ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

1.	Meeting:	Health & Wellbeing Board
2.	Date:	31 October 2012
3.	Title:	Police and Crime Commissioner
4.	Directorate/ agency:	South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat

5. Introduction

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 received Royal Assent in September 2011 and has brought changes to the policing landscape.   The government's intention in making these changes is to move from a culture of bureaucratic accountability to democratic accountability and to shift from central prescription to local discretion.   The current tripartite arrangement between the Home Secretary, Chief Constable and Police Authority alters to provide greater local accountability with the introduction of Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) who replace Police Authorities and a Police and Crime Panel. At time of writing there is a little less than one month before elections take place. Voters in England and Wales (outside London) will have the opportunity to elect a PCC on 15 November. Uniquely for local elections policing and community safety will be the focus of PCC election campaigns.

6. Recommendations

- **Members note the contents of the report and consider future engagement with the PCC post-election.**

7. Local Implications

The PCC, unlike the Police Authority will not be a statutory partner on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP), but must co-operate with the CSPs and have regard for the priorities of those CSPs in the Policing area. The PCC can call the chairs of all the CSPs in their area together to discuss specific issues and may require a CSP to provide a written report around a specific issue if not satisfied that the CSP is meeting its duties.

The Police Authority has developed an awareness raising campaign which endeavours to engage members of the public and partners around the generalities of the election and what the change in police governance might mean to them and with candidates by providing information on the force and the partnership landscape. A web site has been developed to give a web platform to this information (http://www.southyorks.gov.uk/thinkpcc/home.aspx).

As part of the wider "& Crime" element of their role PCCs will consider the impact other partnerships, statutory boards and criminal justice organisations/partnerships may have on policing and crime in this area. To date South Yorkshire Police Authority has made contact with a variety of organisations/partnerships to begin developing wider links in anticipation of the incoming PCC.

7.1 Police and Crime Plan

The PCC is obligated to publish a five year police and crime plan by March 2013 which sets out the priorities for policing and crime in the force area. This document will be key in holding the Chief Constable to account for delivery against the PCC's priorities and will outline allocation of resources along with local priorities. Consultations with partners and partnerships are on-going; where strategy documents or intelligence assessments which set out the priorities of other organisations and/or partnerships are available they will be taken into consideration as part of the drafting process. As part of this work a copy of the Rotherham Health & Wellbeing Strategy has been provided and will be considered.

8. Election Information

The election will take place 15 November 2012, however subsequent elections will revert to the originally intended timescale, meaning the next election for PCC will take place May 2016.

8.1 Police Area Returning Officer (PARO)

Each Police Force area has a Police Area Returning Officer (PARO), the case of South Yorkshire the PARO is Andrew Frosdick (Barnsley MBC)

8.2 Candidates

Candidate seeking election had until noon on 19 October to register their candidacy, it is our understanding that five candidates in South Yorkshire have submitted for the election, all candidates represent a political party; Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrats, English Democrats and UKI

9. Contact

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