

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS – 60 SECOND BRIEFING

From Police Authorities to Police and Crime Commissioners

1. Major constitutional change in police governance will take place on 22 November 2012 when police authorities will be replaced with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC).
2. A PCC will be elected by the public in each police area to hold the Chief Constable to account. Elections will be held on 15 November 2012.
3. The PCC will be responsible for setting the force's strategic policing priorities (via a Police and Crime Plan), appointing (and if necessary dismissing) the Chief Constable and ensuring that policing in the area is efficient and effective.
4. The PCC will also be responsible for all police funding, including central government funding and the police precept component of the council tax. The PCC will decide the budget, and allocate funding and assets to the Chief Constable.
5. PCCs will have the power to award grants to any organisation that they consider will support the PCC's community safety priorities. From 2013 the community safety fund will transfer to the PCC along with victim support monies for victim support services.
6. Chief Constables will remain accountable to the law for the exercise of police powers but they will be accountable to the PCC for the delivery of efficient and effective policing.
7. The PCC will be supported by a chief executive, a chief finance officer and a team of staff. The Chief Executive of Suffolk Police Authority and his staff will transfer to the Police and Crime Commissioner and so will provide continuity during the governance changeover.

Police and Crime Panel

8. A Police and Crime Panel will be introduced in every area to provide a 'check and balance'. They will scrutinise the PCC's work on behalf of the public on a regular basis. The PCC will discuss their plans with the Panel and take the Panel's views into account. The PCP can veto the PCC's proposals for the Council Tax precept and the appointment of the Chief Constable.
9. In Suffolk the PCP will comprise 12 members, 10 from local authorities (7 district councils plus 3 from Suffolk County Council) plus 2 co-opted members. SCC will be the host authority for the PCP (in practice the administrative support) and for which they will receive Government funding.

Other local arrangements (e.g. community safety partnerships, safer neighbourhood teams)

10. Partners from across the community safety and criminal justice sectors will play a vital part. Local engagement will be a key priority for the PCC.
11. On 22 November Suffolk Police Authority will cease to exist and SPA members will no longer attend SNT meetings and other local meetings. It will be for the PCC to decide how he/she will in future engage with local partners and the community.
12. The PCC will be required to cooperate with local authorities, the fire service, probation and health and will also be able to bring together community safety partnerships to discuss key issues. Community Safety Funds and Victim Support Funds will transfer to the PCC. Further detail will emerge over the coming months.