

Body: **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Date: **WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Subject: **SUSSEX POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Report Of: **HEAD OF CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT**

Ward(s) All

Purpose To consider the constitution of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel, which will come into effect on 1 November 2012 and to approve the Council's representatives to the Panel.

Recommendations: (1) That the Police and Crime Panel constitutional documents set out in the appendix to the report be endorsed.

(2) That the following nominated Councillors be appointed as the Council's representatives to the PCP to serve until May 2015.

Councillor Ungar
Councillor Mrs Bannister (named substitute)

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 has introduced a number of changes to police accountability and governance. In particular the Act abolishes police authorities and provides for the direct election of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) with effect from 15 November 2012.
- 1.2 PCC plans and actions are required to be scrutinised by Police and Crime Panels (PCPs), which will comprise representatives from each local authority in the policing area (counties, unitaries, districts and boroughs).

2.0 The Police and Crime Panel

- 2.1 A Sussex Police and Crime Panel will be established with effect from 1 November 2012 and will operate as a joint committee of the constituent authorities in Sussex to scrutinise the performance of the PCC. A shadow PCP has been in operation since April 2012 to consider the extent of the business of the Panel, membership and panel arrangements, rules of procedure and administration. Councillor Mrs Bannister has been the Council's representative on this body.
- 2.2 The constitutional documents which set out the PCP's terms of reference, panel arrangements and rules of procedure are appended to the report and

were agreed by the shadow PCP at its meeting on 28 June 2012. They contain provision for all the statutory duties of the PCP as well as the procedures and arrangements required by the Home Office. The documents were prepared by West Sussex County Council in liaison with officers from all authorities making up the Sussex PCP panel, each of whom will be required to adopt the constitutional arrangements prior to the establishment of the PCP from 1 November 2012.

3. Council appointment to the Police and Crime Panel

- 3.1 Each participating authority is being requested to appoint one member as its representative on the Panel and may also nominate a named substitute, both of whom must be a member of the local authority. The Council can determine the length of the appointment and it is proposed that appointments be made for a four year term to coincide with the Borough elections.

To achieve and comply with the requirement of political proportionality and to be geographically balanced, Brighton and Hove City Council will be granted one additional co-opted member to address geographical imbalance and an additional local authority member may be appointed from each of the county councils on the agreement of the Panel, to address any perceived imbalance in political proportionality.

- 3.2 Councillor Ungar has been nominated as the Council's representative and Councillor Mrs Bannister as the named substitute to the Panel.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The constitutional documents have been circulated to all local authorities involved in the PCP and a final version was agreed by the shadow PCP at its meeting on 28 June 2012.

Members received a briefing on 10 September in respect of the changes to the police service in Sussex and the arrangements for the police and crime commissioner elections.

5.0 Resource Implications

- 5.1 None. All activities associated with the administration of the Panel will be funded by the Home Office which will be received and administered by the host authority.

6.0 Financial

- 6.1 None. Members' travelling expenses and attendance at any approved conference or training courses will be met by the host authority.

7.0 Staffing

- 7.1 None. West Sussex County Council will be the hosting authority for the first year.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 The Committee is requested to endorse the constitution of and appoint members to the Police and Crime Panel which is being established under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to provide checks and balances in relation to the performance of the Police and Crime Commissioner to be elected on 15 November 2012.

PETER FINNIS HEAD OF CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

Background Papers:

Report to Governance Committee – West Sussex County Council – 2 July 2012

Police and crime panels - Guidance on role and composition (LGA/CfPS)
http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=44b605c0-4262-4b48-b26e-c9e4281f9761&groupId=10171

Sussex Police
<http://www.sussexpcc.co.uk/>