

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD

28 FEBRUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	<i>POLICE AND CRIME PANELS AND COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>DIRECTOR OF LAW, HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT</i>
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report is at the request of members at the last Scrutiny Programme Board held on 4 January 2012. This report overviews progress to date and next steps regarding the election of a Police Commissioner and the setting up of Police and Crime Panels in both a national and local context.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 Members are requested to note the report.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 That new legislation will impact directly on all members but specifically those on Merseyside Police Authority.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 received Royal Assent in September 2011.

4.1.1 This Act provides the parent legislation for the establishment of a new post; the Police and Crime Commissioner, this will replace the existing Merseyside Police Authority structure.

4.2 Police and Crime Panels will subsequently be created as a formally constituted joint committee of all Local Authorities in the Merseyside Police Force area.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 None

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 None

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 None

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 None

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 Possible “top up” funding for the operation of PCC’s from each Local Authority within the Region.

9.1 Community Safety funding will be transferred to the PCC by April 2103 - namely the Safe & Strong Communities element of Area Based Grant (£157k 2012/13).

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Council constitution will need reviewing to take account of the new legislation.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Is an EIA required? No

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Community Safety is intrinsic within this report

REPORT AUTHOR: *Alison Mountney*
telephone: 691 8507
email: alisonmountney@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Report on Police and Crime Panels and Commissioner Elections.

APPENDIX 2

Report by Community Safety Co-ordinator to Wirral Community Safety Partnership (15 February 2012) (attached for information)

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
Home Office circulars and regional briefing events
Briefings by the Local Government Association
Wirral Community Safety Partnership reports
Merseyside Police Authority Committee reports both nationally and locally.
Home office Election bulletins