



LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

THE TRANSITION FROM POLICE AUTHORITIES TO POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS

Information Leaflet for Partners and Stakeholders *1st Edition January 2012*

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 gained Royal Assent in September 2011. A single Police and Crime Commissioner, or PCC, will replace the existing Police Authority in Leicestershire. This individual will be responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account on behalf of the people of Leicestershire. The elections will take place on 15 November 2012, with the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioners taking up office on 22 November 2012.

Work is now well underway locally to achieve a successful transition to the new governance arrangements and I thought it would be useful to provide you, our partners and stakeholders, with a summary of the current position.

Barrie Roper
Chair of Leicestershire Police Authority

ELECTIONS

The Government intends to complete secondary legislation on elections by February 2012, with the legislation due to be laid before Parliament in January.

The elections for Police and Crime Commissioner will take place using the supplementary vote system. Under the supplementary vote system, a voter is asked to indicate first and second preferences, if no candidate has 50 per cent of the first preference votes, the two candidates with the highest number of first preference votes proceed to a second round count. In the second round of counting, ballots indicating a first preference for a candidate that lost the first round are reallocated according to the second preference indicated on the ballot paper.

An information booklet for prospective candidates and details of eligibility requirements for candidates is available on the Home Office website.

THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)

The Government outlines five key roles for the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner as:

- representing all those who live and work in the communities in their force area and identifying their policing needs
- setting priorities that meet those needs by agreeing a strategic plan for the force

- holding the Chief Constable to account for achieving these priorities as efficiently and effectively as possible
- setting the level of the force budget and setting the precept
- hiring and, if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable

The PCC will have a budget which will include the policing grant from the Home Office, various other grants (including community safety funds and non-ring fenced Drug Intervention Programme funding) and funds raised through the council tax precept in the force area.

POLICE AND CRIME PANELS

The Police and Crime Commissioner will be subject to checks and balances which are to be provided by a Police and Crime Panel, made up of Councillors and Co-opted Persons in each police force area. The role of the Panel is to hold the Commissioner to account. The Panel will not be responsible for holding the Chief Constable or police officers to account.

Secondary legislation on Police and Crime Panels is still awaited and it is anticipated that this will be published in March 2012. This will cover the Panel's power of veto over the Commissioner's proposed precept, the appointment process for a Chief Constable and the process through which the Home Secretary can establish a Panel.

Official Home Office guidance on setting up the Panels is still awaited. The Local Government Association and Centre for Public Scrutiny have recently published a guide on establishing police and crime panels, which can be found on the Centre for Public Scrutiny's website.

A Council will lead on establishing the Panel and it is anticipated that this work will commence in early spring to have the Panel established by summer 2012.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

PCCs will not become a responsible authority on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). There will however be a reciprocal duty for PCCs and responsible authorities to co-operate with each other and have regard to each others priorities for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder (including antisocial behaviour), reducing reoffending and reducing substance misuse.

PCCs will also be able to require a report from a CSP where they are not content that the CSP is carrying out their duties effectively and efficiently. Any such request must be reasonable and proportionate.

Regulations can be used to confer further functions on PCCs. It is intended that they will be used to allow the PCCs to call representatives of CSPs together to discuss strategic priorities.

The Government has stated that it will:

'ensure that PCCs have the tools to commission community safety services from an informed position of strength and influence; and to ensure a smooth transition of relevant Home Office funding to PCCs.'

COMMISSIONING

PCCs will have a commissioning role wider than their policing responsibilities. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act provides powers for the PCC to award grants to any organisation or body they consider will support their community safety priorities.

This means that the Police and Crime Commissioner will be able to prioritise resources for use on wider community safety objectives. They will receive some consolidated grants, made up of funding currently provided to a range of organisations (see table below), which they will decide how to spend.

In order to minimise bureaucracy and prevent disruption to existing work programmes, the Government have decided that current arrangements for community safety and partnership funding will continue during 2012/13, but the budget will be provided to the Police and Crime Commissioner from 2013/14. In 2013/14, in addition to the main police grant and precept, Police and Crime Commissioners will receive funding from the Community Safety Fund.

The Community Safety Fund can be used to tackle drugs and crime, reduce re-offending, and improve community safety. Allocations for the Community Safety Fund have not yet been set.

Subject to confirmation from the Government it is also anticipated that the following funding streams may transfer to Police and Crime Commissioners in the future:

Grant	Current Recipient(s)
DIP Main Grant	Drug action teams
Drug Testing Grant	Police forces
CSP Funding	Local Authorities
Positive Futures	VCS sector and LAs
Early Interventions Grant	Local Authorities
Youth Offending Team grants	Youth Offending Teams

LOCAL ACTIVITY

The Police Authority has established the Leicestershire Strategic Transition Board with the following objectives:

- To provide strategic oversight of the transition process, manage the various workstreams that will be required, and provide a regular forum for discussion on the transition.
- To satisfy the information requirements of candidates for Police & Crime Commissioner in an open and fair manner.
- To consider the necessary processes to establish the Police and Crime Panel and support as appropriate the nominated Council in establishing a Panel.

Inspector Siobhan Barber is the Constabulary's Transition Co-ordinator. She will be working alongside the Authority's Chief Executive/Treasurer, to assist with the transition arrangements. See contact details below.

AWARENESS RAISING EVENTS

From January 2012, the Home Office is arranging a series of seventeen events across England and Wales. The events will bring together partners working across a maximum of three police force areas, with the intention of aiding local discussions and preparations from the arrival of Commissioners next November. The events will include dedicated sessions on police and crime panels and partnership working.

The event covering Leicestershire and Northamptonshire will take place in Leicester on 1 February 2012.

CONTACT DETAILS

Paul Stock, Chief Executive / Treasurer — 0116 229 8981
Siobhan Barber, Transition Co-ordinator — 0116 248 2142

Further information on Police and Crime Commissioners can be found on the Home Office website: homeoffice.gov.uk

Information can also be found on Police Authority website leics-pa.police.uk and Twitter [@LeicsPA](https://twitter.com/LeicsPA)