

CUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Councillor Elaine Woodburn, Leader
LEAD OFFICER: Paul Walker, Chief Executive
REPORT AUTHOR: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager

Summary	Sets out the functions and composition of the Cumbria Police and Crime Panel and asks Council to make a Member appointment
Recommendation:	That a Member be appointed to the Panel and that the proposed arrangements for further appointments on a Cumbria-wide basis be noted.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 As a result of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act police authorities will be replaced with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in November 2012. In addition each police area in England (other than the metropolitan police district) is required to establish and maintain a Police and Crime Panel (PCP).

2 FUNCTIONS OF PANELS

2.1 PCPs are a scrutinising body which exist to scrutinise the PCC (not the Chief Constable or Police Force), to promote openness in the transaction of police business and also to support the PCC in the effective exercise of their functions.

2.2 The PCP will have a number of functions including:

- Contributing to the development of the Police and Crime Plan (on which it is a statutory consultee).
- Reviewing the PCC's annual report
- Reviewing the PCC's proposed senior appointments (including Chief Constable, Chief Executive, Chief finance Officer and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner) with a power of veto over the appointment of Chief Constable
- Reviewing the PCC's proposed precept with a power of veto over the issue
- Receiving evidence in person from officers of the PCC's secretariat.
- Receiving evidence and scrutinising the PCC, making reports and recommendations on matters relating to the PCC as appropriate.
- Carrying out investigations into decisions made by the PCC and into topics of particular interest, or public concern.
- A role in investigating complaints about non-criminal behaviour of the PCC.

2.3 PCPs are a joint committee of all of the principal councils in Cumbria and comprise elected Members from each local authority in the area. The minimum Panel size is 10 Elected Members plus two independent co-optees.

2.4 Elected Member representation is required to be balanced and must as far as is practicable reflect the make-up of the local areas in terms of political and geographical balance, and have the required skills, knowledge and experience for the panel to function effectively.

2.5 Based on the minimum Panel size of 10 Elected Members plus two independent co-opted members, the Cumbria County Council is proposing that in Cumbria in the current 2012/13 year this would mean:

- o 4 Labour Members
- o 3 Conservative Members
- o 2 Liberal Democrat Members
- o 1 Independent Member

2.6 In order to achieve a balanced Panel as required by the Police and Social Responsibility Act the following approach has been agreed

- o Each Authority will initially nominate one elected Member to sit on the Panel, (this will fill 7 of the 10 places allocated to elected Members, and will ensure that there is geographical balance)
- o Once this has been established, the political make up of the Panel as it stands will be examined against how an ideally balanced panel would look using the proportionality criteria specified in the Police and Social Responsibility Act and associated guidance.
- o The remaining three places on the Panel will be offered to the appropriate countywide political parties with an aim of achieving a balanced Panel based on the political spread of the remaining three Members required.

3 CONCLUSION

3.1 Council is asked to appoint one Member representative to the Panel and to note arrangements for appointment of further representatives in due course.

4. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

4.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: Contained within the report

4.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: Any expenses not met from the County Council panel scheme, will need to be met from within existing Member Allowance budget.

4.3 EIA Comments: There will be no advantageous or disadvantageous implications for any group in the community arising from the proposals in this report.

4.4 Other consultee comments, if any: None