

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduces a directly elected individual to be the Police and Crime Commissioner for a policing area.

From 22 November 2012, North Yorkshire Police will be governed and held to account by an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). All registered voters will be able to vote for the PCC on 15 November 2012.

The Police and Crime Commissioner will aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within the force area.

To provide stronger and more transparent democratic accountability of the police, PCCs will be elected by the public to hold chief constables and the force to account; effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve.

PCCs will ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible, and will improve local relationships through building confidence and restoring trust. They will also work in partnership across a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

PCCs will not be expected to run the police. The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account.

Police and Crime Panel

A Police and Crime Panel (PCP) will also be introduced in every area to provide a 'check and balance' on the Police and Crime Commissioner.

They will scrutinise the PCC's work on behalf of the public on a regular basis. The PCC will discuss their plans with the Panel and take the Panel's views into account.

The PCP can veto the PCC's proposals for the Council Tax precept and the appointment of the Chief Constable.

The PCP will be made up of 10 local authority councillors and two independent people. Administrative support will be provided to the panel by the North Yorkshire County Council.

Police and Crime Commissioners The facts...

- The first election for PCCs will be 15 November 2012 (future elections will be in May from 2016)
- The “**Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire**” will directly replace North Yorkshire Police Authority from 22 November 2012
- PCCs will appoint the Chief Constable; who will appoint all other officers within the force
- PCCs will be required to determine local policing priorities, publish their police and crime plan, set a local precept (council tax element) and set the annual force budget in consultation with the chief constable. The plan will need to take account of national policing challenges, set out in a new 'Strategic Policing Requirement'
- The PCC will commission policing services from the chief constable (or other providers - in consultation with the Chief Constable). These services shall be set out in the plan where their objectives and funding will be publically disclosed
- The PCCs role will be greater than just police governance; the role will cover wider community safety issues with a duty to co-operate with criminal justice agencies
- PCCs will be scrutinised by a '**Police and Crime Panel**' involving local councillors and members of the public
- At the end of the financial year the PCC will publish an annual report setting out progress made against the objectives in the plan
- The PCC will publish annual financial accounts, showing how resources were used in respect of priorities and how value for money was secured
- PCCs will regularly consult and involve the public and have regard to local authority priorities
- PCCs will be able to require a report from the Chief Constable at any time about policing issues

PCCs will be the “voice of the people”