

From: Peter Sass – Head of Democratic Services

To: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel – 5 November 2013

Subject: Membership of the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel

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Summary: This report invites the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to review the membership of the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel

## **Unrestricted**

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### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 calls for local authority membership of Police and Crime Panels to achieve, 'as far as is reasonably practicable' the 'balanced appointment objective.' To achieve this objective, 'local authority members of a police and crime panel (when taken together)

- (a) represent all parts of the relevant police area;
- (b) represent the political make up of –
  - (i) the relevant local authority, or
  - (ii) the relevant local authorities (when taken together);
- (c) have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the police and crime panel to discharge its functions effectively.'

1.2 The Shadow PCP previously agreed that, the Panel would be made up of 20 members including two independent members. 15 seats would be leader appointments (one for each authority), which included an additional seat for Medway Council in recognition of the geographical makeup of Kent. Three additional seats (top-up seats) would ensure that the panel represented the political makeup of the relevant local authorities (when taken together).

1.3 It was also agreed that the county political associations would be advised of the number of top up seats allocated to their party and be asked to decide which local authorities should be asked to nominate. It was then for the local authority to nominate a named councillor to enable the panel to consist of 13 conservative councillors, 3 labour and 2 liberal democrats, reflecting the political makeup of Kent and Medway as at November 2012.

1.4 Members agreed previously that the membership of the Panel should be reviewed annually, and the Panel is now invited to undertake the annual review.

## 2. The political composition of Councils in Kent and Medway at 22 October 2013

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	UKIP	
Total Elected (of a total 724 councillors)	477	139	53	24	
Percentage*	65.884	19.199	7.320	3.315	
Total	13**	3	1	1	18

\*Percentage of the 724 councillors (including smaller groups in addition to those listed)

\*\*including an additional seat for Medway in recognition of geographical balance

2.1 Therefore, a strict application of the percentages would lead to the Police and Crime Panel consisting of 13 Conservative, 3 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 UKIP.

Recommendation:

**Members of the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel are asked to consider whether they wish to adjust the membership of the Panel at this time.**