

**LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL -
25 JUNE 2015**

MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT OF THE COUNTY SOLICITOR

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Panel of the consequences of the City and District/Borough elections on the political balance of the Panel and to recommend that a change be made to the Panel's membership.

Background

2. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires that local authorities comprising the Panel should "secure that (as far as is reasonably practicable) the balanced appointment objective is met".
3. That objective is defined as being that "local authority members of a Police and Crime Panel (when taken together) –
 - (a) represent all relevant parts of the police area;
 - (b) represent the political make up of ...the relevant local authorities (when taken together);
 - (c) have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Police and Crime Panel to discharge its functions effectively".
4. The Panel has previously concluded that in addition to the statutory membership, of one member from each constituent authority and two independent members, three co-opted members should join the Panel from Leicester City Council in order to better reflect the populations served by the Leicestershire and Rutland Police Force and the political balance rules. As a consequence, the membership prior to the May elections comprised:-
 - (a) 7 Conservative members drawn from ruling groups in the constituent authorities;
 - (b) 4 Labour members from Leicester City Council, 1 by operation of law and 3 co-opted;
 - (c) 2 Liberal Democrat members drawn from the ruling groups in constituent authorities.

City and District/Borough Elections, May 2015

5. Following the elections, the breakdown of political balance across the City, County and Rutland is as follows (the County figures are included for

completeness but are unchanged since the 2013 elections):

	Results arising from May 2015 elections: the ruling party's seat total is highlighted in grey						
	Con	Lab	Lib	UKIP	Ind Grps	Other	Seats Total
City Council	1	52	1	0	0	0	54
County Council	30	10	13	2	0	0	55
Rutland County	17	0	2	0	7	0	26
Oadby & Wigston	7	1	18	0	0	0	26
Harborough	29	0	8	0	0	0	37
Melton	26	0	0	0	2	0	28
Hinckley & Bos	21	1	12	0	0	0	34
Charnwood	41	9	1	0	1	0	52
Blaby	29	6	4	0	0	0	39
North West Leics	25	10	1	0	2	0	38
Total	226	89	60	2	12	0	389

The Political Balance across the Authorities

6. The number of Conservative members has increased across the board with control of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council switching from Liberal Democrat to Conservative control. The number of Labour and Liberal Democrat members have both seen reductions. The number of members of UKIP has dropped, though the number of members of independent groups has increased.
7. In order to achieve a political balance in light of the May 2015 election results, it is proposed that the Panel should now be as set out below:
 - (a) 8 Conservative members drawn from ruling groups in the constituent authorities - this enables Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to provide a member of the Panel from its ruling group, maintaining the practice hitherto adopted by the Panel;
 - (b) 4 Labour members from Leicester City Council, 1 by operation of law and 3 co-opted;
 - (c) 1 Liberal Democrat member drawn from the ruling group in a constituent authority.

Recommendation

9. The Panel is asked to agree the composition of the Panel as set out in paragraph 7 of this report.

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Appendix

Political balance tables and population figures