**Item 5**

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**AWYA**

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**Friday, 13th December 2013**

**Committee Room A, County Hall, Wakefield**

**Police & Crime Panel Membership**

**1. Purpose**

* 1. The purpose of this report is to update Panel on the membership of the Police and Crime Panel for 2013/14.

**2. Background**

2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 made provision for the establishment of Police and Crime Panels. The Act made detailed provision on the composition of Police and Crime Panels.

2.2 Where a force area consists of less than ten local authorities, as is the case for West Yorkshire, the number of Panel members is ten, not including the co-opted members.

2.3 Additional councillors may be co-opted onto the PCP, as long as two lay co-optees (independent members) are also included and the Secretary of State approves the co-options.

**3. West Yorkshire Position**

3.1 The West Yorkshire Leaders previously agreed that in order to achieve geographical and political balance within the sub-region, a panel of 12 elected members should be sought.

3.2 This request was submitted to the Secretary of State and on the basis that additional local authority membership would provide greater geographical and political balance, the additional co-opted places were agreed.

3.3 It was agreed that the following Councils should hold the following number of seats:

Calderdale 1 + 1 co-optee

Kirklees 2

Wakefield 2

Bradford 2 + 1 co-optee

Leeds 3

3.4 Following annual local elections, political proportionality is reviewed and agreed by the West Yorkshire Authorities at the AWYA Leaders’ meeting prior to appointments being made by the local authorities.

3.5 Co-optees are nominated by the local authority and agreed by the Police and Crime Panel at the Annual Meeting, subject to their appointment meeting the balanced appointment objective.

3.6 The current balance of political proportionality is:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Authority | Local Authority Appointment | Places for LA to nominate PCP to appoint | Overall |
| Lab | Cons | Lib Dem | Lab | Cons | Lib Dem | Lab | Cons | Lib Dem |
| Leeds | 2 | 1 |   |   |   |   | 2 | 1 |   |
| Bradford | 1 | 1 |   | 1 |   |   | 2 | 1 |   |
| Kirklees | 1 | 1 |   |   |   |   | 1 | 1 |   |
| Wakefield | 2 |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   |
| Calderdale | 1 |   |   |   |   | 1 | 1 |   | 1 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Totals | 7 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 1 |

3.7Independent Co-opted Panel Members are recruited by the Panel through a process of open recruitment. Independent Panel members were recruited in September 2012 for a period of 18 months.

3.8 All members of the Panel, including local authority co-optees and independent co-optees, have equal rights on the Panel.

**4. Panel Membership for 2013/14**

4.1 When approving its membership for 2013/14, the Panel was unable to accept the Calderdale Council’s nomination of a co-opted member because it did not correspond to the political balance template above. The Panel’s position was communicated to Calderdale Council.

4.2 Calderdale Council resolved, at its meeting on :

Calderdale: Cllr Malcolm James (Lib Dem)

**5.0 Recommendations:**

5.1 The Panel is asked to:

* Approve the appointment of Councillor Malcolm James as Calderdale Council’s co-opted nomination to the Panel for the remainder of 2013/14 as this corresponds to the political proportionality template agreed with the Home Secretary.