

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Meeting to be held on 1st October 2012

Constitution of the Police and Crime Panel.

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Executive Summary

An update regarding the response received from the Home Office to the formal notification of the constitution and membership of the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire following the last meeting.

Recommendation

The Panel is asked to note the response from the Home Office as set out in the report.

Background and Advice

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced major changes to the governance arrangements for Police Force areas and specifically provided for the election of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) and the establishment of Police and Crime Panels, to hold PCCs to account.

A Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire was established on the basis of a joint committee comprising 1 councillor from each of the 15 constituent authorities within the Lancashire Police Force area with 2 co-opted independent members and, subject to approval by the Home Secretary, up to 3 additional co-opted members.

At the first meeting on the 31st July 2012 the Panel agreed to the appointment of the 3 additional co-opted members to serve on the Panel in order to satisfy the 'balanced appointment objective' so that when taken together the membership of the Panel represents the political make up of all of the relevant local authorities for the police area. The appointments are subject to the approval of the Home Secretary.

The Panel also agreed that a further two independent co-opted persons should be appointed to serve on the Panel and established a Selection Panel to consider applications. The Selection Panel's recommendation regarding candidates will be reported to the meeting under a later item on the agenda.

Following the first meeting formal notification of the establishment and membership of the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire was sent to the Home Office as required by the regulations.

With regard to the approval of the 3 additional co-opted elected members to the Panel a response from the Home Office has indicated that the submission for Lancashire will be included in the next tranche of requests which will be put to the Home Secretary for consideration once ministers return to Parliament after Recess and a formal response is expected for mid October.

It should be noted that to date the Home Secretary has approved all co-option requests made for balanced appointment purposes.

Consultations

The Home Office was notified in writing of the establishment and membership of the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire as required by the Police and Crime Panel (Nominations, Appointments and Notifications) Regulations 2012 and the Police and Crime Panel (Modification of Functions) Regulations 2012.

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.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Notification to the Home Office	14 th August 2012	M Neville, Office of the Chief Executive 01772 533431.

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