

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**DATE:** TUESDAY, 15 MAY 2012

**REPORT BY:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**SUBJECT:** APPOINTMENT TO THE POLICE AUTHORITY, THE  
POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AND THE SAFER  
COMMUNITIES REGIONAL BOARD

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To establish a Joint Committee with the upper North Wales Councils to select two representatives to serve on the Police Authority. Also to update Councillors on the transition to the new Police and Crime Panel and the Safer Communities Regional Board.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 At present the operation of North Wales Police is overseen by the North Wales Police Authority (NWPA). It consists of 9 councillors drawn as set out below from the 6 Councils within the area of the service:

Wrexham	2
Flintshire	2
Denbighshire	1
Conwy	1
Gwynedd	2
Ynys Mon	1

2.02 A request has been made to increase the size of the NWPA to 10 councillors so that it mirrors the forthcoming Police and Crime Panel (see below). If that request is granted then the extra seat will be allocated to Conwy County Borough Council.

2.03 The role of the NWPA is to:

- Provide strategic direction and oversight of its police force
- Hold the Chief Officer to account
- Set the policing precept and police budget
- Consult/engage with local people
- Monitor force performance

A full list of duties and responsibilities of the NWPA are attached at Appendix 1.

2.04 On 15 November 2012 elections will be held for a Police and Crime Commissioner with the successful candidate taking up post one week later. The NWPA will be dissolved and a new Police and Crime Panel (PCP) will be set from 1 November with the following responsibilities:

- Veto by a two thirds majority the level of the PCC's proposed precepts
- Veto by a two thirds majority the PCC's proposed candidate for Chief Constable
- Ask Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for a professional view when the PCC intends to dismiss a Chief Constable
- Review the draft Policing Plan and make recommendations to the PCC who must have regard to those recommendations
- Require the PCC to attend the Panel to answer questions.

2.05 The new PCP will consist of 10 councillors from the 6 Authorities plus 2 independent members (ie. people who are not councillors). Each Council will receive 1 place with the remainder of the seats allocated equally (ie. a further 1 each) to Conwy, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham.

### **3.00 PROCESS FOR APPOINTING TO THE NORTH WALES POLICE AUTHORITY (NWPA)**

3.01 The Police Authority Regulations 2008 require that for a Police Authority covering more than one council, a joint committee should be appointed. That joint committee will in turn select representatives to serve on the Police Authority. The members of the joint committee should not be persons who are interested or likely to serve on the Police Authority so that they are not seen to be choosing themselves.

3.02 When exercising its power to appoint members to the NWPA the Joint Committee must ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that the number of councillors from any given party is the same as the proportion of councillors of the relevant councils taken as a whole who are the members of that party. That is to say the Joint Committee must be politically balanced across all the authorities in North Wales. The Joint Committee also has to ensure that the members who are appointed represent the interests of a wide range of people in the community, have skills, knowledge or experience which are perceived to be under represented among existing members of the Police Authority, promote others to within the Force and who are likely to commit sufficient time to take an effective role. The job profiles related to the members of the Police Authority are attached at Appendix 2.

3.03 The Policy Authority will serve until the end of October 2012 when the new PCP will come into being (see below).

#### **4.00 PROCESS FOR APPOINTING TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

- 4.01 The Home Secretary will make the appointments to the PCP based upon (agreed) nominations from each of the Councils. The PCP will have to be politically balanced across the whole region in a similar manner to the NWPA. To that extent it would be ideal if the 2 representatives nominated to the NWPA could also be the nominees for the PCP in due course.

#### **5.00 REGIONAL SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD**

- 5.01 The Council has previously approved the regional proposal to form a Regional Safer Communities Board and the Partnership Agreement for the Board has been approved. The purpose of the Board is to provide strategic direction for the Community Safety, Youth Justice and Criminal Justice functions and services. The Board membership comprises the six local authorities, North Wales Police, North Wales Fire and Rescue, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Wales Probation (and eventually the Police and Crime Commissioner). The first meeting of this new Board will be held in June.

#### **6.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.01
- a) To appoint a Joint Committee with the six other authorities within the North Wales Police area which will allocate the seats on the North Wales Police Authority.
  - b) To appoint two members to the Joint Committee.
  - c) To note that the two members will, if at all possible, also be the representatives on the PCP, with the Chief Executive bringing back a further report if fresh representatives are required.
  - d) To appoint 1 Member to the Regional Safer Communities Board.
  - e) That any consequential amendments to the Constitution are made by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services.

#### **7.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.01 None.

#### **8.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 8.01 None.

#### **9.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

9.01 Not applicable.

**10.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

10.01 Not applicable.

**11.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.01 None.

**12.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

12.01 None.

**13.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

13.01 None.

**14.00 APPENDICES**

14.01 Appendix 1 – Policy Authority Statutory Duties and Responsibilities

Appendix 2 - Role profile for membership of the North Wales Police Authority

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

As referred to in the report.

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