

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORE SERVICES TO COUNCIL ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2021

Public or private: Public

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT (CO-OPTED MEMBER) TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Panel had a significant turnover of Members in May 2021. One of the current independent members suggested that the Panel consider an application to the Secretary of State (Home office) for an additional independent (co-opted) member.

The proposal to appoint a third independent member is a necessary means of ensuring there is some critical mass – however small – of constitutionally secured consistency in the membership of the Panel. A third independent (co-opted) member would give a membership of 10 elected Members from across the four South Yorkshire Districts and 3 independent (co-opted) members recruited by advertisement.

In addition to an application to the Secretary of State an extra co-opted member requires a change to the Police and Crime Panel's Arrangements, and those changes have to be approved by the four District Councils. This decision should be unanimous across all four Districts to proceed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council endorse the Police and Crime Panel's decision taken on 20th September 2021 to commence the process to appoint a third independent (co-opted) member.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) is a Joint Committee that was established in 2012 to support and scrutinise Police and Crime Commissioners. The Panel has 12 Members – 10 elected from the four District Councils taking account of political proportionality across other Joint Authority bodies such as Fire and Rescue Authority and Pensions Authority – plus two independent (co-opted) members recruited by advertisement.
- 3.2. Given the significant turnover of Members following the local elections in May 2021, the PCP is now made up of almost wholly new Members. There is no

set tenure for Members of Joint Authorities so Members can serve for one year as a minimum which impacts on consistency of knowledge and the effectiveness of the Panel.

3.3. The proposal to a third independent member is a necessary means of ensuring there is some critical mass – however small - of constitutionally secured consistency in the membership of the Panel, thus ensuring the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner is adequately supported and scrutinised, and good governance is demonstrated.

3.4. The appointment of a third independent (co-opted) member would not impact on the political proportionality of the Panel. There would be 10 elected Members and 3 independent (co-opted) members.

3.5. To proceed with an application to the Secretary of State (Home Office), the decision will need to be approved by all four District Councils.

4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

4.1. The issues are set out in Appendix 1 – the report to the Police and Crime Panel on 20th September 2021.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

5.1. The alternative is for the Police and Crime Panel's membership to remain at 12. For the reasons set out in the report this option is not preferred.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

6.1. The report at Appendix1 was submitted to the Police and Crime Panel on 20th September 2021 and is part of a public agenda pack that is published on the website. The approval to proceed would not impact on any section of the community within Barnsley; it would strengthen the Panel's ability to support and scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner thus improving policing for the communities of South Yorkshire.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are no financial implications for Barnsley MBC as all allowances for Police and Crime Panel members – including independent (co-opted) members are paid from the Grant allocated to the host Authority by the Home Office.

7.2. If the application is successful, the Home Office will increase the Grant (which is paid retrospectively to the host Authority on provision of Claim forms) by £920.00 which is the recommended Home Office basic allowance per member.

8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no employee implications.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Panel's Legal Advisor has provided his comments in paragraphs 5-8 of the report to the Panel on 20th September 2021 (see Appendix 1).

10. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no customer or digital implications.

11. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no communications implications.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 There is no requirement to consult on this proposal.

13. EQUALITY IMPACT

There are no direct equalities implications for Barnsley MBC of this proposal and, therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

14. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

14.1 There is no impact or links with Barnsley MBC's Corporate Plan or the Council's Performance Management Framework.

15. TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

15.1 There are no implications under this heading.

16. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

16.1 There are no implications under this heading.

17. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

17.1 Indirectly, the resilience of the Panel and its ability to effectively scrutinise and support the Police and Crime Commissioner to hold the Chief Constable to account contributes to improved policing across South Yorkshire and, therefore, a reduction in crime and disorder.

18. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

18.1 The only risk associated with this report is that all four District Councils do not agree with the proposal, and the process to apply to the Secretary of State (Home Office) for an additional independent (co-opted) member could not be progressed.

19. HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

19.1 There are no implications under this heading.

20. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

20.1 Not applicable

21. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

21.1 Not applicable.

23. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Report to the Police and Crime Panel, 20th September 2021.

24. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – as referred to in paragraph 23 above.
Home Office process to apply for additional independent (co-opted) members to sit on the Police and Crime Panel (and Police, Fire and Crime Panels).

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

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Financial Implications/Consultation

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(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer where no financial implications)