

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:

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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 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
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N/A