



Doncaster Council

Report

18th November 2021

**To the Chair and Members of the
FULL COUNCIL**

**PROPOSAL TO APPOINT ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT (CO-OPTED) MEMBER
TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Police and Crime Panel had a significant turnover of Members in May 2021. One of the current independent members suggested that the Panel consider an application to the Secretary of State (Home office) for an additional independent co-opted (non-voting) member.

The proposal to appoint a third independent member is a necessary means of ensuring there is some critical mass – however small – of constitutionally secured consistency in the membership of the Panel. A third independent (co-opted) member would give a membership of 12 elected Members from across the four South Yorkshire Districts and 3 independent (co-opted) members recruited by advertisement. This proposal will not impact on Doncaster Council's current representation on the Police and Crime Panel.

In addition to an application to the Secretary of State an extra co-opted member requires a change to the Police and Crime Panel's Arrangements, and those changes have to be approved by the four District Councils. This decision must be unanimous across all four Districts to proceed.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Full Council endorse the Police and Crime Panel's decision taken on 20th September 2021 to commence the process to appoint a third Independent co-opted (non-voting) member.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. There are no direct implications of this proposal for the communities of Doncaster, but the resilience and consistency provided by an additional Independent (co-opted) member provides increased support and scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner on behalf of all South Yorkshire residents.

BACKGROUND

5. The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) is a Joint Committee that was established in 2012 to support and scrutinise Police and Crime Commissioners. The Panel has 12 Members – 10 elected from the four District Councils taking account of political proportionality across other Joint Authority bodies such as Fire and Rescue Authority and Pensions Authority – plus two independent (co-opted) members recruited by advertisement.
6. Given the significant turnover of Members following the local elections in May 2021, the PCP is now made up of almost wholly new Members. There is no set tenure for Members of Joint Authorities so Members can serve for one year as a minimum which impacts on consistency of knowledge and the effectiveness of the Panel.
7. The proposal to appoint a third independent member is a necessary means of ensuring there is some critical mass – however small - of constitutionally secured consistency in the membership of the Panel, thus ensuring the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner is adequately supported and scrutinised, and good governance is demonstrated.
8. The appointment of a third independent (co-opted) member would not impact on the political proportionality of the Panel. There would be 10 elected Members and 3 independent co-opted (non-voting) members.
9. The issues are set out in Appendix 1 – the report to the Police and Crime Panel on 20th September 2021.
10. To proceed with an application to the Secretary of State (Home Office), the decision will need to be approved by all four District Councils.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

11. An increase in elected Members would have significant implications for political proportionality across the other Joint Authorities of Fire and Rescue Authority and Pensions Authority. If the proposal is not approved, the Police and Crime Panel's membership will remain at 12. For the reasons set out in the report this option is not preferred.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

12. Recruiting an independent (co-opted) member will provide consistency of knowledge and skills as they are appointed for a maximum term of eight years. The political proportionality of the other Joint Authorities will be unaffected by this appointment.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

13. Whilst there is no direct impact on the Council's Key Outcomes, the scrutiny and support of the Police and Crime Commissioner to hold the Chief Constable to account provides assurance to the communities of South Yorkshire that crime and policing is a high priority.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	N/A
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	N/A
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	N/A

	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	N/A
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	N/A

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

14. The only risk associated with this report is that all four District Councils do not agree with the proposal, and the process to apply to the Secretary of State (Home Office) for an additional independent (co-opted) member could not be progressed.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer initials SRF Date 21/10/21]

15. The Panel's Legal Adviser has provided his comments in paragraph 5-8 of the report to the Panel on 20th September 2021 (see Appendix 1).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer initials PH Date 29/10/21]

16. There are no financial implications for Doncaster Council as all allowances for Police and Crime members – including independent (co-opted) members are paid from the Grant allocated to the host Authority by the Home Office. However, if the four local authorities approve the proposal, and the Secretary of State agrees the Panel can go ahead and recruit an additional independent (co-opted) member, the Grant will increase by £920.00 per annum, which is the allowance paid to each member.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no specific human resource implications arising from this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

18. There are no specific technology implications associated with this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

19. There are no specific health implications arising from this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

20. There are no direct equality implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

21. The report at Appendix 1 was submitted to the Police and Crime Panel on 20th September 2021 and is part of a public agenda pack published on the website. The approval to proceed would not impact on any section of the community within Doncaster; it would strengthen the Panel's ability to support and scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner thus improving policing for the communities of South Yorkshire.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22. Appendix 1 – Report to Police and Crime Panel, 20th September 2021.

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