

Analysis of police and crime elections – November 2012

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

On 15 November Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were elected across 41 police force areas in England and Wales (outside London). This report provides a summary of the results, an analysis of manifestos of the winning candidates and some preliminary thoughts about our future engagement with them, principally through the political group offices. This paper will go before the Executive tomorrow, 22 November 2012.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the results of the election and provide views on the LGA's activity with PCCs.

Action

As directed by the Leadership Board.

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Background

1. On 15 November Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were elected across 41 police force areas in England and Wales (outside London). This was the first election in England and Wales to have used the Supplementary Voting system on such a widespread basis. Counting of votes was complete on Friday 16 November.
2. Alongside these elections, by-elections in Manchester Central, Corby and Cardiff South took place as well as the mayoral election in Bristol.

Headline results

3. A full list of elected Police and Crime Commissioners is at **Annex A**. Headline figures are:
 - Conservative candidates were elected in 16 police force areas
 - Labour candidates were elected in 13 police force areas;
 - Independent candidates were elected in 12 police force areas.
 - The Liberal Democrats fielded 24 out of a possible 41 candidates;
 - UKIP scored 7.3% of first preference votes;
 - 6 of the 41 PCCs are female (14.6%); there are no BME PCCs;
 - 22 are current or former councillors (53.7%);
 - There are 8 former policemen among the winners;
 - Average turnout was 14.94%, with the lowest turnout in Staffordshire at 11.93 % and the highest turnout in Northamptonshire at 19.5%;
 - 33 PCCs were elected on second preferences.

Subsequent media commentary has focused on low turnout and whether this provides a legitimate mandate for PCCs; the £75m cost of the election; and the success of the Independent candidates.

Turnout and voting

4. The final turnout figure - just under 15% - was lower than the 18% predicted by the Electoral Reform Society. The low turnout has been blamed on holding the election in November, the lack of campaign materials and the decision not to fund mailouts for candidates.
5. There were also unusually high rates of spoilt ballot papers possibly pointing to confusion about the Supplementary Voting system and/or dissatisfaction with either the PCC role, policy or process.

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6. The Electoral Commission has announced a review into how these elections were conducted and will report to Parliament in the spring.

Appointment of deputies

7. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act allows PCCs to appoint a statutory deputy. This is not a politically restricted post and we expect a couple of LGA Lead Members to take up these positions.

Analysis of manifestos

8. The following analysis is based on information published by the winning candidates and their subsequent statements, once elected.
9. The top issues for PCCs across the political spectrum are: supporting and championing the rights of victims (83% of candidates); effective responses to anti-social behaviour (73%); and neighbourhood policing (49%). A top priority for most Labour and some Independent candidates is protecting services against financial reductions.
10. In addition to these, Conservative PCCs' priorities include crime prevention; more Specials; increased frontline policing and reducing re-offending. Labour PCCs include tackling domestic violence and opposition to privatization amongst their priorities. Independent candidates register keeping politics out of policing as a key issue.

Early decisions

11. There are a number of important decisions PCCs will need to make before the end of this financial year. Some of these are set out in legislation and the most vital are setting the precept level (by 1 March 2013); and publishing a five year Police and Crime Plan by 31 March 2013; and many will also need to urgently consider the appointment of a Chief Constable since 12 of the 41 police forces are being led by either interim Chief Constables, or the Chief Constable has recently resigned.

Connections with local government

12. Our work to illustrate the role and contribution of local government in making communities safer and our use of a single, straightforward message 'How local government can help you deliver your manifesto commitments' appears to have resonated with PCCs. Many PCCs have already made public statements and commitments to working with local authorities and with over half having experience of local government we can expect this relationship to broaden and deepen.
13. Our web and twitter campaign on 101 ways local government can help has more than 700 followers, including a significant number of PCCs. This work now moves to weekly case studies setting out how local authorities are taking an innovative approach to community safety work. We will be complementing this with KnowledgeHub networks, online hotseats and opportunities for visits to case study areas. We will also be doing some work to highlight the importance of prevention in this agenda. Our bulletins will continue on a monthly basis. These activities will ensure we maintain momentum

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going forward and continue to keep the work of our member authorities, particularly community safety partnerships, uppermost in the minds of PCCs.

