
Meeting: Council

Date: 19 May 2011

Subject: **Appointments to the Joint Selection Committee (for Bedfordshire Police Authority) and the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority 2011**

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Summary: The report outlines the requirements for member appointments to these two bodies. Nominations from Group Leaders will be circulated separately.

Contact Officer: Mel Peaston, Committee Services Manager

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

None

Legal:

Appointments to the Joint Selection Committee and Bedfordshire Police Authority are governed by the Police Act 1996 (as amended by SI 2009/119) and the Police Authority Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/630).

The Police and Social Responsibility Bill currently before Parliament provides for the abolition of Police Authorities and the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners. The timetable for the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners is currently set for May 2012 and therefore the appointment of local authority members to the Police Authority will be for the period until the Police and Crime Commissioner takes office.

Appointments to the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority are governed by the Bedfordshire Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1996 (SI 1996/2918) as amended by SI 2009/119.

Risk Management:

None

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None

Equalities/Human Rights:

The Police Authority's Joint Committee is required to ensure, as far as is reasonably practical, that the persons appointed meet the following criteria:

- represent the interests of a wide range of people within the community in the area of the police authority
- include persons with skills, knowledge or experience which are perceived by them to be under-represented among the existing members of the police authority
- promote diversity within the force and the police authority in question
- are likely to devote sufficient time to take an effective role in the work of the police authority.

Community Safety:

The appointments assist the Police Authority and the Combined Fire Authority to support and increase community safety.

Sustainability:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS:**1. that the Council:**

- (a) appoints five members to serve on the Joint Selection Committee which is responsible for appointing members of the Bedfordshire Police Authority; and**
- (b) nominates four members that the Joint Selection Committee may wish to consider for appointment to the Bedfordshire Police Authority for the period until the proposed Police and Crime Commissioner takes office, reflecting the requirement so far as practicable for political balance across all three constituent Councils as a whole (Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton Borough).**

2. that the Council appoints five members to serve on Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority, reflecting the political balance within Central Bedfordshire Council.**Reason for Decision**

1. To enable the Council to comply with the statutory requirements which apply to the Joint Select Committee and facilitate its representation on the Bedfordshire Police Authority and the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority.

Bedfordshire Police Authority and the Joint Selection Committee

2. Bedfordshire Police Authority (BPA) has a strategic policy and monitoring role over the police service across the areas of Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton Borough. It comprises 17 members, of whom 9 are to be members of the three relevant councils and 8 are to be independent members.
3. Regulations made under the Police Act 1996 require appointments to be made in Bedfordshire's case by a joint selection committee (JSC) consisting of members appointed by the three relevant councils. The number of members on the joint committee, and the number that each council appoints to it, should be agreed locally, although the Secretary of State can arbitrate in the absence of an agreement between the three relevant councils.
4. In making its appointments to the BPA, the joint committee must ensure, as far as practicable, that the membership reflects the balance of the political parties across all three constituent councils as a whole (Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton Borough). Since it has been customary in Bedfordshire for the members of the joint committee also to be appointed as the members of the BPA, it is expected that the joint committee would similarly reflect political balance across the three authorities.
5. The three authorities agreed in March 2009, after consultation with the Home Office Minister, that:
 - (a) The Joint Selection Committee would comprise 11 members, being 3 from Bedford Borough Council (at the time 2 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat), 5 from Central Bedfordshire Council (at the time 4 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat) and 3 from Luton Borough Council (at the time 2 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat).
 - (b) The composition of the Joint Select Committee would be reviewed every two years and adjusted as necessary to reflect significant changes in the populations (population being the key factor in determining the split between the three authorities, in the view of the Home Office Minister);
 - (c) The Joint Select Committee should allocate the 9 local authority seats on the BPA on the basis of population as follows (also reflecting the overall political balance at the time):

Bedford Borough Council	2 seats
Central Bedfordshire Council	4 seats
Luton Borough Council	3 seats
6. The three authorities are due, this year, to review the allocation between them of the 11 seats on the Joint Committee having regard to their relative populations.
7. The allocation that was agreed in 2009 was on the basis of the 2007 ONS. The relevant figures (000's) were:

BBC – 155/54 = 2.87 (3) seats
 LBC – 188/54 = 3.48 (3) seats
 CBC – 252/54 = 4.60 (5) seats

8. The most recent ONS figures are those from 2009. Using these and adopting the same approach used to calculate the allocation as in 2009 results in the following:-

BBC – 158/55 = 2.87 (3) seats
 LBC – 194/55 = 3.50 (3) seats
 CBC – 253/55 = 4.60 (5) seats.

