

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Police and Crime Commissioner Elections 15 November 2012 | Status: | For Publication |
| Report to: | Full Council | Date: | 26 September 2012 |
| Report of: | Helen Lockwood | Portfolio Holder: | Customers, Licensing and Legal |
| Key Decision: | <input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/> | General Exception | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Equality Impact Assessment: | Required: | No | Attached: No |
| Biodiversity Impact Assessment | Required: | No | Attached: No |
| Contact Officer: | Joanne Smith | Telephone: | 01706 252445 |
| Email: | joannesmith@rossendalebc.gov.uk | | |

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1. | RECOMMENDATION(S) |
| 1.1 | That members note the contents of the report. |

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To inform members of the processes involved and the work being undertaken by Council officers.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **A healthy and successful Rossendale** – supporting vibrant communities and a strong economy.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

- 5.1 In September 2011, following Parliamentary approval, the Police and Social Responsibility Bill received Royal Assent and became an Act.

As a result, police authorities in England and Wales will be abolished in favour of directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The decision cemented the biggest change to affect policing in decades and brings forward a new style of police governance designed to strengthen the relationship between the police and the communities they serve. This means that in Lancashire on 15 November 2012, the public for the first time ever, will elect a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) who will be accountable for how crime is tackled.

PCCs will be able to set the priorities for the police within their force area, respond to the needs and demands of their communities more effectively, ensure that local and national priorities are suitably funded by setting a budget and the local precept, and hold to account the Chief Constable for the delivery and performance of the force. PCCs will not be expected to run the police. The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and to hold the police to

account.

- 5.2 The supplementary vote system has been chosen for these elections. This is currently the system used to elect mayors, the closest existing role to PCCs. Under the supplementary vote system, a voter is asked to indicate first and second preferences, therefore at the count if no candidate has 50 per cent of the first preference votes, the two candidates with the highest number of first preference votes go forward to a second round.

In the second round of counting ballots indicating a first preference for a candidate that lost the first round are reallocated according to the second preference indicated in the ballot paper.

- 5.3 A person can vote in the election of your PCC if they are on the electoral register in the area and are:
- a British citizen living in the UK or registered to vote as a crown servant or member of the armed services
 - a European Union citizen living in the UK
 - a Commonwealth citizen who either does not need leave to be resident in the UK, or has the necessary leave and is legally resident in the UK

- 5.4 The election in Lancashire will be run by a Police Area Returning Officer (PARO), appointed by the Secretary of State, to manage the election process. The PARO for Lancashire is Graham Burgess, Chief Executive of Blackburn with Darwen Council. Details of how to be nominated and the deposit, appointing agents, and campaign spending can be found by contacting: Linda Harling, Elections Manager, Blackburn with Darwen Council. Tel: 01254 585481, Fax: 01254 682201 or email voting@blackburn.gov.uk.

- 5.5 The thirteen Lancashire borough councils, in addition to Blackburn with Darwen, will each be run by a Local Returning Officer (LRO). The LRO for Rossendale is Helen Lockwood and she will be responsible for the provision of polling stations, polling materials, the count and staff in the same way as at other elections. The PARO will give directions and guidance to LROs to ensure consistency in the way the election is run across the area.

- 5.6 The purdah period for PCC elections has yet to be set by Home Office but is expected to begin at Notice of Election (-28 days) and will proceed along the lines of other elections. The council and its officers will continue with normal business whilst avoiding any action or publicity which is or might reasonably be perceived as being supportive of any party, candidate or opinion. Members should not do or say anything in their capacity as a Councillor which could be construed as conferring an improper advantage or disadvantage to a candidate. Members should not use council resources in support of any campaign including staff resources or the use of e-mail addresses and websites.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 All directly related costs incurred by Council, in facilitating the PCC elections, will be reimbursed in full by the Home Office.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 No comments.

8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 8.1 The relevant staff to administer the election are in the process of being recruited. A

comprehensive training package will be delivered. A communications plan has been delivered to support the delivery of the election.

No background papers