

The future of policing

There will be many changes to the policing landscape in the next few years, due to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill and the changes in the level of Government grants for policing.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill was published on 1 December 2010.

The Bill was made up of five parts and the section on Police Reform sets out the Government's intention to replace Police Authorities with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) by May 2012. The commissioner will be elected every four years and can serve for a maximum of two terms. They will be responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account, setting the budget, the precept and local policing priorities, appointing and where necessary dismissing the Chief Constable.

The Bill also sets out the intention to introduce Police and Crime Panels with a role to

advise and scrutinise the work of the PCC, and to repeal the Community Safety Partnership regulations to the one core duty for key partners to work together and the creation of a Community Safety Partnership at force level.

The introduction of PCCs will give the public direct influence over crime in their local area and the availability of crime mapping at a neighbourhood level in the New Year provides the public with the information to hold Community Safety Partners to account.

Once PCCs are introduced they will be responsible and democratically accountable for tackling crime at a local level, working alongside local partners. The public will be able to raise any concerns directly with them. Once PCCs

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are in a position to commission services locally, the majority of central government funding for crime and community safety programmes will be devolved to the PCC and they will work with CSPs and others to prioritise the issues that matter most to local residents.

The Bill will now be considered in depth by a Public Bill Committee who is expected to meet for the first time on Tuesday 18 January and complete its consideration by Thursday 17 February.

Police funding

The 2011/12 financial year is going to be an important one, not just for policing but for everyone.

The Authority and Constabulary have been working for sometime to see how policing services can be adapted to the reduction in budget by making the most of

our resources whilst making Hampshire and the Isle of Wight even safer places.

The Government grant paid to Hampshire Police Authority has been reduced by 4% for 2011/12 and 6% 2012/13. The Neighbourhood policing grant will be retained in 2011/12 and 2012/13 and from 2013 it will

be rolled into the Police Main Grant with 90% of the grant ring fenced for PCSOs.

There is currently a review of the whole of the constabulary underway to ensure we are in a position to meet the challenges presented by a reduced budget.

A chance to shape the future

The Police Authority carries out extensive consultation each year to find out what the public wants, and this year is no exception. We are currently running an electronic survey to find out how the public would like to interact with the police force in 2011 and beyond.

The public are being encouraged to share their views and experiences on a range of issues, including:

- when they last visited a police station in person and for what reason
- the future of police station front offices
- the role of alternative bases for police officers, such as local council offices or shopping centres
- what role technology should play when the public and the force interact.

We will also soon be undertaking our annual budget and policing priorities consultation. This year we are to consult the public about the numerous changes that are being planned to take place within the constabulary and how these will affect delivery of frontline services.

We are aware that many organisations also carry out also budget consultation at this time, and comments will often come out that do not relate to their core business. If you are working within an organisation that does receive a policing-related comment during the course of your consultation, we would be grateful if you could forward those comments to police.authority@hampshire.pnn.police.uk. Please note our budget decisions are made in February.

Proposed change to force areas

The Constabulary is proposing to replace the current six territorial OCUs with three policing areas Northern, Eastern and Western.

The proposed three policing areas will be structured as follows:

Northern

- Hart and Rushmoor District (merger of two districts)
- Basingstoke District
- Winchester and East Hampshire District (merger of two districts)
- Andover District (formerly part of Test Valley police district)

Eastern

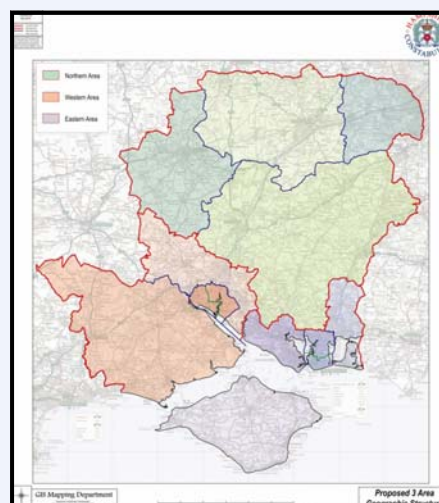
- Portsmouth District
- Fareham and Gosport District (merger of two districts)
- Havant District
- Isle of Wight District

Western

- New Forest District
- Southampton District
- Eastleigh District (including Romsey – formerly part of Test Valley police district)

Both the Authority and the Constabulary are keen to seek views on these proposals and welcome comments either by emailing police.authority@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or force.change.team@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or by calling 0845 045 4545. For more information click here.

Once agreed, an incremental roll-out of the new structure will take place through to April 2012.



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