

## **Police and Crime Commissioners**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and decision.

### **Summary**

The Leadership Board is aware of the discussions with Members of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners regarding a joint venture in the form of a Strategic Partnership Board to support the work of Police and Crime Commissioners. Negotiations have progressed satisfactorily and this report requests endorsement for the headline agreement, and proposes the next level of work to develop this model.

### **Recommendation**

That Members agree the APCC/LGA Strategic Partnership Board in order to provide a mechanism for both organisations to come together to use their respective strengths and expertise.

### **Action**

As directed by Members.

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## **Police and Crime Commissioners**

### **Background**

1. The Leadership Board is aware of the LGA's work to establish a national representative body for police and crime commissioners. Although the direction members gave was to secure potential candidates to be full Members of the LGA, under the banner of the Police and Crime Commissioners' Association (PaCCA), Members were happy to explore a joint venture with the APCC, provided this did not impede or undermine our efforts.
2. The overarching strategy for securing PCCs in membership of the LGA comprises three strands:
  - 2.1 engaging at the political level with potential candidates and using the Political Group officers to make contact, and raise awareness of the LGA's offer;
  - 2.2 using officer networks, principally through the Association of Police Authorities Chief Executives (APACE) as key influencers to highlight and further develop our offer;
  - 2.3 engaging the resources of the LGA with Principal Advisers, Public Affairs, Press Officers and others promoting the offer through networks and personal contacts, gathering intelligence and developing relationships to ensure the LGA's profile and offer is timely, relevant and persuasive.

### **APCC/LGA**

3. As our campaign has progressed the APCC has been keen to discuss the possibility of working with the LGA to put a joint offer to PCCs at the national level. A workshop with the APCC's Lead Members in early July identified a willingness in both associations to explore what they might be able to provide together. As a result a number of options for a joint arrangement between the LGA and APCC ranging from membership arrangements within the LGA to the creation of a new bespoke joint body were developed and discussed. At a meeting between the Chairman and the Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board with the APCC leadership about these options, the APCC were clear that they favoured a partnership structure rather than a more innovative joint venture. Further work was then undertaken to work out with the APCC what a partnership model might look like.

### **Draft APCC/LGA Strategic Partnership Board for England**

4. Subject to the Leadership Board's agreement, a new partnership Board with its own identity would be created separately from the APCC and LGA. The purpose of this Board would be to enhance the work and activity of both organisations and in particular to support the working relationships of PCCs and local authorities. The Board would be a decision making body, with objectives to:

- 4.1 Provide central support and assistance to PCCs and councils in England to build effective and efficient local partnerships;
  - 4.2 Promote their work at a national level with government and other stakeholders; and
  - 4.3 Consider any exceptional demands in relation to the work at national level.
5. The proposed scope of the Board would be:
- 5.1 to ensure national policy and legislation is developed in line with the shared interests of PCCs and local authorities;
  - 5.2 to facilitate the creation of strong relationships at a national and local level between PCCs and local authorities;
  - 5.3 to provide a central resource through which policing and crime issues encountered locally can be resolved and shared with others;
  - 5.4 to share information and best practice;
  - 5.5 to commission secretariat support for PCCs in their negotiations on police officers and staff pay and conditions;
  - 5.6 to design a programme of conferences; and
  - 5.7 to commission research and analysis of assistance to PCCs and local authorities.
6. It is proposed that the Board is made up of four members each from the LGA and the APCC, all of whom are entitled to vote. The Chair could be an independent, remunerated non-executive appointment, or alternatively Joint Vice Chairs from each organisation who have a role in providing leadership to the sector. In addition, the LGA and the APCC will be represented in a non-voting capacity on each other's governance structures with one place on the LGA Executive for the APCC and one place on the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, and the LGA will have two non-voting places on the APCC Board.
7. The LGA and APCC will each provide £100k to allow the Board to commission, procure and provide work and activity as identified by the Partnership Board.
8. The LGA's Safer & Stronger Communities Board would continue to be responsible for the LGA's work on behalf of councils on community safety, reducing re-offending, licensing, regulatory services, and emergency planning issues affecting councils. The Strategic Partnership Board's purpose would be to address those issues that affect PCCs and councils jointly and to help foster a good working relationship on the ground between them.

### **Analysis/Comment**

9. This Board would have the potential to be a single influential national voice on policing and Lead Members have readily signed up to exploring the potential for partnership arrangement, with appropriate public statements. The reason this is an attractive option to the APCC is that it safeguards the notion of a separate identity for PCCs; the APCC would recruit PCCs into their membership, with some support and services being directly provided by the LGA, thereby strengthening the joint offer. The APCC would continue to exist, with its own staff. For the LGA, this provides a means of engaging and supporting PCCs in both their specialist statutory policing functions as well as their broader crime responsibilities. It also provides access through the Strategic Partnership Board to Home Office Board places (as agreed at the Board) and presents a joined-up view to the sector, sending an invaluable message about the importance of local government working closely with PCCs. Although we would have preferred subscriptions to be paid directly into the Partnership Board, Members will want to consider the benefits of taking an incremental approach to this work. With an inbuilt review after one year, there will be an opportunity to revisit these arrangements once PCCs are all in post.
10. The creation of the Strategic Partnership Board would not result in PCCs being in collective membership of the LGA via a corporate arrangement with the APCC. However, we believe there remains a strong case for highlighting the valuable role of local government in community safety and therefore it is vital that PCCs work closely with council Leaders to build good relations and ensure that PCCs build on gains made to date in tackling crime, particularly around prevention. Councils enjoy membership of a number of different bodies which have complementary roles and so a number of PCCs might still wish to be in direct membership of the LGA. Our programme of activity and support for them is set out in our prospectus and would be further refined through discussions with them.
11. Given PCCs will be elected in November, Members may wish to consider the timing of the first Partnership Board to ensure it can draw up an effective programme of activity, through consultation with PCCs.

### **Conclusion and next steps**

12. The rationale for this proposal is that the APCC and the LGA each have a valuable contribution to make around policing and crime respectively. It makes good sense to join up our approaches and services at a national level to ensure PCCs, and the public, get the best possible value for money.
13. If Members agree this proposal, the next stage in development will look at possible Chairs; the LGA's representation on the Strategic Partnership Board, which could include the Chair of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board and three other members drawn from the remaining political groups and possibly from other LGA boards with remits relevant to PCCs; administrative support arrangements for the Strategic Partnership Board; and the commissioning in the future of secretariat support for PCCs in their negotiations on police officers and staff pay and conditions.

**Financial Implications**

14. A contribution of £100k for 2012/13 is a new pressure which is most likely to be identified through the mid-year review.