

Lancashire County Council

Joint Committee of the Relevant Councils established under The Lancashire (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997

Wednesday, 25th May, 2011 at 9.30 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - County Hall, Preston

Agenda

Part 1 (Open to Press and Public)

No.	Item	
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1.	Apologies	
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2.	Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests	
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Members are asked to consider any Personal/Prejudicial Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.

3.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 March 2011	(Pages 1 - 4)
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To be confirmed, and signed by the chair.

4.	Appointment of a member of the Relevant Councils to the Lancashire Police Authority	(Pages 5 - 10)
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5.	Urgent Business	
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An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the clerk should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 3

Lancashire County Council

Joint Committee of the Relevant Councils established under The Lancashire (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd March, 2011 at 9.45 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - County Hall, Preston

Present:

Councillor G Bell (Chair)

Members

County Councillor A Atkinson
County Councillor W Cropper
Councillor M T Doherty
County Councillor C Grunshaw

County Councillor N Penney
County Councillor T Pimblett
County Councillor G Wilkins

In Attendance

Mr C Mather, Lancashire County Council – for the secretary to the Joint Committee

Ms M Carruthers-Watt, Lancashire Police Authority

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor T Jones.

2. Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

County Councillor C Grunshaw declared a personal prejudicial interest in item 5 as the item related to his reappointment to the Lancashire Police Authority.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 June 2010

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2010 be confirmed and signed by the chair.

4. Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair and membership of the Joint Committee

The Joint Committee considered a report on the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Joint Committee, and received details of the Joint Committee's membership.

Resolved:

- (i) That County Councillor W Cropper and County Councillor N Penney be appointed as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively of the Joint Committee.
- (ii) That the membership of the Joint Committee be noted.

5. Appointment of a member to the Lancashire Police Authority

Following the above decision, County Councillor W Cropper took the chair for the remainder of the agenda.

County Councillor C Grunshaw had declared a personal prejudicial interest in this item and he therefore left the room during consideration of the report.

The Joint Committee considered a report concerning the appointment of a councillor to fill a vacancy on the Lancashire Police Authority.

The term of office of County Councillor Clive Grunshaw was due to expire on 8 May 2011 and the Joint Committee was informed that to achieve the required political balance, it was necessary to appoint a councillor from the Labour Party. The County Council had nominated County Councillor Grunshaw to be reappointed to the Police Authority. No other nominations had been received.

A statement from County Councillor Grunshaw in support of his reappointment to the Lancashire Police Authority was presented for consideration by the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee was informed that it would be necessary to convene a meeting of the Joint Committee after the May 2011 District Council elections. This would be to consider any necessary changes to the political balance and membership of the Lancashire Police Authority.

A verbal report was presented on the possible creation of a shadow Police and Crime Panel and other matters arising from the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. It was noted that an update report would be provided to the next (or a future) meeting of the Joint Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) That County Councillor Clive Grunshaw be appointed to the Lancashire Police Authority for a four year term with effect from 8 May 2011.
- (ii) That the position with regards to future meetings of the Joint Committee be noted.

6. Urgent Business

None.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 4

Joint Committee of the Relevant Councils established under The Lancashire (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997

Meeting to be held on 25 May 2011

Electoral Division affected: None

Appointment of a member of the Relevant Councils to the Lancashire Police Authority

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Chris Mather, (01772) 533559, Office of the Chief Executive,

Chris.mather@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The appointment of a member to serve as a Local Authority Member on the Lancashire Police Authority.

Recommendation

The Joint Committee is requested, having regard to the political balance provisions in the Police Authority Regulations 2008, to agree:

1. the revised political balance of the Police Authority as set out in the report.
2. that Councillor Chris Maughan, Blackpool Council, be appointed to the Lancashire Police Authority for a four-year term, with immediate effect.

Background and Advice

Under the Police Authority Regulations 2008, the task of appointing the Local Authority Members to a Police Authority where there is more than one Constituent Council (as is the case in Lancashire), falls to a joint committee consisting of persons appointed by the relevant councils from amongst their own Members.

The duties of the Joint Committee are to:-

- a) Agree the distribution of the 9 Local Authority Members on the Police Authority between the Constituent Councils;
- b) Calculate the overall political balance of the Local Authority Members in accordance with the proportionality rules laid down in the Police Authority Regulations 2008 (see below); and

- c) Appoint the individual Members put forward by each Constituent Council to the Police Authority after the factors at a) and b) above have been determined.

The Committee has previously agreed that the 9 Local Authority seats should be apportioned as follows and there is no reason to revisit this decision:

Lancashire	7 seats
Blackburn with Darwen	1 seat
Blackpool	1 seat

With regards to the political balance, the Police Authority Regulations 2008 require the proportion, who are members of any given party, to be the same as the proportion of the members of the constituent authorities taken as a whole who are members of that party.

