

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

Meeting to be held on 29 May 2012

Electoral Division affected: None

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

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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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 political balance of the Police Authority as set out in the report.
2. that Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council be appointed to the Lancashire Police Authority until the disestablishment of the Police Authority on 21 November 2012.

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 May 2011, there had been across the County and two Unitary Authority areas:-

82	Conservative Councillors
81	Labour Councillors
16	Liberal Democrat Councillors
6	Other Councillor
185	Total

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

The political balance was achieved by appointing:

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

The results of the May 2012 local elections for Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and two by-elections for Blackpool Council produces the following situation:

Local Authority	Number of Members by Political Party (based on 187 seats)						
	Con.	Lab.	Lib. Dem.	Green	Idle Toad	BNP	TOTAL no. of seats
Lancashire	51	17	9	2	1	1	81
Blackburn	14	45	5	0	0	0	64
Blackpool	13	28	1	0	0	0	42
TOTAL	78	90	15	2	1	1	187
Proportion of 187 seats	41.71	48.13	8.02	1.07	0.53	0.53	100.00
Proportion of 9 LPA seats	3.75	4.33	0.72	0.10	0.05	0.05	9
Proposed allocation of LPA places	4	4	1	0	0	0	9

NB: 3 Independent councillors (LCC) have been excluded from the above calculations as these councillors are not members of a political party

Thus, the political balance on the Police Authority remains unchanged and will, therefore, be achieved by appointing:-

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

Councillor Malcolm Doherty (Labour member) previously served on the Police Authority as a member of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. However, Councillor Doherty did not stand for election on 3 May 2012 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		

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 political balance for the Police Authority, Blackburn with Darwen Borough 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 3 May 2012.

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.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has nominated Councillor Andy Kay to serve on the Joint Committee and the Police Authority. A statement from Councillor Kay indicating how he meets the above requirements is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The Joint Committee is asked to approve the appointment of Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, to serve on the Lancashire Police Authority until the disestablishment of the Police Authority on 21 November 2012.

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

N/A