CONWY
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	North Wales Police and Crime Panel
DATE:	4 June 2013
CONTACT OFFICER:	Ken Finch, Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) – Conwy County Borough Council
SUBJECT:	Review of membership of the Police and Crime Panel

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To review the analysis of the membership of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel for 2013, taking into account the outcome of the election in Ynys Mon. The Panel's Terms of Reference also has a specific provision for a review to take place within 12 months of the Police and Crime Commissioner Election.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) consist of ten Elected Members and two Independent Members. The Elected Members of the Panel has a duty to produce a balanced panel. Following a Local Government Election, the Host Authority needs to make recommendations for the achievement of the political balance of the Panel which, in North Wales, takes in to account the application of the d'hondt methodology (which all Local Authorities have agreed to adopt) and then looks at the spread of political groups/groupings across the region.

2.2 The PCP also needs to review the appropriateness of the membership within 12 months of the election of the first Police and Crime Commissioner, in line with the provisions within the *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011* and *The Police and Crime Panel (Nominations, Appointments and notifications) Regulations 2012.* The review of the membership will need to consider the continued requirement for the political balance of the PCP.

2.3   The spreadsheets attached at Appendix 1 show that the analysis of seats for each political group remains unchanged at 3 each for Independents and Labour, 2 for Plaid Cymru and 1 each for Conservative and Liberal Democrats. The number of Members to be appointed by each Council also remains unchanged at 2 each for Conwy, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham and 1 each for Denbighshire and Ynys Mon.

2.4   In terms of the allocation exercise, the outcome suggests that the groups/groupings for Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham and Ynys Mon remain as at present, but that Conwy and Denbighshire would have to change their nominated Members from Labour to Independent and Independent to Labour respectively.

3.   RECOMMENDATION(S)/OPTIONS

3.1   That the North Wales Police and Crime Panel reviews the membership of the Panel as required and considers how the membership complies with the requirement for representation of all parts of the police area and represents the political makeup of the relevant Local Authorities when taken together.

3.2   That the suggested outcome in Paragraph 2.4 be approved and once appointed, the membership of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel be submitted to the Home Office for approval.

4.   BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1   The PCP consist of ten Elected Members and two Independent Members. The Elected Members of the Panel shall, as far as practical, reflect the political balance and community demographic of North Wales. Following a Local Government Election, the Host Authority needs to make recommendations for the achievement of the political balance of the Panel which takes in to account the application of the d'hondt methodology (which all Local Authorities have agreed to adopt).

4.2   A table using the d'hondt methodology confirms the allocation of the number of seats on the Panel for each Local Authority in North Wales by reference to population. The population figures are those used by the Welsh Government in determining the Revenue Support Grant Settlement of the relevant year.

4.3   The table using d'hondt, also confirms the seats for each political grouping across North Wales as a whole and shows the proportions for each political group/grouping as related to each Local Authority.

4.4   In terms of the allocation process, the principle of the highest proportion that a political group/grouping has of the overall members for that group/grouping across all of the 6 Local Authorities has been used as the main criteria for the allocation of members.

       This suggests an outcome of:

       -    2 Plaid Cymru members should come from Gwynedd (53.62%) of overall PC members across North Wales
       -    1 Conservative member should come from Conwy (40.00%)
       -    3 Labour members should come from Flintshire (34.83%), Wrexham (25.84%) and Denbighshire (20.22%)

4.5   This leaves the 3 Independent Members to be appointed which, by the process of elimination based on suggested outcome above, would come from Conwy, Wrexham and Ynys Mon.

4.6   The outcome suggests that the groups/groupings for Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham and Ynys Mon remain as at present, but that Conwy and Denbighshire would have to change their nominated Members from Labour to Independent and Independent to Labour respectively.

5.   CONSULTATION

5.1   Consultation has been carried out with the Chair of the North Wales Police and Crime and Panel and with the Chief Executives of the six North Wales Local Authorities. They have not raised any objection to the suggested outcome. The situation has also been explained to the two current members of the PCP who are affected by the suggested outcome. They both understand and accept the explanation.

6.   RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1   None.

7.   RISK

7.1   To comply with the provisions within the *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011* and *The Police and Crime Panel (Nominations, Appointments and Notifications) Regulations 2012*, a review of the membership is required. If this is not undertaken it could expose the Host Authority to the possibility of a challenge to the PCP's composition and any decisions/actions it takes in the future.

8.   PUBLICATION

8.1   The membership of the Panel will be published on the North Wales Police and Crime Panel's website, following approval by the Home Office.

9.   REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1   To comply with the provisions with the *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011* and *The Police and Crime Panel (Nominations, Appointments and notifications) Regulations 2012.*