14. The LGA Chairman has written a letter of congratulation to newly elected PCCs, offering confidential political support, providing copies of our materials, offering the use of LG House facilities and a free place at our bespoke event on 17 April 2013.

Strategic Partnership Board

15. We are committed to the joint Strategic Partnership Board with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the first meeting is planned for April 2013, with a Member away-day in February to scope out the programme going forward.
16. The Political Group Offices and Lead Members on the Safer and Stronger Communities Board have already developed contact and positive working relationships with the majority of PCCs. Work led by the political group offices is unique to the LGA and not a service currently offered by the APCC and would therefore complement the aims and objectives of the Partnership Board. We are taking soundings from all PCCs to understand how they would like to interact with the LGA and this will inform our longer term response. Although advice and support is currently provided on an individual basis, over time should there be sufficient interest, we may wish to consider setting up a mechanism along the lines of Special Interest Groups.

Police and Crime Panels

17. The LGA has also been working with councils in establishing Police and Crime Panels who have a duty to hold the PCC to account. We have produced 8 guides for councils so far to help them with a range of issues from panel arrangements to confirmation hearings and held a number of events, and online events. This programme of work forms a key part of the priorities for the Safer and Stronger Communities Board for 2013/14 and we are developing a comprehensive action plan which includes bringing Chairmen of the panels together, and setting up a Member peer challenge for panels. Cllr Mehboob Khan will be representing the LGA at the Home Secretary's welcome event for PCCs on 3 December to talk about Panels.

Wales

18. Officers have been in regular communication with the WLGA about contact with Welsh PCCs. WLGA are keen to ensure that Welsh PCCs have access to the LGA's offer, and will also be providing their own support to Welsh PCCs.

Financial Implications

19. Any further resources needed for this work will be met by the de-prioritisation of other work.

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Annex A – Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales

Police Force	First Name	Surname	Political party	Councillor/former councillor
Avon & Somerset	Sue	Mountstevens	Independent	
Bedfordshire	Olly	Martins	Labour	Former councillor
Cambridgeshire	Graham	Bright	Conservative	Former councillor
Cheshire	John	Dwyer	Conservative	Former councillor
Cleveland	Barry	Coppinger	Labour	Councillor
Cumbria	Richard	Rhodes	Conservative	
Derbyshire	Alan	Charles	Labour	Councillor
Devon & Cornwall	Tony	Hogg	Conservative	
Dorset	Martyn	Underhill	Independent	
Durham	Ron	Hogg	Labour	
Dyfed-Powys	Christopher	Salmon	Conservative	
Essex	Nick	Alston	Conservative	
Gloucestershire	Martin	Surl	Independent	
Greater Manchester	Tony	Lloyd	Labour	Former councillor
Gwent	Ian	Johnston	Independent	
Hampshire	Simon	Hayes	Independent	Former councillor
Hertfordshire	David	Lloyd	Conservative	Councillor
Humberside	Matthew	Grove	Conservative	Councillor
Kent	Ann	Barnes	Independent	
Lancashire	Clive	Grunshaw	Labour	Councillor
Leicestershire	Clive	Loader	Conservative	
Lincolnshire	Alan	Hardwick	Independent	
Merseyside	Jane	Kennedy	Labour	
Norfolk	Stephen	Bett	Independent	Councillor
North Wales	Winston	Roddick	Independent	
North Yorkshire	Julia	Mulligan	Conservative	Former councillor
Northamptonshire	Adam	Simmonds	Conservative	
Northumbria	Vera	Baird	Labour	
Nottinghamshire	Paddy	Tipping	Labour	Former councillor
South Wales	Alun	Michael	Labour	
South Yorkshire	Shaun	Wright	Labour	Councillor
Staffordshire	Matthew	Ellis	Conservative	Councillor
Suffolk	Tim	Passmore	Conservative	Councillor
Surrey	Kevin	Hurley	Independent	
Sussex	Katy	Bourne	Conservative	Councillor
Thames Valley	Anthony	Stansfeld	Conservative	Councillor
Warwickshire	Ron	Ball	Independent	
West Mercia	Bill	Longmore	Independent	Former councillor
West Midlands	Bob	Jones	Labour	Councillor
West Yorkshire	Mark	Burns-Williamson	Labour	Councillor
Wiltshire	Angus	Macpherson	Conservative	Former councillor