

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **COMMUNITY PROFILE & PARTNERSHIPS
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DATE: **16TH JULY 2012**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS
AND POLICE & CRIME PANELS**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To inform the committee (in its role as the Council's statutory crime & disorder committee) of the introduction of Police & Crime Commissioners and Police & Crime Panels and the implications.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 is now law. As a result Police Authorities will cease in November. On 15th November voters across Wales and England will be electing Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for the first time, one per Police Force area.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 For policing and its governance, there are likely to be significant changes. For the transition period the North Wales Police Authority is working with the North Wales Police Force and other stakeholders to ensure continuity of planning and performance.

3.02 In the North Wales Force area a Transition Board has been established to oversee these changes. This comprises the Chief Constable, the Acting Chief Executive of the Authority, the Chair and Vice-Chair, representatives of the six local authorities and other key staff and officers.

3.03 To aid prospective candidates for the role of North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner, the North Wales Police Authority and Force, together with myself as Police Area Returning Officer arranged an information session in July to provide brief and provide information on current arrangements for policing in North Wales including finance, performance, organisational structure and the policing model.

3.04 The Commissioner will be elected for a four year period and will be required to publish police and crime plan, setting out police and crime objectives for the area.

In addition, Commissioners will:-

- Determine the level of the police precept element of the council tax and plan policing budgets
- Oversee community safety and overall security in the area
- Work with local partnerships and national and regional criminal justice agencies and services
- Appoint the chief constable (if and when the post is vacant) who will remain responsible for operational matters
- Build relations with the chief constable and their management teams, delivery partners and communities for common goals
- Contribute to national policing capabilities

3.05 Commissioners will be scrutinised by Police & Crime Panels (PCPs) which will be made up of a minimum of ten representatives from the local authorities in the force area. The duties of the Panels will include:

- Requiring the Commissioner to respond to any concerns which they may have;
- Making recommendations on the crime plan and annual reports and
- Confirming or vetoing the Commissioner appointment of chief constable (if and when vacant) and the level of police precept.

3.06 A recent Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) paper is attached for reference. The WLGA Co-ordinating Committee will consider an update report on the establishment of Police and Crime Panels at its meeting on Friday 27th July 2012.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the report be received and the Committee be invited to comment on measures to ensure transition and effective future governance arrangements.

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

WLGA Background Paper

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

Material published on the North Wales Police Authority, Electoral Commission and Home Office websites.

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