

WEST MERCIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 18 JUNE 2019

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Recommendation

- 1. It is recommended that the Panel agrees to the co-option of 5 elected members as set out in the report and notified to the Panel, or such members as may be nominated from time to time by their respective authorities to achieve the balanced appointment objective.**

Background

2. The purpose of the report is to outline the requirements on the Panel in relation to the selection and notification of co-opted members.
3. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ('the Act') requires a West Mercia Police and Crime Panel of 10 'substantive' elected members and additional co-optees up to a maximum total of 20 members on the Panel. The Panel must co-opt at least 2 members who are 'independent' of the local authorities, PCC and police, etc. All members of the Panel may vote, whether appointed or co-opted.
3. The Act requires the 'balanced appointment objective' to be met as far as reasonably practicable so that the Panel, when taken together is balanced geographically and politically, as well as having the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

Appointment of co-opted elected members

4. The Panel has previously agreed to achieve a better geographical and political balance and thereby meet the balanced appointment through the co-option of 5 additional elected members.
5. The 10 local authorities have already, through their approval of the Panel Arrangements, agreed to the principle of appointing 5 additional co-opted elected members to ensure geographical balance, as follows: Herefordshire (1 member), Telford and Wrekin (1 member) and Shropshire (3 members).
6. Given the nominations from each of the authorities, to secure political balance the additional co-opted members would be 1 Labour councillor, 3 Conservative councillors and 1 Liberal Democrat councillor. Nominations to these places have been received as follows:

Shropshire (3 co-optees): Councillors Butler, Parr (Conservative) and Evans (Liberal Democrat)

Telford and Wrekin (1 Labour Co-optee): to be notified

Herefordshire (1 Conservative Co-optee): to be notified

7. A decision of the Panel to co-opt a person who is a member of a local authority in the West Mercia Police force area must be a decision of the Panel. It is suggested that to ensure continuity of representation, in the event of a vacancy arising from among the co-opted members, the nominating authority may appoint to the vacancy to meet the balanced objective requirement.

Contact Point for the Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

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