

Lancashire Police and Crime Panel

Panel Arrangements

1 General Principles

- 1.1 Lancashire County Council shall act as the lead authority in establishing the Police and Crime Panel. The County Council will act as Secretary to the Panel and shall be responsible for ensuring that the necessary officer support is provided and that any necessary arrangements are made to promote the role of the Panel.
- 1.2 The Panel must be made up of a minimum of 15 councillors and 2 co-opted independent members.
- 1.3 The composition of the Panel should take account of, as far as is practical, both political and geographical proportionality, as well as the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to discharge its functions effectively – “the balanced appointment” objective.
- 1.4 Additional members may be co-opted on to the Panel to enable the balanced appointment objective to be met, as long as the size does not exceed 20 and the Secretary of State approves the co-options. Additional Members may or may not be councillors.

2 Membership

- 2.1 The constituent councils on the Panel are the County Council, the two unitary authority councils and the twelve district councils in Lancashire.
- 2.2 The Panel’s membership of 15 Councillors will be made up of one councillor from each constituent Council.
- 2.3 All County Councillors and District Councillors are eligible to be members of the Panel.
- 2.4 All Councillors on the Panel will serve a term of 12 months.
- 2.5 Each constituent council may send a substitute member to meetings, as notified to the Secretary to the Panel, and this substitute member will be permitted to act as a substitute member with full voting rights at meetings of the Panel and any Task Groups appointed by the Panel. A substitute member must be from the same party as the member appointed by the constituent council. If the panel member is an independent councillor then any substitute must also be an independent councillor.

3. Independent Members

- 3.1 The panel shall co-opt two independent members onto the Panel for a term of four years. Any additional independent members co-opted onto the Panel shall serve a term of four years.
- 3.2 The lead authority will undertake the appointment process on behalf of the Panel for co-opting independent members which will include a reasonable period of public advertisement for the positions. The closing date for the receipt of applications will not be less than two weeks from the date the advertisement is first placed.
- 3.3 Information packs will be prepared and sent to those requesting application forms.
- 3.4 The applications will be considered against agreed eligibility criteria and then the chairman and vice-chairman of the panel and three other panel members will be invited to meet to consider applications and interview candidates, in accordance with the “balanced appointment objective”.
- 3.5 Following the interviews, the five members will make recommendations to the Panel about the appointments.
- 3.6 Additional members who are not councillors will be appointed by the Panel for a 12 month term.

4 Vacancies

- 4.1 A vacancy on the panel arises when a county councillor, a district councillor or an independent member ceases to be a member of the Panel for any reason.
- 4.2 Each council will fill vacancies for elected members in accordance with the arrangements in their constitution. Vacancies for independent members will be filled in accordance with the selection process outlined in section 3.

5 Resignation and Removal of Members

Arrangements to be decided – awaiting Home Office Regulations/Guidance

6. Conditions for reappointment of members

- 6.1 Councillors may serve more than one 12 month term.

6.2 Co-opted members may be eligible to apply for a subsequent four year term but may not serve more than two consecutive four year terms.

7. Costs of the Panel

7.1 The costs of the Panel will be borne by the constituent councils.

7.2 An annual lump sum allowance will be paid to each member of the Panel in recognition of their personal commitment and expenses arising in undertaking their role on the Panel. The allowance will be agreed annually by the Panel.

7.3 The lead authority will have responsibility for the financial arrangements to support the operation of the Panel, including the receipt of funds (whether paid by the Home secretary or otherwise) and the making of payments between the constituent councils and to panel members.