

Police and Crime Panel – Councillor Appointments*Introduction*

A Police and Crime Panel must be established by July 2012. Each pan-Lancashire council is being asked to agree to the establishment of the Panel, and to appoint one member each to the Panel at its May Annual Meeting (or equivalent).

Legislative requirements

The legislation provides an element of flexibility in creating the membership of the Panel although if local agreement cannot be reached then the Home Secretary will impose a solution.

The Panel must initially be made up of 15 elected members, one nominated by each Authority, and two independent co-opted members. Once the Panel is established it can request up to an additional 3 co-opted members who could be elected members.

Chief Executive's recommended the balance of the Panel be established on the basis of political balance calculation based on whole Council memberships across the 15 Authorities, including Independent members being treated as a whole. This is the common practise at individual councils and complies with the legislation.

However, it is also recognised that councils will also wish to nominate a councillor of their choice (likely to be from the controlling party). However, to achieve this and to satisfy the legislative requirements will require the Panel to use its powers of nomination of co-opted members.

Attached at Appendix 'A' is a breakdown of the number of Councillors per Party and the number of Independent members for each Authority and across Lancashire, following the elections on 3rd May. The balance of the Panel has been calculated to reflect the political proportionality across Lancashire following the after 3rd May results:

Political Balance to be applied to the Panel of 15 elected Members:

Conservative	7	Labour	6	Lib Dem	1	Independent Members	1
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Once the Panel is established initially on this basis the Panel can give consideration to co-opting further elected members to achieve the following possible balances. But these can only be applied after the Panel is established, and is subject to Secretary of State approval:

16 Elected Members:

Conservative	7	Labour	7	Lib Dem	1	Independents	1
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17 Elected Members:

Conservative	8	Labour	7	Lib Dem	1	Independents	1
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18 Elected Members:

Conservative	8	Labour	8	Lib Dem	1	Independents	1
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The current political control of each Authority following the May 3rd elections is:

Local Authority	Political Control	Leadership/Control
Lancashire	Conservative	Conservative
Blackburn w Darwen	Labour	Labour
Blackpool	Labour	Labour
Burnley	Labour	Labour
Chorley	Labour	Labour
Fylde	Conservative	Conservative
Hyndburn	Labour	Labour
Lancaster	No Overall Control	Labour
Pendle	No Overall Control	Unknown
Preston	Labour	Labour
Ribble Valley	Conservative	Conservative
Rossendale	Labour	Labour
South Ribble	Conservative	Conservative
West Lancashire	Conservative	Conservative
Wyre	Conservative	Conservative

The above table shows:

1. Political Control is:

Conservative	6	Labour	7	Lib Dem	0	NOC/Hung	2
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2. Leadership

Conservative	6	Labour	8	Lib Dem	0	NOC/Hung	1
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Recommendation

The elections results have resulted, as shown above, in a position where, on the initial Panel of 15, four Councils – Burnley, Fylde, Lancaster and Pendle, will have to appoint a member who potentially does not represent their political Leadership. (At this stage the political Leadership at Pendle is unknown). Having looked at all the options this is the only way of achieving the balance for a Panel of 15, which has to be appointed to initially by all Councils.

As agreed, the Panel once established in July will be asked to propose additional co-opted appointments to the Panel to correct this position. This will be subject to Secretary of State approval, but it is envisaged that this will not be a problem.

Having looked at the options, a Panel of 18 elected members will best achieve the aim of ensuring that as many Authorities as possible have appointed at least one member of its choice. Appendix 'A' illustrates the members who it is suggested should be appointed by the respective Councils to achieve the required balances. The position at Pendle, as illustrated on the attached, has to assume that a Conservative member will be appointed. The rationale for this is that the two largest parties on Pendle have equal number of seats. The selection of a Conservative at Pendle is one which best meets the original objective of meeting political proportionality objectives across all Councils.

Action Required

Leaders and Chief Executives are asked to consider and agree the proposals for a Panel of 15 then 18 with their respective Leaders for approval at Council Annual Meetings in May, with the appointment of a member from each Authority on this basis.

The Authorities affected by the balance on a Panel of 15 could be asked to appoint an additional observer to the Panel pending the appointment of a member of their choice at a Panel of 18.

Failure of Authorities to agree a balance and appointments will result in the Home Secretary enforcing appointments.

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