

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

2nd May 2012

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith (Chairman), Councillor Atkin (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Mrs. Hood.

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Mrs. Mead and Pearson.

In attendance

Councillor Wheeler (Conservative Group).

OS/39. **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY – POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Under Minute No. OS/31 of 8th February 2012, the Committee agreed arrangements for the Crime and Disorder scrutiny work, to focus on the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and associated Police and Crime Panel (PCP). A report was submitted which had been prepared by the Head of Community Safety at Derbyshire County Council and provided background of the role of the PCC and PCP. Potentially, the revised arrangements could mean a reduction in funding for the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership as current County Council funding would be redirected to the PCC. It was hoped that this funding would still be made available to partnerships and for the current year this equated to £23,000.

Members considered the document received from Derbyshire County Council. This reported the arrangements for the PCC elections in November and the establishment of PCPs. The report set out the powers of the PCP to make recommendations about actions and decisions taken by the PCC. There would be specific roles in scrutinising the draft Police and Crime Plan, Council Tax precept, Chief Constable appointments and the annual report.

Further sections of the report covered the strategic policing requirement, policing protocol and PCC funding. Next, the report focused on the PCP for Derbyshire. At a meeting on 25th January 2012 agreements had been reached on the composition of the Panel. An outstanding issue was whether the City or County Council would become host authority, although it was becoming increasingly likely that this function would rest with the County Council. This section of the report also touched on the funding arrangements and proposals for each local authority to fund its PCP member expenses and the cost of hosting a meeting, without recourse to PCP funding. The final section of the report focused on the transitional arrangements.

There was discussion about the Panel composition, which would comprise an elected Member representative from each authority in the County with two independent appointments. The requirements for political balance might necessitate additional co-options. The Committee discussed the funding aspects, particularly the expectation that there would be a residual cost for the host authority and the proposal for each authority to meet their representative's expenses for attending meetings. The outcome of the election process was clearly a key issue. It was noted that the deadline for nominations was October. The Committee also explored the implications for the South Derbyshire Partnership. The Chair of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership had received a further briefing document and he offered to circulate this to the Committee. He read extracts of the document that stated the powers of the PCP. A suggestion was made that the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee attend meetings of the Local Strategic Board for the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership, as she had been nominated as this Council's representative on the PCP, once it was formed. Other issues discussed were potential sanctions against the PCC, the anticipated low turn out for the election and the limited time between the election and the budget setting process for the first full year of operation, which would likely restrict any significant changes to the current policing plan.

It was agreed to receive and note the report on the Police and Crime Commissioner and associated Police and Crime Panel.

MRS. A. PLENDERLEITH

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 5.35 p.m.