

## Central Bedfordshire Council

Council

21 May 2015

### Appointments to the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel and the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service 2015

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#### Purpose of this report

1. To make appointments as statutorily required to the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) and the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) until the Council's annual meeting in 2019.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Council is asked to confirm:**

1. that this Council's appointments to the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel are:
  - Cllr Fiona Chapman
  - Cllr Amanda Dodwell
  - Cllr Paul Downing
  - Cllr Peter Hollick
2. that these appointments will remain in place, unless any resignation from the PCP is notified to the Monitoring Officer, until the annual meeting of the Council in 2019;
3. that this Council's appointments to the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service are:
  - Cllr Tony Brown
  - Cllr Fiona Chapman
  - Cllr John Chatterley
  - Cllr Paul Downing
  - Cllr David McVicar

4. **that these appointments will remain in place, unless any resignation from the FRS is notified to the Monitoring Officer, until the annual meeting of the Council in 2019.**

## **Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations**

2. Making appointments to these bodies does not form part of the business of the overview and scrutiny committees.

### **Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel**

3. Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP) comprises representation of the three unitary authorities in the area, which are within the area of the police force. These councils are Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council.
4. Representation by the authorities on the PCP is required to be proportional based on the population figures and also as far as possible across the political make-up of the constituent councils.
5. The three unitary authorities in Bedfordshire must agree an allocation of seats on the PCP between them which meets the following requirements.
6. Each constituent Council must appoint at least one member to the Panel and collectively the appointments made must, as far as reasonably practical, meet the “balanced appointment” objective. This means that, taken together, the Local Authority appointments must:
  - a. represent all parts of the Police Force’s area
  - b. represent the political make-up of the constituent authorities both individually and collectively
  - c. have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.
7. The constituent authorities agreed when the PCP was established in 2012 that the allocation of seats (in terms of numbers) between the Authorities should be determined with reference to the relative population figures of each local authority area.
8. Based on this approach and using the most up to date population estimates (that is the 2013 mid-year estimates rounded to the nearest 1,000), the allocation of seats between the three Authorities is as follows:

9.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>2010 ONS (in 000s)</b>	<b>Number of PCP seats</b>
Bedford Borough	161	2.54 (3)
Central Bedfordshire	265	4.17 (4)
Luton Borough	208	3.28 (3)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>9.99 (10)</b>

10. In view of the requirement for the PCP as far as practicable to reflect the balance of the political groups across the three councils as a whole as well as their individual make-up, the political balance calculations for the PCP are as follows:

11.

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Conser- vative</b>	<b>Indepen- dent</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bedford Borough	1	1	0	1	3
Central Bedfordshire	4	0	0	0	4
Luton Borough	0	0	3	0	3
% of total seats	49.32%	3.38%	34.47%	12.84%	100%
no of seats on PCP (rounded in brackets)	4.93 (5)	0.35 (0)	3.45(4)	1.28 (1)	10

12. This achieves the following scheme for the allocation of seats which satisfies the balanced appointment objective:-

13. The above allocation has been agreed between the three Authorities, giving this council an allocation of 4 seats overall allocated to the Conservative group:

14. There are no restrictions preventing any constituent council member from sitting on a PCP, that is PCP members may also be members of their Executive and/or other committees. The law requires Bedford Borough Council as a Mayoral Authority to nominate its elected mayor for membership. The Mayor may decline the nomination, in which case another member of his political group may be appointed. The

constituent Councils should be aware of the potential for conflicts of interest in the case of Executive Members and particularly the Mayor and any Community Safety Portfolio Holder. These office holders are more likely to be in discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner about local crime and disorder issues and may not be well-placed to scrutinise the PCC on arrangements they may have reached with him. No such conflicts have arisen within Bedfordshire PCP to date.

### **Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service**

15. Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service provides services across the areas of Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton Borough councils. It comprises up to 25 members, of whom 12 are drawn from the membership of the relevant councils.
16. The 1996 Order establishing the authority (as amended to reflect the 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.
17. Appointments should as far as practical reflect the political balance within each appointing authority. Appointments from Central Bedfordshire will therefore be 5 representatives drawn from the Conservative group.

### **Council Priorities**

18. This report supports the following Council priority, through its contribution to arrangements for the safety, security and confidence of those who live and work in Central Bedfordshire.

“Enhancing your local community – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow “

### **Legal Implications**

19. The Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel came into being in April 2012 under the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The component authorities remain Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council. Appointments were made in June 2012 in line with the proportionality requirements and the ‘balanced appointment’ objective, to run until the annual meeting in 2015. Appointments shall thereafter be made on a 4-yearly basis.

### **Financial Implications**

20. There are no additional budgetary implications.

### **Equalities Implications**

21. The membership of the PCP 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:
- i. represent all parts of the police force's area
  - ii. represent the political make-up of the constituent authorities individually and collectively
  - iii. have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the PCP to discharge its functions effectively.

### **Conclusion and next Steps**

22. The work programmes of the PCP and the FRS will be progressed.

### **Appendices**

23. **A** – Details of Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

### **Background Papers**

24. The following background papers, not previously available to the public, were taken into account and are available on the Council's website:  
None