

Cumbria Police Authority**15 February 2012
Agenda Item No 6**

Report by the Chief Executive

POLICE AUTHORITY ISSUES**(a) Information Provision and Engagement with Prospective Candidates for Election as Police and Crime Commissioners**

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides for elections for a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to be held on 15 November 2012. The first PCC will serve until May 2016 and future elections will be held at four yearly intervals thereafter. A paper is being developed that will set out the arrangements to ensure that the Authority and Constabulary provide information to candidates and prospective candidates in an open and even-handed manner and that the workload in doing this is appropriately managed. In addition there will also be media comments either by journalists or by prospective candidates which will need careful consideration and how these will be dealt with by the Authority and Constabulary will also be set out in the paper.

This is an important piece of work for the transition process which needs to be in place as soon as is possible; it is also one that has to be carefully considered and measured in its approach. At the present time the principles have been discussed with the returning officer for the election and a draft has been prepared and is being discussed with the Constabulary.

To prevent any delay in finalising this work it is suggested that authority to sign it off be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chair/PCC Transition Lead Member. A copy of the draft would be circulated to all Members to enable them to feed in comments before the document is finalised.

Recommended: That,
(i) the position be noted; and
(ii) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chair/PCC Transition Lead Member to sign off the guidance.

**Stuart Edwards
Executive****7 February 2012 Chief**

Background documents: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Equality and Human Rights Act Implications: There are not considered to be any Equality Act 2010 or Human Rights Act implications. The potential impact of this proposal is considered to be low.

Community feedback: None known

Strategic risks: The risks with regard to managing contact with potential PCC candidates is included within the Transition Risk Register (Risk No.234) which is overseen by the Transition Board.