

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 15 January 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Communities

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Update

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Safer Halton Policy and performance Board on the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be received and noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Policing & Social Responsibility Act 2011 contained legislation which shifts the decision-making on the strategic management of policing to elected Police and Crime Commissioners in England.
- 3.2 The first elections of Police and Crime Commissioners took place on the 15 November 2012. The new PCC officially took office on the 22nd November 2012.
- 3.3 The conservative candidate John Dwyer was duly elected as the Police Crime Commissioner for Cheshire. He received a total of 48,591 votes. The turnout of voters in Cheshire was 14.08%, which equated to 111,335 papers counted.
- 3.4 The PCC will commission policing services from the chief constable (**or other providers** - in consultation with the chief constable). These services will be set out in the plan where their objectives and funding will be publicly disclosed. The plan must be published and remain a public document including any updates or amendments made during the five year period.
- 3.5 At the end of the financial year the PCC will publish an annual report, which will set out progress made by the PCC against the objectives set out in the plan. Alongside the annual report the PCC will publish annual financial accounts, including showing how resources were consumed in respect of priorities and how value for money was secured.

3.6 PCCs will also exercise regional power and influence over the development and work of local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) via powers and duties. These are:

- the reciprocal duty for PCCs and CSP responsible authorities to cooperate with each other for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder
- the power to bring a representative of any or all CSPs in the PCC's area together to discuss priority issues
- the power to require reports from CSPs about issues of concern
- the power to approve mergers of CSPs (on application of the CSPs concerned)
- the power to commission community safety work from a range of local partners including (such commissioning of crime and disorder reduction work is not limited to CSPs but can include community, voluntary sector or commercial providers)

3.7 In 2012/13 there will be a new and un-ringfenced Community Safety Fund (CSF) which will be paid to PCCs. The exact size and basis for allocation of this fund have yet to be determined, however an announcement was expected to be made on the 5th of December 2012. The CSF will replace the vast majority of existing drugs and crime funding provided by the Home Office.

3.8 From 2014/15 onwards the Home Office intend to roll CSF funding into Police Main Grant. Again the amount of funding has yet to be decided. In his letter, Nick Herbert makes it clear that that the Home Office has no intention of ring-fencing Police Main Grant, nor the setting of a minimum or maximum amount that PCCs must or should spend on community safety activity. It will be up to the PCCs to decide how to use all of the resources at their disposal in pursuit of local priorities.

4.0 Preparations for the PCC nationally

4.1 The newly elected Police and Crime Commissioners now have their own dedicated website hosted by the Association of police and Crime Commissioners. It's aim is to provide essential national support functions for elected PCCs and all policing governance bodies in England and Wales. It also contains useful information around the new role and the manifesto of the individual commissioners as well as recent news updates. The website can be accessed via the following link [Association of Police and Crime Commissioners](#).

5.0 Preparations for the PCC in Cheshire and Halton

5.1 **Safer Halton Partnership** has developed a "Welcome Pack" for the PCC. The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive met with John Dwyer (PCC) on the 26th November 2012 and discussed the content of the "Welcome Pack". A copy of the information is enclosed as appendix 1 for information.

This provided useful background for the PCC and will identify:

- The current operating arrangement in Halton.
- The community safety architecture in Halton.
- The key players and partners involved directly and indirectly in crime and community safety in Halton.
- The current crime and community safety priorities for Halton based on the JSNA, research and data.

It is has been produced to provide the new PCC with a quick and comprehensive guide to Halton. This will enable the PCC to quickly understand Halton's needs and aspirations in respect of crime and community safety. In so doing this should encourage the PCC to invest in Halton, thereby maintaining and building on the progress made by the Police and SHP to prevent crime, tackle crime, punish offenders and rehabilitate.

5.2 **Halton and St Helens VCA**, working with Warrington VA, CVS Cheshire East and Chester Voluntary Action is the local broker for the Cheshire Safer Future Communities Network. The network aims to support frontline VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) organisations in working with the new PCCs from November 2012, through more effective working between the Sector, Community Safety Partnerships, PCCs and other statutory agencies that impact upon community safety. By engaging with a diverse range of partners, this project aims to ensure that the breadth of Home Office community safety issues (crime, anti-social behaviour, re-offending, substance misuse, violence against women and girls, youth crime) are properly represented in the new local commissioning landscape. Following three events held across Cheshire for interested groups, the Cheshire Network is now established with a membership of over 70 groups. The Network is represented on the Transition Board Partnership and Commissioning Sub Group. A mapping exercise is underway to identify the relevant services that the voluntary sector currently delivers across Cheshire.

5.3 The CST is also developing separate and distinct Business Plans for each of Halton's priority community safety activities. Once again this should provide the PCC with clear evidence of the community safety benefits of investing in what we are doing in Halton.

6.0 **Police and Crime Panel update**

6.1 The Cheshire Police and Crime Panel will cover the area served by Warrington; Cheshire East (Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Middlewich, Nantwich, Poynton, Sandbach, Wilmslow); Cheshire West and Chester (Chester City, Winsford, Northwich, Ellesmere Port, Sandbach); and Halton (Widnes and Runcorn). Warrington Borough Council has taken the lead on this work area.

Financial arrangements, protocols, equality impact assessment and an induction pack for members of the Panel are being developed. A web site for the new panel arrangements and associated information is live and is currently hosted on Warrington Borough Council's website http://www.warrington.gov.uk/info/200727/crime_support_and_prevention/893/police_commissioners_and_crime_panels/2).

- 6.2 The panel has been made up of ten local councillors, representing the four borough councils in Cheshire, and represent, as far as practicable, the political make up of the four councils. The Cheshire Police and Crime Panel has asked for two people from Cheshire to serve as co-opted independent members for a four year term. The panel may co-opt additional members including extra councillors provided the panel does not exceed 20 members and the Home Secretary agrees to the increased size of the panel. A Shadow inaugural meeting of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel was held on 17th July 2012 and the next scheduled meeting was due taken place on 11th September. Cllr Shaun Osborne and Cllr Dave Cargill were at the inaugural meeting representing Halton.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The policy implications of the review relate primarily to the Safer Halton priority as set out below, however this is a cross cutting work area which has wider implications on other areas of council business.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 The future funding implications for non mainstreamed services may seriously impact on the Local Authorities delivery of community safety services and safeguarding issues. Further Briefings will be provided as we receive notification of the final changes to legislation.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

9.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The work of the Community Safety Team links very closely with that of the council's Children's' and Enterprise Directorate and the Youth Offending Team. They provide a valuable role in addressing anti social behaviour and promoting positive behaviour by young people.

9.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The Community Safety Team work closely with the Probation service and YOT, supporting offenders to change their behaviour and to access training and employment opportunities.

9.3 A Healthy Halton

Addressing anti-social behaviour and crime is the key function of the Community Safety Team and without this work it is likely that both will increase having a significant impact on resident's health.

9.4 A Safer Halton

Should funding for community safety no longer be available, there will be an impact on crime and anti-social behaviour with both likely to rise, having a negative impact on residents quality of life.

9.5 Environment and Regeneration

If anti-social behaviour and crime are not fully addressed in Halton this is likely to lead to a deterioration in the quality of the environment and a corresponding reduction in confidence of the public and business in the borough.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

11.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.