

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire
Meeting to be held on the 5th December 2022

Membership Update 2022/23

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Executive Summary

To provide an update on the membership of the Police and Crime Panel for 2022/23, following the Panel's approval at the AGM on 4th July of the Membership Review and update at the Panel meeting on 14th September.

Recommendation

Panel is asked to note the update to the Membership following recent by-elections held at Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Burnley.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced Police and Crime Panels (PCP) as formal joint committee of all the local authorities within the police force area.

The Lancashire Police & Crime Panel ('the Panel') consists of 15 Elected Members, one from each local authority and 2 co-opted Independent Members (non-political). In addition, up to 3 other Elected Members can be co-opted in order to achieve the 'balanced appointment objective' (as far as reasonably practicable), and best represents the overall political make up of all the 15 local authorities in the police area. There is also a requirement for the membership to have skills, knowledge and experience necessary for it to discharge its functions effectively.

In accordance with the legislation and available guidance, the political balance of the Panel was determined from an overall calculation based on the current political composition of all 15 local authorities in the police force area. For the purposes of the political balance calculations, the 'minor' political groups from all the 15 local authorities have been grouped together as 'Other' and similarly, all the 'Independent' elected Members from the 15 local authorities have been being grouped together. The Panel's Arrangements enables additional elected members to be co-opted to achieve the 'balanced appointment objective', provided the total membership does not exceed 20. Based on the information provided by the 15 local authorities at the time of the AGM on 4 July, the overall political composition for the police force area was:

Con	40.58%
Lab	39.47%
Lib	5.96%

Ind	5.40%
Other	5.82%
Green	2.77%
Total	100%

Since the AGM on 4 July and the update provided to the Panel on 14th September, there has been some further minor political changes, with by-elections held at Darwen South ward of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (17.11.2022), Greenlands ward of Blackpool Borough Council (17.11.2022), and Rosehill with Burnley Wood ward of Burnley Borough Council (10.11.2022). The changes represent the following political composition of the police force area:

Con	40.17%
Lab	39.33%
Lib	5.96%
Ind	6.09%
Other	5.68%
Green	2.77%
Total	100.00%

This still represents the following composition for a politically balanced Panel of 15 elected member seats:

Lab	6
Con	6
Lib Dem	1
Ind	1
Other	1

In addition, the Panel also appoints 2 Independent Co-opted Members, who are not elected representatives to serve on the Panel. Following a recruitment process held on 7 July 2022, Richard Glover was appointed as an Independent Co-opted Member. There is one seat still currently vacant and a further recruitment process will be held in due course to fill the vacancy.

Following the appointment of the 3 co-opted additional elected member seats in order to closely align the composition of the Panel with the overall political composition of the police force area, the full composition of the 2022/23 membership for the Panel would remain as follows:

Lab -	8 (as nominated)
Con -	8 (i.e. 6 as nominated + 2 co-opted additional elected member seats)
Lib Dem -	1 (i.e. 1 co-opted additional elected member seat)
Other -	1 (as nominated)

Independent co-opted (non –political) - 2

Total – 20 seats (maximum).

Consultations

All Local Authorities represented on the Panel are requested to nominate a member and subsequently the Lancashire Leaders were invited to review their nomination to achieve the 'balanced appointment objective'. For the 3 additional co-opted members the respective Councils were requested to confirm their appointments.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk Management

The requirement for an Independent Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire is in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Legal Implications

The legal implications of this report are set out in the body of the report and were further detailed in the report to the AGN on 4 July 2022 [Report to AGM.Membership 2022 23.pdf \(blackburn.gov.uk\)](#).

It is a legal requirement to notify the Home Office of the additional co-opted members, with the reasons as to how their appointments would assist in achieving the 'balanced appointment objective'.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Responses received from the 3 Individual Local Authorities regarding nominated co-opted Representatives November 2022

Asad Laher
Secretary to the
Police & Crime Panel

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate N/A