

THE TRANSITION FROM POLICE AUTHORITIES TO POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS

Welcome to the final edition of our Transition newsletter before the public go to the polls on 15 November to vote for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire. The Police Authority held its final meeting on 6 November. Over the last 18 years the Authority has been committed to delivering efficient and effective police services. I am proud to have been a Member of the Authority and also to have been Chairman for the last 3 years. I am confident that we leave a sound legacy of low crime and high levels of public satisfaction and that the Constabulary is well placed to transfer to the new model of police governance on 22 November 2012.

Margaret Ollerenshaw
Chairman, Cheshire Police Authority



CANDIDATES

According to data provided by the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners, across the UK there are 192 candidates standing for election.

- Labour and the Conservatives are running candidates in every area
- 28% of candidates are independent
- The Liberal Democrats and UKIP are running candidates in 24 areas
- 18% of candidates are women (35 out of 192)
- The English Democrats are fielding 5 candidates
- One Green candidate is standing (Cleveland)
- One Justice and Anti Corruption Party candidate (Hampshire)
- One British Freedom Party candidate (Bedfordshire)



In Cheshire there are five candidates standing:-

- Ainsley Arnold (Liberal Democrat)
- Louise Bours (UKIP)
- John Dwyer (Conservative)
- Sarah Flannery (Independent)
- John Stockton (Labour)

An Ipsos MORI poll suggested that 62 per cent of the public were aware of the elections and a fifth of those who said they would vote also said they were “undecided”.

The Electoral Reform Society has predicted that the turnout for the elections could be 18%.

More information can be found on www.aboutmyvote.org.uk and www.choosemypcc.org.uk

TRANSITION WORK: UPDATE

The transition work has been split into eight workstreams which are being monitored by the Transition Board. Highlights of the progress of each workstream are outlined below.

WORK STREAM		Overall RAG
1.	Transfer of Staff and Assets	Green
2.	Partnership and Commissioning	Amber
3.	Elections and Candidate Management	Green
4.	Finance, Budgets and Audit	Amber/Green
5.	Governance	Green
6.	Communications and Community Engagement	Green
7.	Police and Crime Panel	Amber
8.	PCC Capability Building and Induction	Green

GREEN : Achieved or on track

AMBER/ GREEN : Broadly on track. May need some additional action

AMBER: Progressing to plan. Issues exist that have the potential to stall progress and require senior management attention

1. Transfer of Staff and Assets

Work is progressing well to ensure a smooth transition of staff and assets.

2. Partnerships and Commissioning

Following agreement with partners to develop a commissioning model, options for the PCC have been developed and appraised, partners have fed back their views and proposed additional options, and these have been fed into a draft commissioning framework.

A Sub Regional audit of expenditure on partnership working has been carried out to identify funding streams that will or could transfer to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the risks that may be associated with the transition. This report was submitted to the Sub Regional Management Board on 28 September and the Leaders Board on 19 October 2012. The exercise to map risks will continue until a complete picture is known

In response to the Victims Advocate report 'Listening and Learning, Improving Support to Victims in Cheshire', a victim led workshop was held on 4 October. An exercise to profile the victims of Cheshire over a 12 month period by age, ethnicity, gender, location and MOSAIC profile has been completed to inform future engagement with victims. The data has been shared with partners. The Policing and Criminal Justice Minister had announced that the start date for commissioning victims' services will be April 2014.

3. Elections and Candidate Management

Polling Cards have been distributed and arrangements are now in place for election day. Verification will be done locally at close of poll on Thursday 15 November and the Count will take place at the Northgate Arena on Friday 16 November. A communications plan has been developed around the count and announcement of the results and a plan for policing the elections has also been put in place.



4. Finance, Budgets and Audit

An interim Audit Committee has been established. This is expected to be replaced by the PCC next September.

It has been confirmed that the Grant settlement will now be delayed until approximately one week after the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on the 5 December. The Home Secretary has also decided that no figures for Community Safety grants will be released before the settlement. Therefore, details of the funding which will be available to the Commissioner for the commissioning of services remains unclear and the complexity of distribution through formula funding and the impact of floors and ceilings makes the funding available less than transparent.

5. Governance

During September 2012, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabularies (HMIC) visited 41 police authorities to test the progress which is being made regarding transitional arrangements for future budgets and governance. Although there are variations between authorities' approaches HMIC found that all were making as much progress as possible given the uncertainties.

In Cheshire it was noted that the arrangements that are in place should allow the Commissioner to operate from day one but allowing sufficient flexibility to make amendments should they become necessary.

Substantial work has been undertaken to develop a Scheme of Governance. The Scheme sets out the governance framework which will operate to: enable the Commissioner and Chief Constable to fulfil their statutory functions; enable the business to continue operating effectively; and provide the necessary protections to the Commissioner, Chief Constable and the organisation.

Work is also ongoing to establish arrangements for the Commissioner to monitor performance in relation to complaints and Codes of Conduct for the Police and Crime Commissioner and staff have been drafted.

6. Communications

National

The Home Office national awareness raising campaign including TV, Radio, print media and bus back advertising ran from 5 - 24 October.

The Electoral Commission began a national campaign on 22 October to raise awareness about the elections which includes a You Tube video, leaflet drop to every household as well as TV, Radio, on-line and print media.

Local

Guidance on Purdah has been circulated to partners and staff for their use during the pre-election period.

Work is underway to prepare for the change of brand from the Police Authority to PCC on 22 November

Options papers have been drafted for the Commissioner's consideration on: consultation with victims; the budget; council tax precept and Policing Plan consultation; internal communications; and digital & social media

Internal communications to raise awareness amongst staff has continued on the Intranet (Looking Glass) and internal publication (Catalyst). Staff participated in a webinar (Q&A session) with the Chief Executive and Chief Constable to address any concerns.

7. Police and Crime Panel

The second meeting of the shadow Police & Crime Panel took place on 5 November 2012. The Panel's membership will consist of 10 Councillors drawn from the four Borough Councils and 2 co-opted independent members. The Councillor membership consists of 3 members from Cheshire East, 3 from Cheshire West & Chester, 2 from Halton and 2 from Warrington Borough Councils. The political balance will be 5 Labour and 5 Conservative members.

The appointment process for the two co-opted members has now begun and further details are available at www.warrington.gov.uk

The Shadow Panel also gave consideration to its constitution, proposed work programme and the procedures and protocols which will be required to enable it to undertake its statutory functions.

The Panel is next scheduled to meet on 14 December 2012 for its inaugural meeting in full format, which the newly elected Commissioner will attend to meet the Panel and discuss future work programme matters and working relationships

8. PCC Capacity Building & Induction

An induction programme has been agreed by the Authority's Chief Executive and the Chief Constable to cover a number of major topics during the Commissioner's initial weeks in office. This will help to ensure that the Commissioner is clear about their role and that of other stakeholders, understands current policing issues and can exercise their functions effectively from the beginning of their term of office.

A reference library of over 50 briefing sheets are being developed to provide an overview of the more substantial functions that are managed within the Constabulary, or in some cases in collaboration with other police forces or agencies.

Following receipt of revised precept setting timetable the initial timeline for the Commissioner's first 130 days in office has been revised.

A bespoke casework management system is being developed to track and monitor correspondence to the PCC from the public.

A risk management framework for the Commissioner and Constabulary is being developed.



**The Election results will be posted on
www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk and www.halton.gov.uk**

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**Further information on Police and Crime Commissioners can be found on
Cheshire Police Authority's website: cheshirepa.police.uk
or on the Home Office website: home.office.gov.uk**