



Police and Crime Commissioners

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee

8 March 2012



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- The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
 - The Police and Crime Panel (PCP)
 - Implications for Sheffield
 - How the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership (SSCP) is preparing
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The role of the PCC

- Bring the voice of the people into policing and be accountable for it
 - Hold police forces and community safety partners to account, making them more efficient and effective and reducing crime
 - Police Authorities will no longer exist
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Functions and powers of PCCs

- Appoint the Chief Constable and hold them to account for the running of their force
 - Set out a 5-year Police and Crime Plan, based on local priorities (developed in consultation with the Chief Constable, communities and others)
 - Set the annual local precept and annual force budget
 - Make grants to organisations aside from the police (including but not limited to Community Safety Partnerships)
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Elections

- First one 15 November 2012
- Then May 2016 and every 4 years thereafter
- Supplementary vote system – vote for first and second choice only, as in mayoral elections



Police and Crime Panels (PCPs)

- Established in each force area to provide regular, public scrutiny of the PCC
 - Two important powers of veto:
 - The appointment of a chief constable
 - Setting of the precept
 - Under a duty to support the PCC (critical friend role) by:
 - Requiring the PCC to attend a public hearing
 - Asking HMIC for a professional view on Chief Constable dismissals
 - Reviewing the draft Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report
 - Access to papers (except those which are operationally sensitive)
 - Invite the Chief Constable to attend with the PCC
 - Confirmation hearings for PCC's chief officers and any deputy PCCs appointed
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PCP Arrangements

- The Panel will be formed of all the local authorities in a force area
 - Minimum of 10 Councillors and 2 independents, max 20.
 - Balanced by geographic, political, demographic and skills, knowledge and experience considerations
 - Independent co-optees will ensure balance
 - If there is a city mayor in the force area they will act as the representative for that LA area
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PCP Policy Intent

- Police and Crime Panels should be locally determined. Panel membership and panel arrangements will be agreed locally
- They do not replace the police authority. That is the role of the police and crime commissioner
- They are not a super-partnership-board, but strong local partnership working (including with local authorities) will be vital



PCP Regulation and Funding

- Panels will be Home Office funded, but locally supported
 - A lead authority will perform scrutiny function (HO will pay £30K per force area, plus 21% on-costs)
 - Allowances/expenses of £920 per panel member
 - £2000 per panel for meeting support (on basis of 4 meetings at £500)
 - Local determination is key. Some secondary legislation and regulations will be laid early next year comprising:
 - powers to form a panel where local authorities have not been able to
 - practical regulations about nominations, appointments, notifications
 - powers to (dis)apply or modify local government legislation in relation to panels
 - wider power to modify, suspend, transfer or remove functions (in the event of a failure to co-operate)
 - Regulations for the powers of veto
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Implications for Sheffield

- Likely to be the main focus of campaigning and scrutiny of delivery
 - Campaigning will have impact on public perceptions, and possibly raise fear of crime
 - We are hosting the election on behalf of the county
 - Appointing councillors to the Police and Crime Panel
 - Make sure partnership arrangements are fit for purpose, including linking work programmes for this Scrutiny Committee and the PCP
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Implications for SSCP

- There will be a reciprocal duty on PCCs and Community Safety Partnerships to co-operate, and to have regard to each other's priorities
 - PCCs may commission services from CSPs, or jointly commission with CSPs, or a mixture of both
 - PCCs will be able to require reports from CSPs or bring together CSPs in the force area to discuss key issues
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How SSCP is preparing

- Priorities and planning:
 - Sharing our needs assessments and plans with other CSPs in South Yorkshire
 - Considering how to align our planning cycle with the Police and Crime Plan
 - Considering how our priorities might be of interest to or need commitment from PCC
 - Briefing and preparing the SSCP co-chairs
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How SSCP is preparing

- Commissioning:
 - Considering a commissioning framework: do we wish to bid for funding from PCC, or be a joint commissioner?
 - Commission locally or county-wide?
 - Developing and reviewing evidence of previous delivery
- Communicating the role, value and achievements of SSCP to candidates

