

## **Update on PCCs and Police and Crime Panels**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

This paper provides members with an update on activity across the breadth of the work the LGA is undertaking ahead of the transition to Police and Crime Commissioners.

### **Recommendation**

That members note the range of work the LGA has undertaken since the last Board meeting related to the transition to police and crime commissioners.

### **Action**

As directed by members.

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## **Update on PCCs and Police and Crime Panels**

### **Background**

1. At its last meeting the Board received a report on the LGA's work to establish a national representative body for police and crime commissioners (PCCs), the LGA's dialogue with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), and the proposal arising from those discussions to create a joint Strategic Partnership Board.
2. Having considered the report the Board agreed to recommend to the LGA's Leadership Board and Executive that the LGA set up the joint Strategic Partnership Board with the APCC.

### **Joint Strategic Partnership Board**

3. The LGA's Leadership Board and Executive agreed with the Board's recommendation to create the Strategic Partnership Board at their meetings in September. The proposal was also agreed by the APCC's Board the same month. With both Associations having agreed to the creation of the Partnership Board LGA officers have had preliminary discussions with the APCC on the next steps to establish the Strategic Partnership Board.
4. The APCC have indicated that they envisage the Strategic Partnership Board being formally established in April 2013, with a meeting of the Partnership Board in shadow form at the end of February or the beginning of March to discuss and agree the processes and procedures that will enable the Partnership Board to function effectively. Prior to that the APCC intend to take a paper to the event they are holding for PCCs on 23 January 2013 to obtain their agreement once in office to the creation of the Partnership Board.
5. In order for the APCC to put a paper before PCCs in January, there will have to be further discussions between the LGA and APCC to agree and finalise the arrangements for the Board, including how and who will chair it and how it will be provided with secretarial and administrative support, and the Board will be updated on the progress of these discussions.

### **Party Conferences**

6. Members of the Board, in particular the Chair, Vice-Chair and Deputy Chair Cllrs Mehboob Khan, Joanna Spicer and Duwayne Brooks were invited to speak at a number of fringe events at their respective party conferences relating to community safety and the Board's wider remit. These included being invited to speak at the Association of Police Authorities/Association of Police and Crime Commissioners events at each party conference on the transition to police and crime commissioners, as well as at events by the Transition to Adulthood Alliance and Revolving Doors on the policing of young adults, and Catch 22 events on addressing gang violence. Members were able to use these opportunities to highlight to PCC candidates how councils can assist them in delivering on their priorities.

### **Candidates standing as PCCs**

7. Nominations closed for PCC candidates on 19 October. There are 191 candidates standing in the 41 police force areas in England and Wales outside London. There are Conservative and Labour candidates standing in every area, with Liberal Democrat and UKIP candidates standing in 24 areas, and 57 independent candidates (including 1 Green) alongside 5 English Democrat candidates. Of the candidates 35 or 18% are women.
8. A study of those manifestos or commitments that are publicly available from PCC candidates suggest that sustaining neighbourhood policing, tackling anti-social behaviour and supporting victims are the three most common commitments being made by PCC candidates in the run-up to the elections.

### **Home Office PCC transition boards**

9. At the Board's September meeting members discussed appointments to outside bodies and noted that the Home Office was in the process of reviewing the transition boards and structures it had established to oversee various work-streams established to ensure a smooth transition from police authorities to PCCs. In their place the Home Office is proposing 6 work-streams which would report to a PCC Oversight Board. These work-streams would cover: PCC sponsorship; scrutiny and transparency; Wales; community safety and crime prevention; College of Policing; and national threats. Current Home Office thinking is that the PCC Oversight Board will run from December through to April 2013 meeting at the most three times during that period. The need for the Oversight Board and the work-streams would then be reviewed again. Recommendations on the new structures will be put to the final meeting of the Home Office's PCC Transition Sponsorship Board at the start of November, so an oral update can be provided to the Board at the meeting on whether the Home Office will be retaining any transitional structures.

### **Police and Crime Panels**

10. Having spent the spring and summer working on establishing police and crime panels, English local authorities have successfully established panels for each police force area, and the four Welsh Home Office sponsored panels have also been set up by Welsh authorities. A number of areas have requested agreement from the Home Office to a number of additional co-options on to the panel, all of which have so far received positive responses from the Home Office.
11. LGA officers undertook a survey of panels in September to get a feel for the sorts of members on panels and how they would be looking to do their jobs. Although not all panels responded to the survey nearly 90% of English authorities responded. The responses received suggest that 35% of panels in England have seven or more cabinet or executive members on the panel, nearly 46% of panels have between one to three council leaders on the panel, and that 54% of panels have between one and four ex-police authority members on the panel. This suggests that there is a considerable change in membership between council appointments to police authorities and police

and crime panels, reflecting the differing role that the panels have. In addition nearly three-quarters of panels anticipate having to meet between 5 and 8 times a year to carry out all the statutory functions they have, even though the Home Office worked on the basis they would only need to meet four times a year.

12. The LGA continues to support councils in establishing panels. As well as running a training event in October for a number of panels in the West Midlands, it held the second network meeting for those involved in establishing panels towards the end of October. The event was attended by delegates from 21 police force areas and included a number of panel members.

### **Conclusion and next steps**

13. The LGA's work on the transition to PCCs continues ahead of the elections. For example, thinking is already turning to how the LGA can support panels once they are in place, with a national networking event for panels to be held in March 2013.

### **Financial Implications**

14. All of the activity described in the report is being met from existing resources.