9. The Joint Selection Committee will meet again after the elections on 5 May 2011 to appoint members to BPA in accordance with the post election balance of political parties across the 3 local authorities, as shown below.

Authority	Conservative	Independent	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Other	Totals
Bedford	12	3	12	12	1	40
Central Bedfordshire	49	4	1	5	0	59
Luton	4	0	36	8	0	48
Totals	65	7	49	25	1	147
% of total seats	44.21%	4.76%	33.33%	17.01%	0.68%	99.99%
No of JSC seats (rounded in brackets)	4.86 (5)	0.52 (0)	3.67 (4)	1.87 (2)	0.07 (0)	11
No of BPA seats (rounded in brackets)	3.98 (4)	0.43 (0)	3.00 (3)	1.53 (2)	0.06 (0)	9

10. Bearing on mind the relative sizes of the political groups across the three authorities, the following scheme has been suggested for appointments having regard to the need to meet overall political balance across all three councils.

Joint Selection Cttee	Total no of places	No of places allocated to CBC (5 seats overall)	No of places allocated to BBC (3 seats overall)	No of places allocated to LBC (3 seats overall)
Conservative	5	0	5	0
Independent	0	0	0	0
Labour	4	2	0	2
Liberal Democrat	2	1	0	1

Bedfordshire Police Authority	Total no of places	No of places allocated to CBC (4 seats overall)	No of places allocated to BBC (2 seats overall)	No of places allocated to LBC (3 seats overall)
Conservative	4	0	4	0
Independent	0	0	0	0
Labour	3	1	0	2
Liberal Democrat	2	1	0	1

11. With the likely replacement of Police Authorities by Police and Crime Commissioners the Bedfordshire Police Authority has asked that, wherever possible, the Council considers re-nominating its current representatives on the Police Authority in order to provide continuity.
12. Appointments to the Joint Selection Committee are now required on the above basis. While the making of appointments to the BPA itself is a matter for the Joint Selection Committee, this Council may wish, as previously, to nominate four of the members to be considered for membership of the BPA, similarly reflecting the overall political balance requirements.
13. The Police Authority AGM will be held at 10.00am on Friday 20 May 2011 with the Joint Selection Committee meeting immediately beforehand at 09.15am. The Council's appointees will therefore be expected to attend this meeting on the morning after their appointment at the Council meeting on Thursday 19 May.

Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority

14. Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority provides fire and rescue services across the areas of Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton Borough and comprises up to 25 members, of whom 12 are to be members of the relevant councils.
15. The 1996 Order establishing the authority (as amended to reflect local government reorganisation in April 2009) requires that appointments should be made by each of the councils in proportion to its electorate, as follows:

Bedford Borough Council	3 seats
Central Bedfordshire Council	5 seats
Luton Borough Council	4 seats
16. In this case appointments are, as far as practicable, to reflect the political balance within each appointing council. Central Bedfordshire Council previously appointed 5 members (4 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat).

17. Appointment of five members to the Combined Fire Authority is now required, reflecting the post-election political balance within Central Bedfordshire Council which is:

	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent	Labour	Total
No and % of cllrs	49 (83.05)	5 (8.47)	4 (6.78%)	1 (1.69%)	59 (100%)
Allocation of seats	4	1	0	0	5

Appendices:

Appendix A – Nominations to places on the Joint Selection Committee, the Bedfordshire Police Authority, and the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority (to be circulated separately).

Background Papers: none