

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PROFILE & PARTNERSHIPS
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2012

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: UPDATE REPORT: POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONERS, AND POLICE AND CRIME
PANELS

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To provide Members with an update regarding preparations for the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 On the 15th of November 2012, the public of North Wales will go to the polls to elect the first Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the region. The Government's intention in introducing these reforms to police governance is to give the public a direct say in policing in their area through the ballot box. The PCC takes over from the Police Authority on the 22 November 2012, at which point the Authority will cease to exist.
- 2.02 The powers conferred upon the PCC will be considerable. The PCC will hold police forces and Chief Constables to account, will set local policing priorities and decide how council tax is spent on crime and policing issues, including the level of Council tax that is raised for policing (the policing precept). As well as planning policing budgets PCC's will also:
- influence how community safety is addressed in the region
 - work with local partnerships and national and regional criminal justice agencies to deliver services
 - build and foster relationships with the Chief Constable and community groups to achieve common goals
 - contribute to national policing capabilities
- 2.03 The PCC will be held to account by a Police and Crime Panel (PCP). The Home Secretary is responsible for the establishment of the Panel in Wales. She is also be responsible for all costs associated with the Panel, although the intention is to leave the PCP as much discretion over its own affairs as possible and to appoint a lead authority to 'host' the panel.

- 2.04 It was agreed at the North Wales Regional Leadership Board meeting on the 23rd March 2012 that Conwy County Borough Council will be the Host Authority for the North Wales Police and Crime Panel. A shadow Police and Crime Panel meeting is scheduled on Thursday 13th September 2012. The Welsh host authorities also had a meeting scheduled mid-August to review progress to date.
- 2.05 North Wales Police Authority advise that a period of purdah will commence from 4 October 2012 through to 15 November 2012. The term of office “begins with the seventh day after the day of the poll at the election” i.e. the morning of Thursday 22 November 2012.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 From April 2013 the Police and Crime Commissioner will be responsible for commissioning some key services that will tackle crime and disorder and community safety in North Wales. The Home Office have confirmed their intention to divert some grant funding, currently managed by partners and partnerships, to the PCC. In the future it will be for the PCC to determine their allocation.
- 3.02 To aid the Police and Crime Commissioner to review the projects, programmes and services which are currently commissioned utilising Community Safety Funding (CSF); Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) funding; and Youth Crime and Substance Misuse Prevention funding (YCSMP) the Police Authority has requested partners to complete business cases which will be provided to the Commissioner following their election. The information is requested by the 28th of September, 2012. No decision will be made for future funding until the PCC has been elected.
- 3.03 Service providers have been notified of the possibility that their funding may cease. Two important roles that are at risk, and contribute to Flintshire County Council’s service delivery, are those of the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and Neighbourhood Watch Chief Officer.
- 3.04 During the brief window of transition between the PCC’s election and the final week of the Police Authority the information to assist their commissioning of services will be shared.
- 3.05 Events and meetings have been planned over the forthcoming months to assist statutory and voluntary organisations prepare for the transition to the PCC. The most prominent of these events was held on the 12th of September, 2012. As part of the Safer Future Communities Project, the Wales Council for Voluntary Action is organising this free event to be held in Venue Cymru, Llandudno, titled ‘What will the new roles of Police and Crime Commissioner mean for you?’.

The event will provide information including:

- The role and powers of the PCCs, how they will impact community safety partnerships and what the implications will be for the sector
- How the Safer Future Communities Project can help you prepare for the PCCs
- What the regional networks are about and how they will work and fit into this arrangement

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the report be received and its contents noted.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None arising directly from this information report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None arising directly from this information report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None arising directly from this information report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None arising directly from this information report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None arising directly from this information report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Not applicable

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Not applicable

12.00 APPENDICES

None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None other than material published on the North Wales Police

Authority website.

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