

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods & Community **DATE:** 10 September 2012
Services Scrutiny Panel

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PART I

TO NOTE

THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1 **Purpose of Report**

To update the Panel on the establishment of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel, which will play the role of scrutiny body to the newly elected Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner following the election to that post in November 2012.

2 **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

To note the report.

3 **Current Position**

The Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel (PCP) met officially for the first time on the 19 July 2012. This meeting focused primarily on the arrangements for the Panel, electing a Chair and Vice Chair for the year, agreeing the Rules of Procedure it will follow, discussing a communications plan for the Panel and reviewing the budget.

This initial meeting did, however, also begin looking at the outline work programme for the PCP. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election will take place on 15 November 2012, and once elected the PCC has to work very quickly to set out the Thames Valley priorities and strategic direction for next five years, this will be the Police and Crime Plan. With such a tight timescale imposed by legislation on the PCC, the PCP has to be focused on the details and priorities of a range of issues related to crime in order to assist the PCC in develop the Plan.

Initial discussions have seen the PCP looking at crime across all areas, but the challenge for all the elected members involved will be to keep the focus at the strategic level, while recognising the varying needs of the different communities across the Thames Valley.

7 **Conclusion**

This report provides an update on the work that is ongoing to develop the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel in the lead up to the election of the first Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner. Further briefing papers will be prepared as the Panel develops in order to keep members updated, and should any issues arise which the NCS Scrutiny Panel feels should be raised, arrangements will be made to add an item to the NCS Panel's work programme.

8 **Background Papers**

- 1 - Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 published by TSO (The Stationery Office)
- 2 - Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill report to the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel on 15 September 2011.
- 3 - Policing White Paper (Policy Briefing 5, Centre for Public Scrutiny) July 2010
- 4 - Policing and Social Responsibility Bill (Policy Briefing 8, Centre for Public Scrutiny) February 2011
- 5 - Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel report to the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel on 21 June 2012