When the Joint Committee last met in March 2011, there had been across the County and two Unitary Authority areas:-

97	Conservative Councillors
61	Labour Councillors
20	Liberal Democrat Councillors
2	Green Party Councillors
7	Other Councillor
187	Total

Three independent councillors were excluded from the above calculations as the councillors were not members of a political party.

The political balance had been achieved by appointing:

- 5 Conservative Councillors
- 3 Labour Councillors
- 1 Liberal Democrat Councillor.

There have been local elections for Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council since the last meeting and this produces the following situation:

Local Authority	Number of Members by Political Party (based on 185 seats)								
	Con.	Lab.	Lib. Dem.	For Darwen.	Green	Idle Toad	BNP	Vacancy	TOTAL no. of seats
Lancashire	51	17	9	0	2	1	1	0	81
Blackburn	17	37	6	2	0	0	0	0	62
Blackpool	14	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	42
TOTAL	82	81	16	2	2	1	1	0	185
Proportion of 187 seats	43.85	43.32	8.56	1.07	1.07	0.53	0.53	0.00	98.93
Proportion of 9 LPA seats	3.95	3.90	0.77	0.10	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.00	9
Proposed allocation of LPA places	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	9

NB: 5 Independent councillors (3 - LCC & 2 Blackburn with Darwen) have been excluded from the above calculations as these councillors are not members of a political party

The political balance on the Police Authority will, therefore, be achieved by appointing:-

- 4 Conservative Councillors
- 4 Labour Councillors
- 1 Liberal Democrat Councillor

Thus, the political balance on the Authority has changed following the election results, with the Labour party gaining one seat and the Conservative party losing a seat.

Councillor Gary Bell (Conservative member) previously served on the Police Authority as a member of Blackpool Council. However, Councillor Bell did not stand for election on 5 May which means that there is a vacancy on the Joint Committee and Police Authority. Having regard to this and to political proportionality arising from the results of the local elections, the following allocation of places is suggested:

Lancashire	4 Conservative	2 Labour	1 Liberal Democrat
Blackburn	1 Labour		
Blackpool	1 Labour (previously a Conservative place)		

The original agreement between the three relevant Councils set out that each relevant Council should appoint to the Joint Committee the Members who would, by decision of that Committee, be appointed as the Local Authority Members on the Police Authority.

Therefore, to achieve the new political balance for the Police Authority, Blackpool Council has been invited to submit a Labour nomination to fill the vacancy on the Joint Committee of Relevant Councils that has been created following the local elections on 5 May.

Under the Police Authority (Community Engagement and Membership) Regulations 2010, the Joint Committee is required to ensure that, so far as reasonably practicable, the persons appointed by them:

- Represent the interests of a wide range of people within the community in the area of the Authority
- Include persons with skills, knowledge or experience which are perceived by them to be under-represented among the existing members of the police authority
- Promote diversity within the force and the police authority
- Are likely to commit sufficient time to take an effective role in the work of the authority.

The Joint Committee may be requested to explain to the Authority how it met the requirements imposed on it by the regulations.

Blackpool Council has nominated Councillor Chris Maughan to serve on the Joint Committee and the Police Authority. A statement from Councillor Maughan indicating how he meets the above requirements is attached at Appendix 'A'.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
N/A		

Statement from Cllr. Chris Maughan:

I was elected to Blackpool Council in May 2011, the youngest ever in the history of Blackpool Council. As a young councillor I will help address the age balance of the council, giving increased representation to what is an underrepresented group of society within local government and the Lancashire Police Authority. I am due to graduate from a chemistry degree this summer and this has equipped me with a range of skills and experiences; especially my analytical and research skills. I believe that my youth and enthusiasm will provide a unique prospective for the Lancashire Police Authority, helping diversify its membership.

Blackpool is an area which suffers high deprivation with a relatively high transient population, an increasing number of HMOs and high levels of unemployment due to the seasonal nature of many of the jobs in the town; these problems fuel anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. The town also has a range of problems associated with binge drinking, being the tourist destination of choice for partygoers nationwide, such as alcohol related crime and a heavy use of and reliance on emergency services. Having lived in Blackpool my whole life I have witnessed the effects of the issues mentioned above and the problems that they bring, making certain areas of the town undesirable to walk through after dark or live in, which can lead to higher crime rates and an increase in deprivation. It is essential that the Police, Councils and other relevant bodies work together to address these problems. I believe that I can assist with this.

I am currently starting my first term in local government and committed entirely to it. I have been given the position of Chair of the Scrutiny Committee; I also sit on the Licensing, Public Protection, Finance and Standards Committees as well as the BSafe Partnership. As a new councillor I will be learning and developing a wide range of skills which will be of importance to the Lancashire Police Authority. I am committed and dedicated to the improvement and development of Blackpool and believe that I will be a valuable member of the Lancashire Police Authority. I am able to commit sufficient time to the role as I see this as an important part of my new position of councillor.

Cllr Chris Maughan

17 May 2011

