
Meeting: Council
Date: 25 February 2010
Subject: Appointment to Bedfordshire Police Authority
Report of: Cllr Tricia Turner, Leader of the Council
Summary: To consider the appointment of a member of the Liberal Democrat Group to serve upon the Joint Selection Committee for the Bedfordshire Police Authority and to be nominated to serve upon the Police Authority.

Contact Officer: Kathrin John, Head of Democratic Services
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: N/A
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The appointment is required as part of the Council's statutory responsibilities.

Financial:

None to this Council – the Police Authority meets the expenses of the Council's representatives.

Legal:

Appointments to the Joint Selection Committee and Bedfordshire Police Authority are governed by the Police Act 1996 (as amended by S.I. 2009/119) and The Police Authority Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2009/119).

Risk Management:

None

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None

Equalities/Human Rights:

None

Community Safety:

None

Sustainability:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That the nomination of the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group to fill the vacancy for his group upon the Bedfordshire Police Authority Joint Selection Committee and to be nominated to fill the place upon the Police Authority, be approved.**
- 2. That, in the event that the Liberal Democrat Group Leader is unable to make a nomination at the meeting, the Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Liberal Democrat Leader, be authorised to appoint a Member of the Liberal Democrat Group to serve upon the Joint Selection Committee and to be nominated to fill the vacancy upon the Police Authority.**

1. As Members will see from paragraph 4 of the submitted report of the Police Authority, Cllr Alison Graham has tendered her resignation as a member of the Police Authority with effect from 28 February 2010.
2. It is now necessary for the Council to consider appointing to fill the resulting vacancy.
3. Regulations made under the Police Act 1996 require appointments to be made by a joint selection committee consisting of members appointed by Central Bedfordshire, Luton Borough and Bedford Borough Councils. In making its appointments, the joint committee must ensure, as far as practicable, that the membership reflects the balance of the political parties of the three constituent councils.
4. The three authorities agreed in March 2009, after consultation with the Home Office Minister, that the Joint Selection Committee would comprise 11 members, being 3 from Bedford Borough Council, 5 from Central Bedfordshire and 3 from Luton Borough Council, with the composition being reviewed every two years and adjusted as necessary to reflect any changes in population. It was also agreed that the Joint Selection Committee should allocate the 9 local authority seats on the Police Authority on the basis of population as follows:-

Bedford Borough Council	2 seats
Central Bedfordshire Council	4 seats
Luton Borough Council	3 seats
6. The 4 Central Bedfordshire seats have been allocated in accordance with the political balance, with 3 seats going to the Conservative Group and 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group.

7. As the vacant seat has been allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group, the Leader of that Group has been requested to nominate a member to fill the vacancy on the Joint Selection Committee and to be the Council's nominee for the vacant place upon the Police Authority.
8. In the event that the Liberal Democrat Group Leader is unable to make a nomination at the meeting, the Council is requested to authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Liberal Democrat Leader, to appoint a member to serve upon the Joint Selection Committee and to be nominated to fill the vacancy upon the Police Authority.

Appendices:

None

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Report of the Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic to the meeting of the Council held on 18 June 2009.

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands