



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Community Safety Committee

UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 19 October 2012

Purpose of Report:

To inform and update the committee on the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Nottinghamshire.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : John Buckley
Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Tel : 0115 967 0880

Email : john.buckley@notts-fire.gov.uk

Media Enquiries Contact : Elisabeth Reeson
(0115) 967 5889 elisabeth.reeson@notts-fire.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The role of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) is to ensure that the policing needs of their communities are met as effectively as possible, bringing communities closer to the police, building confidence in the system and restoring trust. The first elections will take place on 15th November 2012, with elected Commissioners taking up office a week later on the 22 November. Police and Crime Commissioners will have responsibility for:
- Appointing the Chief Constable and holding them to account for the running of their force;
 - Setting out a 5 year Police and Crime Plan based on local priorities (developed in consultation with the Chief Constable, communities and others);
 - Setting the annual local precept and annual force budget;
 - Making grants to organisations aside from the police (including but not limited to Community Safety Partnerships).
- 1.2 Police and Crime Commissioners will have a key role with (and probably chair) the Community Safety Partnership. They will inherit the Community Safety Grant and other areas of funding and with partners, be responsible for the allocating of funding and the commissioning of services. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides powers for Commissioners to award grants to any organisation or body they consider will support their community safety priorities.
- 1.3 Ministers have decided that existing arrangements for community safety and partnership funding will continue during 2012-13. In 2013-14, in addition to the main police grant and precept, Police and Crime Commissioners will also receive funding from the Community Safety Fund which will support local priorities which might include tackling drugs and crime, reducing re-offending, and improving community safety.
- 1.4 Police and Crime Commissioners will work with a broad range of organisations and local authorities will be vital partners. In addition to a focussed role in scrutinising the Commissioner through Police and Crime Panels, local authorities and elected members will need to work closely with commissioners as partners. They will share an interest in improving outcomes and services in a range of areas from community safety and youth justice to health, safeguarding and civil contingencies.
- 1.5 Commissioners will also receive some consolidated grants made up of funding currently provided to a range of organisations and may decide to use them on projects that support their community safety objectives. Commissioners will be free to pool funding with local partners and will have flexibility to decide how to use their resources to deliver against the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Nationally, a PCC Transition Implementation Board has been established whilst locally, a Transition Programme Board has been set up and a programme manager appointed.
- 2.2 The established Nottinghamshire PCC Transition Programme Board's last meeting was on the 7 September 2012. This Programme Board reviews the key milestones of the National PCC programme, and the progress of the Nottinghamshire PCC Programme, reviewing the milestones, risks and issues.

Currently there are 12 projects being taken forward by the project teams, their progress is as follows;

Project 1: Community Safety and Criminal Justice Governance

The project is well on track to deliver the current partnership structures for community safety and criminal justice, which will highlight connections across the partnership landscape, together with the funding arrangements mapped to enable the options to be formulated for the PCC. Final draft report and options appraisal was presented to and endorsed by the Transition Board meeting on the 27th July. These proposals will be presented to the SNB in September. There are particular key interdependencies with project 3, 4, 7 and 12.

Project 2: Police and Crime Panel

The County Council has been agreed as the host authority for the PCP. The allocation of the 10 seats on the Panel has been agreed but there is yet to be agreement over further co-options. This will be discussed at the first Panel meeting and requires unanimous agreement and the approval of the Secretary of State. A decision was reported to the Home office by the 16th July. The first meeting of shadow Panel is to be held on 19th October.

Project 3: Commissioning and Grants

Confirmation of funding for the 12/13 has been received. There has been the set up of a Task and Finish Group to discuss details of grants for inclusion into the PCC's responsibilities. Understanding of current funding is complete and assessment of outcomes is underway. A draft report was presented to the Transition Board on the 27th July.

Project 4: Community Engagement and Consultation

A draft report has been agreed by the Task and Finish group of the 20th June. Progress to develop the Strategy will be reported to the next Projects Board, there has been the set up of a Strategy working group to progress the recommendations and align to consultation and engagement required for the production of the Police and Crime Plan, together with identifying the local strategy which will be aligned to the national strategy which is due in September.

Project 5: Communication and Branding

The project is still monitoring where the national communications campaign is, and awaiting updates, however, local communication and stakeholder management strategies are now in place with a tactical internal and external communications plan developed and agreed. The costing of this project is dependent on the national products with costings to be identified for local delivery. The Police Authority and Force websites now have dedicated PCC sections. There is a draft format and content prepared for dedicated section on Police Authority website. The Partners newsletter 'Insight' contains updates on PCC transition progress.

