

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Meeting to be held on the 4th December 2023

Membership Update 2023/24

Contact for further information: Asad Laher, Secretary to Police & Crime Panel,
asad.laher@blackburn.gov.uk

Executive Summary

To provide an update on the membership of the Police and Crime Panel for 2023/24, following the Panel's approval at the AGM on 18th July of the Membership Review.

Recommendation

Panel is asked to note the update to the Membership following recent changes in political compositions mainly at Blackburn with Darwen, 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. 'Other' includes the two minority political groups recently formed at Blackburn with Darwen (8 members) and Burnley (11 members).

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 18 July, the overall political composition for the police force area was:

Lab	48.71%
Con	34.34%
Lib	6.47%
Ind	5.45%
Green	5.03%

Total 100%

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 2023/24 membership for the Panel would remain as follows:

Lab - 9 (as nominated) [50%]
Con - 6 (5 as nominated + 1 co-opted additional elected member seats): [33.33%]
Lib Dem - 1 (as nominated): [5.55%]
Ind - 1 (co-opted additional elected member seat): [5.55%]
Green - 1 (co-opted additional elected member seat): [5.55%]

Independent co-opted (non –political) - 2

Total – 20 seats (maximum).

Since the AGM on 18 July there has been some political changes, mainly at Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Burnley Borough Council. These changes together with some other minor changes, represent the following political composition of the police force area:

Lab	45.49%
Con	33.91%
Lib	6.15%
Ind	4.15%
Other	5.29%
Green	5.01%

Total 100.00%

This would represent the following composition for a politically balanced Panel of 18 elected member seats:

Lab	8
Con	6
Lib Dem	1
Ind	1
Other	1
Green	1

In order to achieve a politically balanced Panel the local authorities who have nominated a representative from their Labour group and also have a 'Other' minority political group could be asked to consider changing their nominations. Alternatively, as there is also a requirement for the Panel membership to have skills, knowledge and experience necessary for it to discharge its functions effectively, the Panel could take the view to continue with its current membership until the end of 2023/24 to ensure continuity in its work programme.

Consultations

All Local Authorities represented on the Panel are requested to nominate a member, and 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 18 July 2023 [Report to AGM.Membership 2023 24.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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 2023

Asad Laher
Secretary to the
Police & Crime Panel

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