

## **Partnership Briefing on Change to Police Governance**

### **What is happening?**

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill is going through Parliament. If the Bill is passed it will lead to the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012 with an overseeing scrutiny Police and Crime Panel. These two bodies will replace current Police Authorities.

### **How will this affect Surrey?**

One person, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), will be elected in November 2012 (according to current proposals) to oversee Surrey Police. This person will have the largest electorate in the county. They will be supported by the Office of the Commission which, at least to start with, will a transfer of the current Police Authority secretariat staff. This will include the Chief Executive and Treasurer.

The functions of the PCC will be similar to that of the current Police Authority: to set the police budget and raise precept; to set the strategic plan for policing in Surrey; to hire, fire and appraise the Chief Constable; to consult with communities on their priorities for policing; to investigate complaints against senior officers. PCCs will also have governance of Community Safety Partnerships. They will not get involved in operational policing matters.

The PCC will be scrutinised by a Police and Crime Panel. The panel scrutinises the PCC (not the Chief Constable) and can vote against decisions such as the precept level, priorities set for policing and hiring of the Chief Constable.

### **What we doing in Surrey to prepare?**

It is difficult to put detailed transition plans in place before the legislation has passed. The Police Authority has prepared a transition plan in readiness. Partners have also been considering the proposals. A transition board involving Surrey Police Authority (SPA) staff, Surrey Police, Surrey County Council and borough/ district representatives will meet in September.

Surrey County Council, boroughs and district Chief Executives have begun to work on plans for the election of the PCC and on setting up the Police and Crime Panel. SPA and Surrey Police are also attending partner events to keep partners informed, including Community Safety Partnerships, Surrey Chief Executives and Leadership groups.

SPA is holding a partnership conference on Friday 25 November 2011 to work at an officer level with those who will be responsible for making the changes.

### **How can I find out more?**

Surrey Police Authority's website will be updated with transition plans when the legislation is passed: [www.surreypa.gov.uk](http://www.surreypa.gov.uk)

The Bill and its progress can be read at:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/policerreformandsocialresponsibility.html>

If you wish to speak to any SPA officers about transition please contact Katie Kempen or Johanna Burne on 01483 630200 or at [spa@surrey.police.uk](mailto:spa@surrey.police.uk)