

**LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND POLICE AND
CRIME PANEL – 8 SEPTEMBER 2025**

UPDATE ON PANEL MEMBERSHIP

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE,
LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline a change to panel membership and confirm that membership of the Police and Crime Panel reflects the requirements for precise political balance.

Background and Current Arrangements

2. The Panel reviews its membership at its Annual General Meeting and/or following elections which may have affected the Panel's political balance.

Legal Position

3. The Police and Crime Panel is a joint committee of the relevant Local Authorities. The statutory requirement is for a Police and Crime Panel of 10 Councillors and 2 Independent Members. The ten Councillors must include one from each local authority in the area.¹ The Panel may not exceed 20 members in all. When the Panel was established in 2012 the decision was taken to establish a Panel of 15 Members made up as follows:

- 8 Members representing the County Area (7 nominated by the districts and 1 by the County)
- 4 City Members
- 1 Rutland Member
- 2 Independent Co-opted Members.

This was to ensure that 'all parts of the relevant police area were appropriately represented hence the decision to allow 4 City representatives to reflect the fact it accounts for nearly 1/3rd of the population served by the Police. The Police and Crime Panel size was agreed with the Home Office and any change will require approval by the relevant Minister.

4. In making the appointments to the panel there is a requirement to '*secure that (as far as is reasonably practicable) the balanced objective is met*²'. This

¹ Sched 6 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

² Sched 6 para 31.

means that local authority members of the Police and Crime Panel (when taken together) must -

- (a) represent all parts of the relevant police area.
- (b) represent the political make-up of -
 - (i) the relevant local authority, or
 - (ii) 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.

5. The most recent Home Office guidance³ issued in 2023 simply reflects the above stating: *'When appointing panel members, local authorities must consider, as far as is practicable, the balanced appointment objective laid out in the 2011 Act. This includes the make-up of the local areas, including the political make-up, and the required skills, knowledge and experience for the panel to function effectively. With the Home Secretary's consent, panels are able to co-opt further members, both elected and independent, up to a maximum panel size of 20.'*

Applications to co-opt additional panel members can be made for either of two reasons.

1. *Co-opting additional independent members (more than two) – this may be to ensure the panel meets the balanced appointment objective, so that it has the necessary skills, knowledge and experience.*
2. *Co-opting additional elected members – as well as the above, additional elected members may be requested to ensure the panel represents all parts of the relevant police area and the political make-up of the relevant local authorities'.*

It should be noted that the co-option is subject to Home Office ministerial approval.

6. There is no guidance on the qualification about practicability referred to above but generally this would be considered by assessing the balance between the difficulty/effort in achieving the outcome (the balanced objective) vs the difficulty (usually cost but that is not relevant in this case) of achieving the outcome. Broadly it will mean that the County Council as host should, working with the other local authority members, do all that it can to achieve the balanced objective but it is accepted that this may not always be possible i.e. there may be a good reason which prevents this being achieved in some cases.
7. The importance of the issue, and the balanced objective requirement reflecting the democratic process and electoral mandate, means that the effort required to achieve the outcome would be expected to be significant. Inconvenience

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-and-crime-panels/police-fire-and-crime-panels-guidance#panel-arrangements>

caused because allocations have already been made by the relevant local authorities (by convention appointing Community Safety Partnership Chairs) would be unlikely to be regarded as sufficient to meet the test – especially when there are a number of options (including changing the composition of the Panel by co-option etc) which have not yet been explored.

Current Political Balance

8. Following the County Council election in May 2025, the political balance and allocation for the municipal year 2025/26 is as follows:

	Conservative	Labour	Lib Dem	Green	Ind	Reform
	4.57	2.98	3.15	0.64	0.81	0.85
Allocation	4	3	3	1	1	1

9. Following the annual meetings of appointing Councils, the membership of the Police and Crime Panel for 2025/26 did not reflect the requirements for precise political balance. The Panel proposed comprised 4 Conservative members, 4 Labour members, 3 Liberal Democrat members, 1 Reform member, 1 Independent member i.e., 1 additional Labour member and no Green appointee.
10. On 5 August 2025, Harborough District Council notified the Director of Law and Governance at Leicestershire County Council that it had reviewed its appointment and had appointed Cllr Woodiwiss of the Green Party, rather than Cllr Knight of the Labour Party.
11. The change in appointment by Harborough District Council means that membership of the Police and Crime Panel now reflects the requirements for precise political balance.

Members (Local Authority)

<u>Conservative</u> Cllr Phillimore Cllr Woodman Cllr Adatia Cllr Dave	Blaby District Council North West Leicestershire District Council Leicester City Council Leicester City Council
<u>Labour</u> Cllr Blackshaw Cllr Cutkelvin Cllr Dawood	Charnwood Borough Council Leicester City Council Leicester City Council
<u>Liberal Democrat</u> Cllr Mullaney	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Cllr Loydall Cllr Wise	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Rutland Council
<u>Reform</u> Mr Dan Harrison	Leicestershire County Council
<u>Green</u> Cllr Woodiwiss	Harborough District Council
<u>Independent</u> Cllr Butcher	Melton Borough Council

Members (Independent)

12. Following a recruitment process completed in February 2022, two Independent Co-opted Members were appointed. Their term of office will end on 1 February 2026.

Parisha Chavda
Salma Manzoor

Next Steps

15. Schedule 1 of the Constitution will need to be amended to reflect the current membership.

Recommendations

16. The Panel is asked to:
- (a) Note the change to panel membership and that membership of the Police and Crime Panel reflects the requirements for precise political balance.
 - (b) Agree that Schedule 1 of the Constitution should be amended to reflect the current membership.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- (i) The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents>
- (ii) Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel Arrangements
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council->

[works/other-bodies/leicester-leicestershire-and-rutland-police-and-crime-panel/the-police-and-crime-panel](#)

- (iii) Report of the Director of Law and Governance on Review of Panel Membership considered by the Police and Crime Panel on 9 June 2025 - <https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1029&MId=8070&Ver=4>

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