

For Information	
Public/Non Public*	
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	6th February 2020
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Agenda Item:	6

Police and Crime Commissioner Election preparation and timetable

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Police and Crime Panel with information on the OPCC/Force preparation and timescales for the Police and Crime Commissioner election this year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the panel note the progress being made by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and force in planning for the election.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Members of the Police and Crime Panel at their last meeting requested background information on the next election of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 was passed by Parliament on Monday 15th September 2011 and one of the key aspects of the Act was to introduce the role of an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for each Force area in England and Wales. PCC elections to be held at four year intervals from May 2016. The inaugural election took place in November 2012. The term of the current PCC runs until 13th May 2020.
- 3.3 The date of the next PCC election for England and Wales is 7th May 2020.
- 3.4 The overall responsibility for arranging and conducting the election is with the designated Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) for each force area.

- 3.5 The Minister of State for the Cabinet Office has previously designated and appointed Karen Bradford, Chief Executive, Gedling District Council (Head of Paid Service) to conduct the 2020 PCC Election of the Nottinghamshire Police area. However, it is now understood she will be leaving her current position to take up new role with South Kesteven District Council in Lincolnshire. In planning for her departure she has recommended to the Cabinet Office that the PCC election should be undertaken by Rushcliffe Borough Council who managed the elections in 2012 and 2016.
- 3.6 The process of discharging the election has yet to be formally approved by Parliament as part of the 'Police and Crime Election Order 2020.
- 3.7 Key provisional dates for the PCC Election 2020:

No later than Tuesday 31 st March 2020	Publication of notice of PCC election
Wednesday 8 th April 2020	Receipt of nominations
Thursday 9 th April 2020	Publication of statement of person nominated
Thursday 7 th May 2020	Election Day (7.00am to 10.00pm)
Monday 11 th May 2020	Election count and results announcements
Wednesday 13 th May 2020	Term of incumbent PCC ceases
Thursday 14 th May 2020	Newly elected PCC takes office

- 3.7 Detail of the election process and guidance for prospective candidates and their agents is available on the Electoral Commission's website. For information on who is standing in this area go to www.choosemypcc.org.uk

3.8 Initial preparation for the election

- 3.9 To assist potential candidates with preparing for the election the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has established a dedicated website to act as a central repository for information, www.nottspcc-election.co.uk. The information contained on this website has already been refreshed in preparation for this year's election.

- 3.10 A joint OPCC and Police election preparation working group, chaired by OPCC, Chief Executive has been established and has already met twice. The next meeting is planned for early February. The working group's main responsibility is to oversee the implementation of the election preparation plan. This plan covers:

- Election and candidate management
- Communication and briefings

- Community Safety, Criminal Justice and Fire and Rescue
- Governance, finance and decision making
- Business as usual

3.11 OPCC, Chief Executive and Chief Constable has already agreed and signed off a joint protocol and guidance on providing information and managing contact with candidates. All senior police leaders have been briefed on this protocol and informed about how to manage requests for information from individuals expressing an interest in standing for election. Any requests for information will be directed to either the Force or OPCC single point of contact (SPOC). They are:

- OPCC-Chief Executive
- Force- Staff officer to the Chief Constable

3.12 Any individuals expressing an interest in becoming a candidate will be invited to receive one to one briefings with the Chief Constable and OPCC Executive and or Chief Finance Officer. Also, formal briefings are being arranged for March on the wider policing, community safety, victims, Criminal Justice and Fire and Rescue landscape. Provisional dates have been identified for 12 March and 23 March for these briefings.

3.13 In the interest of transparency and openness all requests for information from potential candidates or their agents, the OPCC and force will publish all responses on www.nottspcc-election.co.uk

3.14 In addition, the Chief Constable is producing a candidate briefing document for Nottinghamshire Police and this should be available at the end of January 2020 on the election website. Briefing documents on the EMSOU collaboration and other regional support functions are already available. Together with other useful briefing papers produced by the national Independent Custody Visiting Scheme and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 Any costs relating to preparing for the election will be met from the existing OPCC budget.

5. Human Resources Implications

5.1 Preparing for the election will require staffing and officer inputs from the OPCC, Force and partner agencies. There is no intention to employ

additional staffing resources to help meet the additional demand of planning for the election.

6. Equality Implications

- 6.1 The landscape and relationship between inequality crime and disproportionality is complex. David Lammy published an independent review into the treatment of and outcomes for black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals into the criminal justice system in September 2017.
- 6.2 The refreshed Police and Crime Delivery plan identifies a range of specific projects, initiatives and activity to reduce hate crime, promote community cohesion, support victims and prevent repeat victimisation and continue to develop a workforce which is representative of the communities it serves.
- 6.3 The Police and Crime Needs Assessment also highlights notable disparities in service outcomes among diverse groups and opportunities for developing a better understanding into the changing composition of communities and neighbourhoods.

7. Risk Management

- 7.1 There is also a strategic risk register, which is monitored through the governance processes in the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. This information is reported to the PCC's Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel.

8. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 8.1 Preparing for the Police and Crime Commissioner election this year is a key commitment and deliverable within the existing Police and Crime Delivery Plan.

9. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 9.1 None

10. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

- 10.1 None