
Meeting: Council

Date: 18 April 2013

Subject: Appointments to the Police and Crime Panel and the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority 2013

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:

This report supports the Council's priority "Creating safer communities".

Financial:

None

Legal:

Under the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel came into being in April 2012, the component authorities being Bedford Borough Council, Luton Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. Appointments were made, in line with the proportionality requirements and the balanced appointment objective, for the period until April 2015. From that point appointments shall be made on a 4-yearly basis.

The Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority has been renamed the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority. Appointments to this body 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 membership of the Police and Crime Panel is required, as far as is reasonably practical, to meet the “balanced requirement objective”. This means that the persons appointed should meet the following criteria:

- represent all parts of the Police Force’s area
- represent the political make-up of the constituent authorities individually and collectively
- have the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary for the Police and Crime Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

Public Health:

The appointments to the Police and Crime Panel and the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority contribute to increased confidence, impacting on wellbeing.

Community Safety:

The appointments assist the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority to support and increase community safety.

Sustainability:

None

Procurement:

None

Overview and Scrutiny:

These appointments have not been considered by overview and scrutiny.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **that the Council:**
 - (a) **notes that appointments were made for the first time to the Police and Crime Panel at the annual meeting of Council on 14 June 2012;**
 - (b) **notes that the membership of the PCP is currently:**
 - **Councillor Mrs Chapman, MBE**
 - **Councillor Ms Graham**
 - **Councillor Hollick**
 - **Councillor Spurr**
 - (c) **notes that appointments will be made to the Police and Crime Panel next at the Council’s annual meeting in 2015, and every four years thereafter;**
2. **that the Council appoints five members to serve on the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority as set out in Appendix A, reflecting the political balance within Central Bedfordshire Council.**

Reason for Decision

1. To ensure that appointments are made as necessary to the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel and the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel

2. Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP) includes representation from those local authorities in the Bedfordshire area, reflecting the area of the police force. The councils are Bedford Borough, Luton Borough and Central Bedfordshire. Central Bedfordshire Council's membership under the current proportionality of the constituent authorities is:
 - 3 Conservative Council members
 - 1 Independent Council member.
3. Appointments were made to the Police and Crime Panel at the Council's annual meeting on 14 June 2012. Later that year, a Council member (one of the PCP members) resigned and a by-election was held. The changes at that point led to changes in Central Bedfordshire Council's representation on the PCP. The current membership is set out at paragraph 1(b) above, and will remain in place until the annual meeting in 2015.

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority

4. Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue 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.
5. 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
6. Appointments are, as far as practical, to reflect the political balance within each appointing council. Central Bedfordshire previously appointed 5 members (4 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat). These were: Councillors Mrs Drinkwater, McVicar, J Saunders, Shadbolt and Williams.

7. Appointment of five members to the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority is now required, reflecting the political balance within Central Bedfordshire Council following the November 2012 by-election which is:

8.

	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent	Labour	Total
No and % of cllrs	48 (81.36%)	5 (8.47%)	5 (8.47%)	1 (1.69%)	59 (99.99%)
Allocation of seats	4	(1 seat either Inde or LD)	(1 seat either LD or Inde)	0	4+1 = 5

Appendices:

Appendix A – Nominations to places on the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority (to be circulated separately).

Background Papers: none