

20 OCTOBER 2015

APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Recommendation

- 1. It is recommended that the Panel unanimously agrees to the co-option of an elected member to achieve the balanced appointment objective.**

Purpose

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.

Legal Context and Background

3. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ('the Act') requires a West Mercia Police and Crime Panel of 10 elected members, plus 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.
4. 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

5. 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.
 6. 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).
 7. Given the nominations from each of the authorities, to secure political balance the additional co-opted members would be 1 Labour councillor, 2 Independent councillors, 1 Conservative councillor and 1 Liberal Democrat councillor.
 8. Telford & Wrekin Council have nominated Cllr Hilda Rhodes (Labour) to be co-opted to the Panel.
 9. In accordance with Regulations, 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 unanimous decision of the Panel.
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10. If approved, the names and authorities of the co-opted elected members to the Panel will be notified to the Secretary of State for agreement.

Contact Point

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