

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 7 NOVEMBER 2012

**DRAFT PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION AND THE
POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report

1. To seek the approval of the Scrutiny Commission, as the County Council's designated Crime and Disorder scrutiny body, to a protocol setting out how it will work with the Police and Crime Panel that will shortly be established (Appendix A).

Policy Framework and Background

2. Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions taken in connection with the discharge by the responsible Authorities of their Crime and Disorder Functions. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 complement the provisions under Section 19. The County Council has designated the Scrutiny Commission as the Crime and Disorder Committee and it carries out its functions primarily by reviewing and scrutinising the Annual Report of the Community Safety Partnership.
3. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), whose duties include setting the strategic priorities for the local police force and carrying out functions in relation to community safety and crime prevention. The first such Commissioners will be elected on 15 November and take up their duties on 22 November.
4. The Act also requires Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) to be set up in each police force area to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account, by acting as a support and challenge.
5. Given that both the Commission and the PCP will have a common aim in relation to scrutinising the delivery and effectiveness of measures aimed at reducing crime and disorder and enhancing public safety, a protocol has been drafted to ensure that they:
 - (i) work in a climate of mutual respect and courtesy;
 - (ii) have a shared understanding of their respective roles, responsibilities and priorities;
 - (iii) promote and foster an open relationship where issues of common interest and concern are shared in a constructive and mutually

supportive way;

- (iv) share work programmes, information or data they have obtained to avoid the unnecessary duplication of effort.

Resource Implications

- 6. None as a result of this report.

Recommendation

That the Scrutiny Commission approve the draft Protocol and, pending approval by the Police and Crime Panel on 23 November, the Chairman be authorised to sign the Protocol on behalf of the Commission.

Background Papers

Police and Justice Act 2006
Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009
Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Circulation under the Local Alert Issues Procedure

None.

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List of Appendices

- 7. Appendix A – Draft Protocol between the Police and Crime Panel and Leicestershire County Council’s Scrutiny Commission

Equal Opportunities Implications

- 8. The work of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Community Safety Partnerships seeks to safeguard all residents of Leicestershire; however, as crime and disorder disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in the community, it is important to ensure that both bodies are working to reduce this impact.