

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

HOME OFFICE REVIEW OF POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS – PART ONE

24 NOVEMBER 2020

SUMMARY

In July, the Home Office announced that it would be undertaking a review of the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), the first such exercise since their inception in 2012. The intention is to ‘sharpen accountability, scrutiny and transparency’ and ensure that PCCs put the ‘law-abiding silent majority’ at the centre of decision-making.

The review delivers on the Government’s manifesto commitment to consider how to strengthen and expand the role of PCCs as well as looking to raise standards and improve accountability. It will also revisit the Government’s ambition to sharpen the governance of fire and rescue services. Additionally, it will look at how PCCs will align with the Government’s aim to increase the numbers of elected mayors with responsibility for policing. This was due to be detailed in the now delayed English Devolution and Local Recovery: White Paper.

The review is in two parts. The first took place over the summer and has been reported to Ministers (though not yet publicly) in October. The second stage will take place following the elections in May 2021 and will focus on longer term reform, including what additional powers PCCs may need to better fight crime.

The review will not consider scrapping the PCC model nor look at the existing 43 force structure.

The Home Office’s Terms of Reference for the first part of the review are attached to this paper (Appendix A), as is the PCC’s full response (Appendix B).

The Committee Manager (SCC) has included Surrey Police and Crime Panel’s response on the Home Office’s PCC Review: Part-one – Response to Local Government Association’s (LGA) Key Research Questions (Appendix C), as well as the LGA’s response – 17 September 2020 (Appendix D) and the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels’ – NAPFCP response (Appendix E).

RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the report and appendices.

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