

<b>Report title:</b> Balanced Appointment Objective	
<b>Report to:</b> Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel	
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<b>Date:</b> 15 June 2023	<b>For:</b> Noting
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

## 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To note the requirement for the Panel to meet the balanced appointment objective.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the composition of the Panel, which includes the ‘balanced appointment objective’.

31. (5) *The “balanced appointment objective” referred to in this paragraph is the objective that local authority members of a police and crime panel (when taken together)—*

*(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.*

- 2.2 The Panel is also under a duty to ensure it has the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to effectively discharge its functions in relation to fire and rescue.

## 3. Membership and Political Balance

- 3.1 The composition of the Panel is again being reviewed following the May 2023 elections which were held with respect to all of the fifteen councils and also in the party membership of the Panel members nominated by each of the fifteen councils for the 2023-24 municipal year.
- 3.2 The nominations to the Panel for the 2023/24 municipal year have been received from 10 of the 15 local authorities. It is expected that nominations from the remaining local authorities will be received by the end of June 2023.

- 3.3 Once all nominations have been received and the Panel is fully appointed, an assessment can be made of the position with regard to political balance based on the political make-up of the local authorities. A recommendation can then be made as to whether any further co-options are needed to better reflect the political balance across the County.
- 3.4 It is therefore proposed that a further report to the Panel be brought to the July meeting, once the nominations have all been made and the political balance has been reviewed.
- 3.5 The current co-optees will remain in place until the new position is known, given that the Panel has approved the current composition of the co-opted political members.

#### **Skills and experience of the Panel**

- 3.6 There are currently five new members of the Panel, although one has previously been a member of the Panel. Tailored training will be offered to the new members of the Panel to ensure that they develop the knowledge and skills to effectively undertake the functions of the Panel, both relating to police and fire.
- 3.7 A skills analysis of the members of the Panel is currently being undertaken. Training and development will be offered where there is found to be any gaps in skills or knowledge to ensure that the Panel is fulfilling its duty.

#### **4. Co-opted independent members**

- 4.1 The two co-opted independent members were appointed by the Panel at a meeting on the 4 June 2020, from the 1 August 2020 for a term of four years until 2024. Whilst not included when considering the political balance of the Panel, these members contribute to the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 A further report to the Panel be brought to the July meeting, once the nominations have all been made and the political balance has been reviewed.