

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Introduction

Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board (CCJB), have had a collective discussion and decided that it would ensure the attendance of Dorothy Gregson the Chief Executive of the Cambridgeshire Police Authority to the following CCJB meetings to look at the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and this role's engagement with strategic partnerships in Cambridgeshire. It is seen as an opportunity to review how CCJB works with its strategic partners and how the Transitional Board is working towards the handover in November 2012. To confirm the on-going position, the CCJB's Business Development Manager, has utilised some contextual information drawn together by Kathy Taylor of Bedfordshire CJB to provide a paper outlining the background, statutory and non-statutory framework around the role of PCC for CCJB members.

At the CCJB meeting on the 1st of May each agency will have an opportunity to reflect on how the PCC role will impact or engage with them directly. During the period leading up to this meeting the CPS and HMCTS confirmed that a national protocol / directives will be drawn up to outline how these agencies would be allowed to engage with the PCC to ensure no breach of judicial independence could be made. In the interim, now and the release of this document the CPS and HMCTS view was the PCC should not become a full member of the CCJB – but the PCC could come by agreement and engage with CCJB members collectively on specific objectives and then leave to allow business as usual to be undertaken by core members.

Police and Probation acknowledge that the PCC role would be far more involved in their respective agencies than in any of the others. The opportunity to have the PCC attend the CCJB meetings in part or in full would aid these agencies, however it was recognised that limitations would need to be placed on this due to the legal restraints on other partner agencies as members of the CCJB.

Prisons and YOTs have not been able to reflect their views to date in relation to the PCC role.

Background

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill received Royal Assent on 15 September 2011 and is now an Act of Parliament. The Act puts in place the requirement for each force to have a PCC and sets out that the first election for this post will be held on 15 November 2012 and then every four years thereafter, with such elections being held in May to coincide with local authority elections. Elections for the second term will be held in May 2016. The government is going to identify a new acronym for the PCC to avoid confusion with other bodies and individuals thus named, but for the purpose of this paper, the acronym 'PCC' will suffice.

PCCs will have responsibility for:

- Appointing the Chief Constable and holding him/her to account for the running of the force;

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- Setting out a five-year Police & Crime Plan based on local priorities, developed in consultation with the Chief Constable, communities and other relevant individuals or bodies;
- Setting the annual local precept and annual force budget; and,
- Making grants to organisations aside from the police, including Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) but not limited just to these.

Section 10 of the Act requires that there will be a reciprocal duty for PCCs and responsible authorities to cooperate with each other and have due regard to each others' priorities for the purpose of reducing crime and disorder (including antisocial behaviour), reducing reoffending and reducing substance misuse. This includes the LCJB.

Section 10 – Co-operative working

- (1) The elected local policing body for a police area must, in exercising its functions, have regard to the relevant priorities of each responsible authority.*
- (2) The elected local policing body for a police area, in exercising its functions, and a responsible authority, in exercising its functions conferred by or under section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in relation to that police area, must act in co-operation with each other.*
- (3) The elected local policing body for a police area, and the criminal justice bodies which exercise functions as criminal justice bodies in that police area, must make arrangements (as far as it is appropriate to do so) for the exercise of functions so as to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the police area.*

In terms of day-to-day work, PCCs will not become a responsible authority on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and will not have a defined role within LCJBs, although the government has indicated that it could extend the remit of the PCC further into the criminal justice system (CJS) at some future time. Diagrammatically S. 10, clauses (1) to (3) might be represented as follows:

Community safety – S. 10 (1) & (2)	↔	Criminal justice – S. 10 (3)
Police Authority (as is) Fire Health Local authorities	Police Probation	CPS HMCTS Prisons YOTs Victim Support [LCJB]

PCCs, in delivering their key responsibilities, will wish to consider improving outcomes and services across a range of areas from community safety, youth justice, health and wellbeing, safeguarding of both adults and children, and civil contingencies. The government will be consulting on a possible future role for PCCs in relation to support services for victims – see below.

The criminal justice duty states that the PCC and criminal justice bodies must make arrangements for the exercise of functions so as to provide an efficient and effective CJS. The PCC will have no influence over the LCJB and in particular the independence of the judiciary and prosecution is to be preserved. The Senior Presiding Judge has indicated that there should be no judicial involvement in the election for PCCs nor in their everyday work.

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The Police Authority is coordinating a Transition Board with relevant partners in attendance to make the change to PCC as smooth as possible. Working with local authority partners, a prospectus / information pack is being developed so that prospective candidates can have information about the local landscape. There will be a partners' presentation session for prospective candidates in July; CJ agencies individually and CCJB collectively will be invited to participate. It is accepted that Cambridgeshire Police, Cambridgeshire Probation Trust and the YOS will be able to supply local information whereas CPS, HMCTS, the prison and Victim Support would provide contextual regional or national information.

The local landscape

The local landscape in each part of England and Wales is very different from each others' and even within force areas, these are complex environments. PCCs will therefore need to work collaboratively and collectively to deliver outcomes in crime, justice and community safety for local people, and work across force boundaries where necessary. The Home Office, in its *Police and Crime Commissioners – what partners need to know* (embedded below), circulated in February 2012, indicates that the reforms under the Act, "may provide an opportunity for local leaders to review the current partnership landscape ... with a view to simplifying and streamlining ways of working together."

Future Discussion Points

THIS SECTION HAS BEEN REDACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH S31

Likely candidates for the role of PCC in Cambridgeshire

The Police Foundation is tracking PCC candidates across the country as they declare their interest. The link to follow this is: <http://www.police-foundation.org.uk/files/POLICE0001/policy%20work/PCC%20candidates.pdf>. Those affiliated to mainstream political parties need to formally declare by June 2012 with independent candidates at a later date. At the time of writing, those who have declared themselves as interested in being the PCC for Cambridgeshire are:

THESE NAMES HAVE BEEN REDACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH S40(2)

Relevant recent publications

The Home Office has a website upon which monthly bulletins and publications are posted. It is at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners.

Embedded are three recent publications: *Police and Crime Commissioners, what partners need to know*, the *Policing Protocol Order* and *Police and Crime Commissioners, got what it takes?*



what-partners-need-to-know.pdf



policing-protocol-order.pdf



got-what-it-takes.pdf

Localised for Cambridgeshire – Marianne Vits
CCJB

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