Project 6: Transfer of staff, property and assets

Many streams of work are coming to completion (HR, procurement, estates). From this further refinement tasking will be made. Draft HR briefing received and final content agreed. Letter to all Police Staff regarding the 1st Transfer was sent out on the 3 September. Finance data is being prepared to mirror the HR information. Draft legal briefing has been received and is being reviewed. There has been work to identify the actions for delivery of a smooth transfer of staff and assets, which is dependent upon the National Protocol and Transfer Scheme.

Project 7: Financial management, planning and control and audit

There is work being undertaken to ensure that the stages of transfer of budgets and planning are set up in line with the PCC Protocol and Transfer Scheme, together with building in the Financial Management Code of Practice for police Service of England and Wales. Detailed costings will be needed for this project. Meetings with PA bankers have taken place to discuss banking arrangements, and insurance and pension arrangement meetings are being put in place. Scheme of delegation has been drafted and is awaiting agreement.

Project 8: Future governance, accountability and decision making framework

There is work being conducted to identify the requirements of future governance, strategic planning and decision making frameworks for the PCC, which will also deliver key processes such as the Complaints and Misconduct Regulations for the PCC and the Chief Constable. Key meetings have taken place between PA and Force in June/July to agree a framework for decision making, governance and functional requirements of the PCC and Chief Constable. An option has been agreed to form part of the Handover package.

Project 9: Organisational design and working environment

Final accommodation options and costs have been worked up and submitted to the Transition Board 27th July 2012. There have been provisions within the Medium Term Financial Strategy and form part of the agreed budget in February 2012.

Project 10: Business as Usual

Work is being undertaken to ensure that accounts transfer, and governance transition occurs to enable the PCC to conduct office and be in a position to enact the options of transfer. Detailed costings of this project need to be identified. There are key dependencies with setting out governance, the Police and Crime Panel whilst delivering business as usual.

Project 11: Election and candidate management

There is work being conducted to ensure that briefings for candidates and Codes of Conduct for candidates, Election Regulations have been sent and there is still a need for local packages to be produced. A key dependency is with the project 5, Communication and Branding and a need to ensure communication with the electorate to encourage democratic voting.

Project 12: Police and Crime Plan

There have been meetings to discuss the way forward to progress integrated partnership strategic planning to ensure the delivery of a draft Police and Crime Plan for consultation on community safety priorities throughout the summer, and presentation as a draft plan for November. There is work to ensure through projects 1, 3 and 4 to ensure understanding of the partnership landscape, funding, and commissioning of services to deliver community safety, with a key focus being on victims to shape priorities. Work has been completed to develop the strategic assessments to provide the science behind the priorities across the community safety and criminal justice planning areas and a draft Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) has been completed by the police in consultation with community safety, criminal justice and health and wellbeing partners. Final Draft sent through for agreement at the Chief Executives forum on the 10 August, further strategic planning event scheduled for after the SNB meeting on the 14 September.

Impact and benefits for Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

- 2.3 Although in operational terms, the impact on NFRS is unlikely to be substantial, there are subtle areas that may be beneficial to the Service.
- 2.4 One of the early tasks for PCCs will be the driving forward of data sharing agreements, particularly with health. The National Transition Implementation Board has been working with their colleagues in the Department of Health (DoH) to pull together health and Community Safety, this will mean PCCs involving CSPs in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Health and Well Being Boards and generally better joint working between Health and the Criminal Justice agencies locally.
- 2.5 As part of this operation DoH have commenced an audit to determine the level of engagement in data sharing between CSPs and A&E departments. CSPs who have an A&E in their area will receive a link to an online survey that they are being encouraged to complete. If NFRS were to receive A&E data relating to burns and other accidental injury it would be extremely beneficial in enabling the Service to better target its interventions.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NFRS contribute to local CSPs and the City CDP but do not receive any funding at a strategic level. NFRS does receive funding at a local level through the Partnership Plus Priority Areas programme and there are no indications at this stage that this position will change.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources or learning and development issues arising from this report

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An equality impact assessment is not required for this report as it does not change or influence policies or procedures within NFRS.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The wider implications of the PCCs will not become apparent until after their appointment. However, the intention of reacting more clearly to the concerns within the community is likely to bring about a greater impact on low level crime and ASB.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service is a statutory partner in the Community Safety Partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and as such is bound by the decisions of the PCC where cascaded through the partnership structures.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Until the appointment of the PCC's it is difficult to judge how this new approach may impact upon, or indeed provide opportunities for NFRS. The Service is fully engaged within the partnership structures and this situation is being carefully monitored.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the report and agree to receive further reports after the PCC appointment has been made.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER