

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Policing and Crime Commissioners</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>10 October 2011</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Strategic Director Communities</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Sgt. Peter Castleton;</b>	<b>Tel: 29-1115</b>
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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This paper outlines some of the implications of the election and appointment of Policing and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), which will follow assent of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the Community Safety Forum note and consider the information in this report and the likely implications arising from the appointment of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012.

**3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- 3.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill will when passed as legislation, introduce directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). For each police force area in the country the public will be asked to vote for one person to be elected to the role. The election will be held on 15 November 2012. At this point, police authorities will cease to exist and will hand all responsibility to the elected PCC.
- 3.2 In Sussex, the current Police Authority has 17 members, made up of elected councillors and independent lay people, who oversee, scrutinise and set the strategic direction of Sussex Police. The PCC will replace the current police authority membership /members in its entirety and will hold the Chief Constable to account. However, there will also be a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) who will in turn, hold the PCC to account.

3.3 There will be between seventeen and twenty people on the Police and Crime Panel who will be made up of elected representatives from the district, borough, unitary and county councils in Sussex together with some independent member representation.

### **3.4 Specific Responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

The main responsibilities of the PCC will be to:

- Secure an effective and efficient police force for their area.
- Appoint the Chief Constable and holding him/ her to account.
- Determine local policing priorities and in consultation with the Chief Constable, publish an five year Police and Crime Plan.
- Set the annual force budget and Council Tax precept.
- Produce an annual report setting out progress against the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan.
- Control of all central government funding for policing in the County.
- From 2013, have control of funding which currently is passed directly to local authorities to deliver the work of Community Safety Partnerships and Drug Intervention Programmes as well as funding for services to address violence against women and girls.
- Co-operate with the criminal justice system in their area.
- Contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary in the Strategic Policing requirement.

### **3.5 Implications for Brighton and Hove**

3.5.1 Operational responsibility for the day to day work of the police will remain with the chief constable. However, the introduction of PCCs will have a considerable impact on local authorities and result in fundamental changes for community safety partnerships. Unlike police authorities, PCC's will not be 'responsible authorities' under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, so will not be members of community safety partnerships.

3.5.2 However, there will be a mutual duty on PCCs and Community Safety Partnerships to co-operate to reduce crime and disorder and reduce offending. Both will also be required to have regard to each others priorities when drawing up the five year Police and Crime Plan and the Commissioners will be active participants in priority setting under the statutory requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Together with statutory partners they will need to consider a strategic assessment and recommendations for reducing crime and disorder in the city and agree a Community Safety Strategy in consultation with communities and neighbourhoods. Community safety partnerships will to some extent be accountable to commissioners.

3.5.3 PCCs will be elected on a countywide mandate, however, it will be imperative that the needs and issues in relation to community safety

and policing in Brighton and Hove and how those may differ from the rest of the county, are understood. In principle, the opportunity to do that will be through councils in a force area nominating a representative to serve on the Police and Crime Panel for the area. The Panel's role will be to scrutinise the PCC's decisions and actions, to veto the PCC's precepts and nominations for chief constable, to summon the PCC to answer questions and to review the commissioner's police and crime plans.

3.5.4 Through those arrangements, the Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel will also need to understand the sophisticated level of community engagement and participation in Brighton & Hove in order to effectively support the delivery of policing and community safety in the city.

### **3.6 Conclusion**

3.6.1 The Community Safety Partnership will shortly be discussing how it can best respond to the proposals. In particular, it needs to consider how it can:

- Demonstrate effectiveness by evidencing (including through evaluating quality of services provided) what its programmes have delivered in terms of outcomes.
- Tailor programmes to ensure delivery of key priorities for the PCC.
- Consider how costs of services can be reduced while retaining high level service outcomes.

