

By: Peter Sass - Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership, Kent County Council

To: Joint Appointments Committee – Kent Police Authority, 14 July 2009

Subject: MEMBERSHIP OF KENT POLICE AUTHORITY - VACANCIES

Classification: Unrestricted

(1) The Committee is appointed jointly by Kent County Council (KCC) and Medway Council under paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 2 to the Police Act 1996 to appoint the nine Councillor Members of the Kent Police Authority (KPA) from among Members of the two appointing Councils. The Committee has previously agreed that, on a population proportionality basis, seven of the places should be filled by Kent County Councillors and two by Medway Councillors.

(2) The nine Councillor Members appointed initially by the Joint Committee in June 2005 (with changes made in November 2006 and June 2007) are as follows:-

Member	Council	Party	Expiry of Term of Office
Mr T Gates	KCC	Con	May 2009
Councillor P Godwin	Medway	Lab	May 2011
Mr M J Harrison	KCC	Con	May 2009
Mr W A Hayton	KCC	Con	May 2009
Mr P M Hill OBE	KCC	Con	May 2009
Mr J F London	KCC	Con	May 2009
Mr R Parker	KCC	Lab	May 2009
Councillor M Reckless	Medway	Con	May 2011
Mr G Rowe	KCC	LD	May 2009

(3) Members will note that the terms of office of the seven Kent County Council Members have now expired. Under Schedule 2 of the Police Act 1996, in making appointments to the KPA, the Committee is required to reflect the political proportionality of KCC and Medway Council taken together.

(5) The new proportionality figures, following the Kent County Council elections in June 2009, are set out in the following table:-

	Con	Lab	LD	Ind	Total
KCC	74	2	7	1	84
Medway	33	13	8	1	55
Total	107	15	15	2	139
KPA seats proportional share	6.93	0.97	0.97	0.13	
KPA seats proportional share rounded	7	1	1	0	9
<i>KPA seats as at present</i>	6	2	1	0	9

(6) The allocation of places between political groups on the KPA needs to alter to reflect proportionality following the KCC elections. Thus, in order to achieve political proportionality, the Committee needs to appoint six Conservative and one Liberal Democrat Kent County Council Members to fill the vacancies on the KPA. These appointments, in addition to the existing Medway Labour and Conservative Members, will achieve the desired outcome.

(7) On the basis of the above re-calculation of political proportionality, I have been advised that the KCC Conservative Group have nominated Mr Cubitt, Mr Gates, Mr Hill, Mr Snelling, Mrs Stockell and Mr Wickham, and the KCC Liberal Democrat Group has nominated Mr Ian Chittenden to serve on the Police Authority. As Members will know, although the Committee is required to make appointments to reflect political proportionality, it is not obliged to have regard to the wishes of the political groups in deciding which individual Members of the relevant political group it will appoint (although it normally does so).

(7) If the Committee decides to appoint the Members nominated by KCC to fill the vacancies on the KPA it may wish, in line with its normal policy, to appoint them for a four-year term expiring in May 2013 (coinciding with the next Kent County Council election).

RECOMMENDATION

(8) The Committee is recommended to:-

- (a) confirm that the allocation of places between political groups on the KPA alters in accordance with the table in paragraph 5 following the Kent County Council elections;
- (b) appoint six KCC Conservative Members and one KCC Liberal Democrat Member for a four-year term expiring in May 2013 to fill the seven vacancies on the KPA.

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Background Papers: None