

North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

17 May 2018

Balanced appointment objective: Panel membership update

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the political proportionality of the Panel following the recent district elections.

2 Background

- 2.1 Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, Police and Crime Panels are required to ensure that their membership reflects, as far as is practical, both political and geographical proportionality, as well as necessary skills and experience. Specifically, local authority membership should represent all parts of the force area and “represent the political make-up of the relevant local authorities (when taken together)”. A Panel should keep this under review and decide whether a variation in their numbers (by co-option) would assist in meeting what is referred to as “the balanced appointment objective”.
- 2.2 The Panel’s core elected membership is 10; one each appointed by NYCC and the seven local councils within North Yorkshire, plus two from the City of York Council. Prior to the recent district council elections, the political balance of the Panel was as follows: Conservative – 7 seats; Labour – 1 seat; Liberal Democrat – 1 seat; Independent – 1 seat. The Panel is required to review the impact of local and County elections on the agreed allocation of seats, after these have taken place.

3 District Council elections – 3rd May 2018

- 3.1 Within the force area, council elections were held in Harrogate and Craven on 3rd May 2018. These elections did not result in membership changes having to be made by these constituent authorities to the Panel. However, Panel is invited to note the updated figures in relation to the current status quo regarding political proportionality as a result of those elections. Seat allocation to the Panel is calculated according to the current proportionality of all elected members across the North Yorkshire and York force area. As such the following table highlights current membership to the Panel (“Actual”) according to political affiliation, set alongside the statistical allocation of seats according to proportionality of all the elected Members across the force area (“Seats entitlement”).

Party	Actual	Seats entitlement
Conservative	7	6.29
Liberal Democrat	1	0.72
Labour	1	1.16
Liberal	0	0.11
Green	0	0.19
UKIP	0	0.17
Independents	1	1.36

- 3.2 Members will note that while there are some discrepancies between actual allocations and seat entitlements, these are now fairly small. The margins have narrowed down further following the last review in mid-2017 and subsequent changes around Panel membership (such as appointment of a Labour Member to a constituent authority seat). This arguably, overall, places the Panel in a very robust position for having satisfied the balanced appointment objective on political grounds.
- 3.3 No changes are therefore being recommended for consideration by the Panel at this stage in relation to its membership.

4 Recommendation

4.1 That the Panel:

- (a) notes the update provided on political proportionality of the Panel following the recent local elections; and
- (b) agrees to keep the balanced appointment objective under review as necessary.

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9th May 2018