

DCN ASSEMBLY - 7 MARCH 2012

Notes from Breakout Group - **Police and Crime Panels**
- **Police and Crime Commissioners**

Presenter/Facilitator - Mark Norris (LGA Senior Adviser)

Mark presented a number of slides on the requirements of the new arrangements, the process and timescale for implementation, what Districts should be seeking to do over the next few months, what 'good' arrangements might look like and what support was available from the LGA.

[Copies of the slides will be available with minutes of Assembly]

Main Points

- * PCC Elections - 15 November
- * PCC in place - 22 November
- * Serving Councillors cannot be PCCs
- * PCPs - arrangements/membership to be notified to Home Secretary by 1 July 2012 - to be in place by October 2012
- * Great deal of work for PCPs in first few months - budget, precept, Strategic Plan, confirmation of Chief Constable (in many cases)
- * Need for local councils to agree membership of PCPs, with regard also to 'balance' - by negotiation **NOW**
- * PCPs not just 'scrutiny' bodies; duty also to 'assist' the PCC
- * Strong point that membership should be from Executives (though not necessarily/advisedly the Leader)
- * Directly Elected Mayors are PCP members from their Authority as of right
- * Cost of new arrangements may exceed the £53k plus c£17k (£920 per 20 members) (total c£70k) allowance from Government
- * No formal allowances for PCP members.
- * First year based on assumed maximum of 20 members; based on £920 per actual membership basis thereafter
- * Will estimate of four meetings per year be sufficient?

- * PCPs have responsibilities, enabling powers and power of veto (precept and Chief Constable appointment confirmation)
- * Will PCC give high priority to Community Safety, when main requirement is to reduce crime? Districts must engage early and often to ensure that this is included in Strategic Plan, as it is high on local public expectations across the country.
- * Whilst reducing crime is main priority, Police Forces must have regard also to counter-terrorism and other national issues.
- * The Act provides no power for mergers of Forces.

There was a request from the first Workshop session that DCN join LGA in formal submission to Nick Herbert (Home Office Minister) regarding the potential shortfall in funding for 'something we did not ask to do'.

Request also for brief note reminding DCN members of actions to be taken. Both these will be followed up.

[SA]

Steve Atkinson
DCN
8 March 2012