

Partnership Briefing – Police Governance in November 2012

What is happening?

Following the passing of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be elected 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 on 15 November 2012 to oversee Surrey Police. This person will have the largest electorate in the county. They will be supported by the Office of PCC which will be 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 (CSPs) and hold Community Safety budgets. 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. The Panel will be made up of representatives for each of the 12 councils in Surrey and 2 independent members.

What we doing in Surrey to prepare?

- The Surrey Police Authority (SPA) is leading on the plans for transition and has a Transition Board in place with representatives from Surrey Police, the lead election body (Guildford) and other partners.
- Guildford Borough Council and the Electoral Officers Group and developing plans for elections. SPA is developing a process for briefing candidates.
- Council leaders are shortly to decide on which council will lead the Police and Crime Panel. The panel will then be in place shortly after May 2012 and will develop their ways of work and receive training.
- SPA officers have carried out briefings to all CSPs, the Electoral Officers Group, Community Safety Officers Group and some Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Briefings can be provided to any partner group in Surrey on request.
- SPA is holding a partnership conference on 23rd May 2012 to bring together partner working on the changes.

How can I find out more?

Surrey Police Authority's website includes an update on PCCs – visit <http://www.surreypa.gov.uk/pcc/>

If you wish to speak to any SPA officers about transition please contact Sarah Haywood or Johanna Burne on 01483 630200 or at spa@surrey.police.uk