

DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

5 July 2018

Report of the Director of Legal Services of Derbyshire County Council

CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR MEMBERS

Purpose of the Report

To enable the Panel to review its composition following the commencement of the new municipal year and to co-opt six additional Councillor Members to ensure that the Panel meets the statutory balance requirements.

Information and Analysis

Schedule 6 of the Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 outlines the responsibilities councils have in establishing and maintaining a police and crime panel.

The Act makes detailed provisions for panel composition under Parts 2 and 4 of Schedule 6. In brief, these include:

- Where a force area consists of ten (as in Derbyshire) or fewer councils, the number of members of the panel will be ten, not including the co-opted members.
- Additional councillors may be co-opted onto the panel, as long as the three lay co-optees are also included, the total size of the Panel does not exceed 20 and the Secretary of State approves the co-options.
- Composition should be carried out in accordance with the “fair representation objective” – essentially, each council in the force area must be represented by one member if the number of councils is ten or more.
- Panels should be politically proportionate. This means that they should be proportionate according to the total number of councillors in the force area.

Paragraph 31 of Schedule 6 places a duty to produce a “balanced panel” onto Councils and panels. A “balanced panel” is one where the Councillors on the panel (when taken together with any co-optees as necessary):

- represent all parts of the relevant police area,
- represent the political make-up of the relevant authorities (when taken together), and
- have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the police and crime panel to discharge its functions effectively.

In May 2018, elections took place for Derby City Council and Amber Valley Borough Council and the political balance of the Police and Crime Panel has been calculated against the election results. The outcome of the elections has had no impact on the overall political balance of the Panel across the county and the political groups were invited to nominate Members to the Panel to meet the political balance requirements.

The appendices to this report set out the balanced appointment objective and the number of Co-optees required to achieve the balanced appointment objective.

Each of the ten constituent authorities in Derbyshire has nominated a Panel Member for the new municipal year from its majority group and this has resulted in a Panel of seven Conservative Members and three Labour Members. It is considered that balance may be best achieved by co-opting an additional six Councillor Members: five Labour and one Liberal Democrat. Such co-options will be subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

The constituent councils and the political groups have liaised together and the following six Councillors are proposed for co-option:-

- Councillor Barbara Jackson, Derby City Council (Labour)
- Councillor Becki Woods Derbyshire County Council (Labour)
- Councillor Christine Dale, Bolsover District Council (Labour)
- Councillor John Frudd, Erewash Borough Council (Labour)
- Councillor Paul Pegg, Derby City Council (Labour)
- Councillor Beth Atkins, Derbyshire County Council (Liberal Democrat)

In putting these Councillors forward for co-option, the constituent councils have had regard to the wider objectives of balance (geography, population etc.) as well as political balance.

The Panel's three co-opted Independent Members are not covered by this report since they have been co-opted for a four year term.

Other considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

Background papers

File held by the Director of Legal Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel fulfils its duty of having balanced representation by co-opting six additional Councillor Members, as detailed in the report.

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Derbyshire County Council

Appendix One

Police and Crime Panel

Balanced Appointment Objective

Political make-up of the 10 constituent local authorities (taken together)

Council	Cons.	Lab	Lib Dems	UKIP	Independent and other	Total
Amber Valley	25	20	0	0	0	45
Bolsover	0	32	0	0	5	37
Chesterfield	0	38	8	1	1	48
Derby City	20	23	5	3	0	51
Derbyshire County	37	24	3	0	0	64
Derbyshire Dales	29	5	3	0	2	39
Erewash	30	17	0	0	0	47
North East Derbyshire	18	33	1	0	1	53
High Peak	23	17	2	0	1	43
South Derbyshire	24	12	0	0	0	36
TOTAL	206	221	22	4	10	463
TOTAL % of seats	44.50%	47.73%	4.75%	0.86%	2.15%	

Appendix Two

The table below shows the number of co-optees required to achieve the balanced appointment objective. Please note that the maximum number of political co-optees allowed is 7 (given there are 10 constituent members and 3 independent members, out of a maximum Panel size of 20):

Number of political co-optees.	Conservative	Labour	Lib Dem	Total number of Councillors on Panel
% of Total seats in Derbyshire	44.5%	47.73%	4.8%	
0	7	3	0	10
%	70%	30%	0%	
1	7	4	0	11
%	64%	36%	0%	
2	7	5	0	12
%	58%	42%	0%	
3	7	5	1	13
%	54%	38%	8%	
4	7	6	1	14
%	50%	43%	7%	
5	7	7	1	15
%	47%	47%	6%	
6	7	8	1	16
%	44%	50%	6%	
7	8	8	1	17
%	47%	47%	6%	