

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

7 SEPTEMBER 2020

### HOME OFFICE REVIEW INTO THE ROLE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To highlight the scope and focus of the Home Office Review into the Role of Police and Crime Commissioners and to share the views submitted by Panel Members via the Local Government Association (LGA).

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The Home Office announced on 22 July 2020 a proposed review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).
3. The announcement of the review stated:-

‘The review delivers on the manifesto commitment to strengthen and expand the role of PCCs. The public wants to see a reduction in crime and PCCs are elected to deliver on the people’s priorities.

Measures to be considered in the review include:

- raising the profile of PCCs
- giving the public better access to information about the performance of their PCC
- sharing best practice so that PCCs are delivering consistently across the country
- reviewing the relationship between PCCs and Chief Constables

Eight years on from their introduction in 2012, it is right that we look at ways to ensure the public can better hold PCCs to account for bringing crime down and protecting citizens in their area.’

4. In launching the review, the Home Secretary, Priti Patel said:-

“The British people want to know the police will uphold the law and then be held to account on that basis. This review will help to improve accountability, scrutiny and transparency, ensuring Police and Crime Commissioners always put the law-abiding silent majority who voted for them at the centre of their decision-making.”

5. The review will take place in two parts, with the initial stage underway and the second stage to take place following the proposed PCC elections in May 2021 with a focus on longer term reforms ahead of the 2024 elections.
6. A Stakeholder Briefing (see **Appendix A**) was circulated by the Home Office in late July and this was shared with Panel Members on 31 July 2020 for information.

7. The Key Research Questions (see **Appendix B**) to be covered in part one of the review were also circulated to Members, with Question 3 being of particular relevance to the role of Police and Crime Panels.
8. This document was circulated to relevant bodies to help guide the structure of responses. It also clarifies that wholesale reform of the Police and Crime Panel model of scrutiny; consideration of PCCs' roles in reoffender management and wider criminal justice devolution and substantive electoral reform are out of the scope of the review. Also outside of the scope is consideration of a wholly new governance model for policing or a revised version of the existing 43 police force model.
9. The deadline for submissions to the Home Office for part one of the review is **4 September 2020** and the initial findings will be reported to the Home Secretary and the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire Service in October 2020. The Home Office has requested collated responses wherever possible through relevant representative bodies.
10. The Local Government Association (LGA) sought Panel Members' views nationally in advance of today's meeting (the deadline for responses being 21 August) so that a co-ordinated response could be produced.
11. In response to that request, the Panel's support officers requested views from Members and the following responses were submitted to the LGA on 21 August:-
  - a) Reference was made to the length of term for a Panel member and how a high churn rate could impact negatively on the work of a Panel.
  - b) Can financial savings/cuts be imposed to the PCC Office annual budget in light of Government spending?
  - c) Should The PCC/DPCC work reduced salaries with bonus payments as the top up, as the Force has to do, which are only realised when targets are met?
  - d) PCCs accountability and value for money: There is much coverage in the media regarding PCCs which is negative, derogatory or making comments to the office being a waste of money etc
  - e) Some PCCs have national chair responsibilities which mean that those PCCs cannot afford the time needed for their local role, hence the need for a deputy in some cases. Should the National Chair be a role in itself?
  - f) Comment was also made about the current process for appointing a deputy which can happen without scrutiny, equal opportunities and with political influence.
12. It is understood that other Members of the Panel have also responded via the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.
13. The Commissioner has also been involved in collating a response to part one of the review through his new role as the Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.
14. It is intended to submit the findings of part one of the review, if published by the Home Office at that point, to the next meeting of the Panel on 23 November 2020.

## **Other Options Considered**

15. None – due to the timescales involved it was not possible for a response to be submitted to the LGA following a discussion at this meeting of the Panel.

## **Reasons for Recommendation/s**

16. To ensure all Panel Members are aware of the aims and timescales of the two parts of the review and to share the submissions that were made by Members to the LGA.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) That the aims and timescales involved in the two stages of the review be noted.
- 2) That the Panel Members' views submitted to the LGA on 21 August 2020 be noted.
- 3) That a further update report be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel following the Home Office's publication of the outcomes of part one of the review.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

E-mails about the review to Panel Members from Keith Ford, dated 31 July and 7 August 2020.

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