

# Executive

## Police and Crime Commissioner Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

2 April 2012

### Report of Head of Community Services

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report on progress to date on the implementation of the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel (PCP) and to seek approval to establish a Joint Committee.

This report is public

#### Recommendations

---

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) To approve the establishment of a Joint Committee and delegate to it signing-off the arrangements for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel
- (2) To appoint Councillor Reynolds as the Cherwell District Council representative on the Joint Committee.

#### Executive Summary

---

##### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update and overview of progress so far in the implementation of the Police Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley and requests the Executive to agree to establish a joint committee with other councils in the Thames Valley police area and delegate to them the arrangements for the signing off the arrangements for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.
- 1.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 places a statutory duty on local authorities to collectively establish a Police and Crime Panel (PCC) for their force area. It also introduced the new role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). PCC's will be directly elected by the public, with the elections taking place in November 2012.

- 1.3 The existing Thames Valley Police Authority will be abolished at that date. The first elections will take place on 15 November 2012, with elected Commissioners taking up office a week later.
- 1.4 Buckingham County Council (BCC) in the absence of any other expressions of interest has proposed to host the PCP for an initial period of two years. Funding of £53,500 is available to the host Authority.
- 1.5 In order to facilitate the election of the PCC and the creation of the PCP, BCC produced a business case and terms of reference for the Chief Executives Thames Valley Transition Group to work with Thames Valley Police Authority (TVPA) in the run up to the election and eventual abolition of TVPA.

### **Proposals**

- 1.6 This report proposes that approval is given to the establishment of a Joint Committee, delegate to the Joint Committee the arrangements for signing off the arrangements for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel and appoint Councillor Reynolds to be the representative from Cherwell District Council.
- 1.7 It should be noted that this Joint Committee will have a limited role in agreeing the arrangements for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel and the Council will be required to make a subsequent nomination to the Panel once it is legally constituted. At the recent meeting of the Member Steering Group it was agreed that each local authority should determine its appointment to the Panel based on the majority group representation within the authority.

### **Conclusion**

- 1.8 This decision is the next step in implementing the decision of the Executive of 5 March 2012 in establishing the Thames Valley Police Crime Panel

## **2 Background Information**

---

- 2.1 The Act creates a Police and Crime Panel that provides the checks and balances to the PCC. The membership of the Panel in Thames Valley will be an elected member from each of the local authorities (18) with two independent members. The role of the panel is essentially scrutiny although initial papers suggest a wider role.
- 2.2 The PCP's role is to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). It will not scrutinise the Police Force as this is the responsibility of the Commissioner. Some of the Panel's functions will be to:
  - Review and make recommendations on the draft Police and Crime Plan
  - Scrutinise the PCC, inviting the Chief Constable to attend before the PCP where appropriate
  - Review the PCC's appointment of Chief Exec, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy where one is appointed
  - Make reports and recommendations on matters relating to the PCC
  - Monitor all complaints and the informal resolution of such complaints

where necessary

- Question the PCC on the annual report in a public meeting
- Veto powers on precept and appointment of Chief Constable (by 2/3rds majority)

### Time Frames

- 2.3 The Home Office has recently produced a document which highlights key milestones on the way to the election of the PCC. The deadline for establishing a PCP and agreeing a Panel Arrangements document is 1st July 2012 and Thames Valley colleagues will need to be able to inform the Home Office this has occurred. The Secretary of State has the power to impose arrangements in areas where there is failure to agree.
- 2.4 The Community Safety Priorities briefing document needs to be made public probably by the end of March 2012.
- 2.5 A Thames Valley outline timetable has been produced by BCC below:

### Time Table

Action	Deadline
Agreement on lead for Hosting	Tues 8 Feb
Commence recruitment for Scrutiny Officer to support the PCP	February
First draft of panel arrangements document circulated to officer PCP group for comment	End February
HO guidance issued	March
Deadline for comments back from officer PCP group	Fri 9 March
Officer meeting held at Aylesbury to discuss arrangements paper	w/c 5 March
Revised paper sent to CEOs for consideration. This will include formal request for nominees and sign-off.	Thurs 5 April
CEO Police and Crime Commissioner Transition Group to sign-off principle arrangements for Panel	30 April
Start date for Scrutiny Officer	May
Deadline for LAs to provide written confirmation of nominees and arrangements	31 May
Shadow Panel meeting (agreement on meeting procedures/work programme)	July
Shadow Panel Meeting: Training/workshop for all members on community safety/scrutiny role	Sept/Oct 2012
First public meeting of Police & Crime Panel	Dec 2012

### Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

- Option One** To agree the appointment of a Joint Committee and the Council's representation on it.
- Option Two** Not to agree the above, with the resultant consequence that arrangements may be imposed on the Thames Valley Police area by Secretary of State.

## Consultations

---

None

## Implications

---

### Financial:

There are no financial implications identified at this time. The Home Office is providing £53.3k per year to the Host Authority plus a maximum of £920 per member for expenses.

BCC is proposing to live within the resources provided by the Home Office whilst also meeting some of the on-costs for accommodation and start up. Resource requirements would be reviewed after one year.

Comments checked by Denise Taylor, Service Accountant  
01295 221982

### Legal:

All councils in the Thames Valley are collectively responsible for demonstrating that the legal requirements for the establishment of the Police and Crime Panel are met. The Home Office requires two documents to be agreed by all councils on the Panel arrangements and Rules of Procedure. The Panel Arrangements document needs to be agreed unanimously across all councils by 1 July 2012.

One key area where collective agreement is needed is in relation to which mechanism to adopt for demonstrating that the 'balanced appointment objective' is met. This includes a requirement to demonstrate that the Panel membership overall is representative of the political make-up of the Thames Valley; geographically representative; and that members have the skills/experience necessary to discharge its functions effectively.

BCC will lead on the provision of legal advice on this matter.

Comments checked by Nigel Bell, Team Leader –  
Planning & Litigation, 01295 221687

### Risk Management:

There are risks to none compliance

Comments checked by Claire Taylor, Corporate Strategy  
and Performance Manager, 01295 250652

### Equalities

The procedure does not impact on CDC equalities policy

Comments checked by Claire Taylor, Corporate Strategy  
and Performance Manager, 01295 250652

## Wards Affected

---

All

## Corporate Plan Themes

---

### A Safe and Healthy Cherwell

#### Lead Member

---

**Councillor Reynolds**  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**

#### Document Information

---

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
None	
<b>Background Papers</b>	
None	
<b>Report Author</b>	Mike Grant, Community Safety Manager
<b>Contact Information</b>	01295 227989 Mike.grant@cherwell-dc.gov.uk