members. It is therefore proposed that the Panel has two options to best achieve political balance.

Option A - reduce to 14 elected members, apportioned as follows:-

<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Independents</b>
14	7	5	2

Option B - reduce to 10 elected members, apportioned as follows:-

<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Independents</b>
10	5	4	1

7. It should be noted that The Liberal Democrats no longer qualify for a seat based on their proportion of seats across the Panel's area (City, County and District/Borough Councils).

### **Option A – Reduce to 14 Elected Members**

8. This is the smallest reduction which the Panel could make to achieve political balance.
9. By following this option, the Panel can continue to offer two additional co-options to Nottingham City Council (4 Members in total). This has been a long-standing arrangement initially agreed by the Panel in October 2012, in light of the City's relative population.
10. If this is the Panel's preferred option then two further co-options will be required to achieve political balance:-
  - a. with the Conservatives now taking up the County Council's seat, only one further Conservative co-optee would be required to enable political balance across the area (previously 2 co-options were needed). It is proposed that a single Conservative co-optee should therefore be sought from Nottinghamshire County Council, in line with previous Panel practice.
  - b. with regard to the remaining places, a further co-option would be available to an Independent Member. The Mansfield Independent Forum has 22 elected Members across the Panel's area, including the Elected Mayor of Mansfield who continues to have a seat on the Panel. The next largest independent group is the Ashfield Independents / Selston Independents Group with 14 elected Members (including 3 Selston Independents). It is therefore proposed that the remaining co-option for an Independent member should therefore be offered to the Ashfield Independent Group of Nottinghamshire County Council.

### **Option B – Reduce to 10 Elected Members**

11. This option offers the smallest number of elected members possible, whereby no political co-options would be required. Therefore Nottingham City Council's number of seats would be reduced to two, with no other co-options required to achieve political balance across the County / City area.
12. This option also offers some benefits in terms of efficiency and costs and the grant from the Home Office would be reduced accordingly.

## **Council Representatives**

13. There have also been some changes to representation on the Panel made by the relevant Councils. These are as follows:-

- i. Councillors Azad Choudhry and Michael Edwards have been replaced by Councillor Toby Neal and another Councillor (name to be confirmed) as two of the City Council's representatives;
- ii. Councillor David Challinor has been replaced by Councillor Kevin Greaves as Bassetlaw District Council's representative.

## **Independent Members**

14. 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 in April 2017 that the term of office of all four Independent co-optees be extended to May 2019 (with two of the four to be further extended to May 2020), subject to a further planned review in April 2018.

## **Other Options Considered**

15. The Panel could continue to operate with 15 elected members but political balance would not then be possible.

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

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

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) That the Panel decided whether to reduce the elected member representation on the Panel to 14 or 10 (Option A or B respectively) to enable political balance to be best achieved.
- 2) That if Option A is the preferred option then the following further co-options be sought to achieve political balance:-
  - a. a Conservative co-optee from Nottinghamshire County Council;
  - b. an Independent co-optee from the Ashfield Independents Group of Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 3) That the changes in Council representation on the Panel, as detailed in paragraph 13 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 19 October 2012 and minutes of that meeting (published)

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