

Report To: Council

Date of Meeting: 9 July 2013

Lead Officer: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Report Author: Democratic Services Manager

Title: Appointment to the North Wales Police and Crime Panel

1. What is the report about?

To appoint one member to the North Wales Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) for a minimum of one municipal year.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Panel membership includes elected members drawn from the six North Wales local authorities based on a politically balanced calculation and changes to regional political balance necessitates a new appointment by Denbighshire County Council.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That:

- (i) the Council appoints one member of the Labour Group to the Police and Crime Panel;
- (ii) the appointment period extends until any subsequent decision by Council is taken to appoint to the Panel

4. Report details.

- 4.1 In line with the terms of reference for the North Wales Police and Crime Panel, each of the six local authorities in north Wales is able to nominate a member or members to sit on the Panel. This would normally be undertaken at the Annual Meeting of Council where possible.
- 4.2 The Panel consists of 10 elected members and 2 independent co-opted members. Conwy County Borough Council is the host authority for the Panel and provides its support services. The allocation of seats to each authority is based on the political balance and population distributions across North Wales as a whole. The *d'hondt* methodology is used to identify the number of seats each local authority is allocated and to which political group(s) they apply.
- 4.3 Based on population, Conwy, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham appoint 2 members each whilst Denbighshire and Anglesey appoint 1 member each. The size of the main political groupings across the councils in North Wales determines how many seats each group or grouping is entitled to take. Labour

and Independent have 3 seats each, Plaid Cymru has 2 seats, and the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats 1 seat each. To determine which authority appoints individual seats the Panel looks at how many seats a political party or grouping has in all the authorities combined and then sees which council or councils has the best claim to take the available seats. For example, Plaid Cymru has 69 seats across North Wales with 37 (53.62%) of them in Gwynedd. The Panel therefore allocated the 2 Plaid Cymru places to Gwynedd Council. Similarly, Conwy has the largest number (40%) of the Conservative councillors in North Wales and therefore takes the 1 Conservative seat on the Panel.

- 4.4 Last year the Council was asked to appoint an Independent Group member and Councillor Cowie has been Denbighshire's representative on the Panel since that time. The results from the May 2013 elections in Anglesey have been considered and resulted in Denbighshire now being allocated 1 labour member seat.
- 4.5 The Council can determine the period of time that the appointment is made, although this should not be less than 1 municipal year.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Council has community safety responsibilities which are linked to the aims and activities of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel.

6 What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The appointment of a new councillor to the Panel is not expected to impact on services or create additional costs.

7 What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

An equality impact assessment is not required for this decision.

8 What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

As the proposed appointment is a ring-fenced position Denbighshire's Labour Group have been made aware of the issues raised.

9 Chief Finance Officer Statement

There should be no additional costs to the council as a result of the appointment.

10 What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Failure to appoint a member would mean that Denbighshire's interests might not be adequately represented at the Panel.

11 Power to make the Decision

The terms of reference of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel in accordance with the *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011*