

**REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP – BALANCED APPOINTMENT
OBJECTIVE**

Purpose of the Report

1. To propose changes to the Panel's membership to meet the balanced appointment objective.

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. There have been a number of changes to representation on the Panel made by the relevant Councils. These are as follows:-
 - Ashfield – Cllr John Knight has been replaced by Cllr Chris Baron
 - Newark & Sherwood – Cllr Tony Roberts has been replaced by Cllr Bruce Laughton
 - Nottingham City – Cllr Alex Norris has been replaced by Cllr Carole McCulloch
 - Rushcliffe – Cllr Eddie Fearon has been replaced by Cllr Debby Mason

As a result of the recent County Council election there has also been a change made to the County Council's representation:-

- Cllr Eric Kerry has been replaced by Cllr Glynn Gilfoyle.
5. This latter change and the recent election results has affected the political balance of the Panel. The political balance is calculated by totalling the various seats across the whole of the County – there is one by-election pending (27th June in Newark and Sherwood) although this result will not alter the overall balance of the Panel.
 6. Following the recent changes, the current Councillor membership of the Panel is as follows:-

<u>Cllr Seats</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Lib Dems</u>	<u>Independent</u>
13	8	3	1	1

7. To achieve political balance across the County, the following representation is required:-

<u>Cllr Seats</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Lib Dems</u>	<u>Independent</u>
13	7	4	1	1

8. If the Panel were to seek approval from the Secretary of State for a further Conservative co-option then political balance could be achieved as follows:-

<u>Cllr Seats</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Lib Dems</u>	<u>Independent</u>
14	8	4	1	1

9. At the informal meeting of the Panel held on 7 June 2013 it was proposed that the Panel should make a request to seek an additional co-opted place and if formally approved by the Panel and the Secretary of State then the County Council's Conservative group should be asked to nominate a representative.
10. 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.

Independent Members

11. Each Police and Crime Panel is required to have 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. The Panel also recommended that the future review of membership should seek to widen the scope of any future independent member recruitment in order to capture a more diverse range of skills and experience.
12. The two existing Independent Members were appointed by the Panel on 3 December 2012 for a temporary period of 6 months. The Panel needs to decide whether to appoint these Members for a further two year term and if so, whether to also seek to also appoint further independent members to the Panel (subject to Secretary of State approval).
13. At the informal meeting of the Panel held on 7 June, Members proposed re-appointing the two existing independent members. Members also proposed commencing an open recruitment process to co-opt two further independent members with a community and voluntary sector background, to address gaps in the Panel's overall skills and experience. If the Panel agrees this proposal then Secretary of State approval will be required.

Other Options Considered

14. The Panel could choose to continue with its current Elected Member representation but this would prevent political balance being achieved.

15. The Panel could choose to retain its existing total number of elected member seats by reducing its Labour membership by one place and offering this place to a Conservative member. However, this would prevent the Panel being balanced in terms of District Council representation or geographical representation.
16. The Panel could choose to not re-appoint the existing independent members but Members have valued their contribution to date and feel that representation from local magistrates and the Probation Trust Board continues to be helpful.
17. The Panel could choose to not seek further independent members but this would not address the identified gap in terms of community and voluntary sector experience and skills.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That approval be sought from the Secretary of State for a further co-option of a Conservative member to enable the Panel's membership to be politically balanced and, subject to that approval, a nomination be sought from the County Council's Conservative group.
- 2) That Suma Harding and Christine Goldstraw, the existing independent members, be re-appointed for a period of two years.
- 3) That Secretary of State approval be sought for the co-option of two more independent members and, subject to that approval, an open recruitment exercise be undertaken targeting people with community and voluntary sector skills and experience.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- 1) Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (published)
- 2) Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel's Panel Arrangements (published)

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