

HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

PANEL MEMBERSHIP – BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the requirement to retain a balanced membership that reflects the political make-up of the force area – the Balanced Appointment Objective.
- 1.2 To allocate seats to each local authority.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 outlines the responsibilities councils have in establishing and maintaining a Police and Crime Panel.
- 2.2 The Act makes detailed provisions on panel composition under Parts 2 and 4 of Schedule 6, and under Section 31 places a duty on councils to produce a ‘balanced panel’, which means that the councillors on the panel, (when taken together) -
 - (i) Represent all parts of the police area;
 - (ii) Represent the political make-up of the relevant authorities (when taken together);
 - (iii) Have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Police and Crime Panel to discharge its functions effectively.
- 2.3 Where a force area consists of 10 or fewer authorities, the minimum number of members of the Police and Crime Panel will be 10. This does not include the two required independent co-opted members.
- 2.4 All local authorities within the police area will be allocated at least one seat on the Police and Crime Panel.
- 2.5 Any remainder (to make-up the number of members on the panel up to 10) is distributed to one or more authorities on the basis of factors such as –

- Crime levels
- Population levels
- Geographical size of the authorities
- Deprivation.

2.6 At the Annual Meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 19 June 2015, the Panel agreed to the following allocation of seats (minute 52 refers) -

- 3 seats to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- 3 seats to Hull City Council
- 2 seats to North East Lincolnshire Council
- 2 seats to North Lincolnshire Council

2.7 The table below shows the number of seats held by each political party in the Humberside Police force area following the local government elections held on 5 May 2022. Also included are the number of seats held by each political party in 2021-22.

	North Lincolnshire		North East Lincolnshire		East Riding		Hull	
	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23
Labour	14	14	8	8	0		30	27
Conservative	28	28	31	30	47	44	1	0
Liberal Democrat	0	0	3	3	9	11	26	29
Independent Member	1	1	0	1	2	2	0	0
Yorkshire Party	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Independent Group		0	0	0	8	7	0	0
Other	0	0	0		0		0	1
Vacancy	0	0	0	0	0	1		
Total	43	43	42	42	67	67	57	57

2.8 Following the Local Government elections held on 5 May 2022, the overall political composition of the Humberside Police force area, including the number of seats as a percentage is shown overleaf.

The table also shows the number of seats each political party will have on the Police and Crime Panel. Included are the number of seats held by political party in 2021-22.

	2021-22			2022-2023		
	Seats per Political Party	Seats as a %	Seats on Police & Crime Panel	Seats per Political Party	Seats as a %	Seats on Police & Crime Panel
Conservative	107	51.19	6	102	48.8	6
Labour	52	24.88	3	49	23.4	2
Liberal Democrat	38	18.18	1	43	20.5	2
Independent Member	3	1.43	0	4	1.9	0
Independent Group	7	3.34	0	7	3.34	0
Yorkshire Party	2	0.95	0	2	0.95	0
Vacancy	0	0	0	1	0.47	0
Other	0	0	0	1	0.47	0
Total	209	99.97	10	209	99.83	10

- 2.9 It is also relevant that each authority in making appointments to the panel is required, pursuant to section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to allocate those seats in accordance with the political balance of the authority. As with the requirements under schedule 6 the requirement under section 15 is to ensure 'so far as is reasonably practicable' that political balance is met.
- 2.10 Where councils have only been awarded two seats on the panel, it is envisaged that both seats will be allocated to members of the controlling group, in accordance with the proportionality of their council. For those councils that have been allocated three seats, it is envisaged that more flexibility in the allocation of seats will be afforded.
- 2.11 Consequently, in line with the decision of the panel on 19 June 2015, the allocation of seats on to the Panel would look like the following -

Authority	Seats	Political Composition
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	3	3 Conservative
Hull City Council	3	1 x Labour 2 x Liberal Democrat
North East Lincolnshire Council	2	1 x Conservative 1 x Labour
North Lincolnshire Council	2	2 x Conservative
	10	10

2.12 Applying the balanced principle would therefore leave the Conservatives as the largest group with six seats, Labour with two seats and the Liberal Democrats with two seats.

2.13 Any of the above proposals allow the councillors from each local authority to be appointed pursuant to section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the panel consider its membership.

SECRETARY TO THE HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

- 1) Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (published)
- 2) Humberside Police and Crime Panel's Panel Arrangements (published)
- 3) Minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meetings of 23 September 2014 and 19 June 2015
- 4) Political Balance calculations