

General Assembly Debates

Policing

Colchester Borough Council

Calls upon the LGA to approve and adopt the following motion:-

“That this Association

- stresses the need for the police service to work closely with Local Councils and other agencies, and commends the successful relationships built up in many Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships;
- notes that a significant proportion of council tax is spent on policing;
- welcome steps taken to increase the responsiveness of the service and keep the public informed eg. by crime mapping, policing pledge, etc;
- recognises that greater transparency and accountability are required at neighbourhood, basic command unit and force level but
- rejects proposals for the direct election of police authority members or police commissioners and welcomes the Home Secretary’s decision not to proceed with such proposals.

The Association calls upon all the major political parties to enter into discussions with it and the Association of Police Authorities (APA) to seek to build a consensus on ways of achieving the objectives set out in paragraph 4 above, without establishing competing mandates with local councils, but by means of, inter alia, greater support for all police authority members, training, peer review, closer scrutiny (involving independent members) to enhance the effectiveness of police authorities within the local democratic framework.”

The Colchester Motion is supported by a similar motion submitted by the City of Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council.

LGA comment:

While the LGA was successful in persuading the Home Office to drop its proposals to reform police authorities by introducing directly elected crime and policing representatives, the three main political parties are still exploring changes to the existing police accountability structures. In the main these proposals include an element of direct election. The LGA's Safer Communities Board is therefore taking forward a number of proposals to improve the existing police accountability arrangements. Some of this work will be carried out with the Association of Police Authorities, including looking at better support and training for police authority members. Rather than making public statements on specific proposals, the LGA has been working through the Group Offices with each of the political parties in private, to secure the best outcome for local government.

Contact Officer: Helen Murray, Programme Director
Phone No: 020 7664 3266
Email: helen.murray@lga.gov.uk