

AGENDA ITEM 6

Essex Police and Crime Panel	EPCP/014/15
Date: 29 October 2015	

Membership

Report by the Secretary to the Panel

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Purpose of report and background

Each local authority in England is required to appoint a member to their force-area police and crime panel. In Essex this means that the County Council, the two unitary authorities and each of the 12 district councils appoint a member to the Essex Panel, which must also include two independent members. The maximum panel size is 20 members. The current membership is as set out on the face of the Agenda.

The Home Office has made it clear that as far as possible, panels should satisfy the balanced appointment objective; which is to ensure the geographic, political and demographic make-up of the police force area is reflected in the membership of a panel. In appointing panel members, local authorities must, as far as is practicable, consider the make-up of the force area in terms of geography, politics and the requisite skills, knowledge and experience for the panel to function effectively.

Councillor membership of the panel should reflect the geography and population size of the force area. In the first instance, the legislation seeks to achieve this by having every local authority in the area represented on a panel.

The total number of Essex Councillors is 723 in the following proportions:

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Other	UKIP
422 (58.4%)	85 (11.7%)	63 (8.7%)	88 (12.2%)	65 (9%)

The most recent appointees to the Panel are 11 Conservative and four Labour against proportions of 9:2:1:2:1.

In terms of Council Administrations, there are 10 Conservative, 1 Labour and 4 with no overall control.

In July 2012 when looking at its political make-up the Panel decided that, subject to the Home Secretary's approval, in order to reflect better the political balance across the Police Force area, the Chairman approach the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the County Council to nominate a Liberal Democrat representative to be co-opted on to the Panel who should not be a member of any of the 15 local

authorities in the Essex Police Force area who nominate to the Panel. Home Secretary approval was given and Ann Haigh was co-opted on to the Committee as a result. The Panel has subsequently accepted her resignation because other commitments were preventing her from attending meetings and has taken no decision concerning the filling of the vacancy.

Should the Panel wish to make use of any co-opted places to achieve a better political balance, the Home Secretary would need to approve any changes to the co-options.