

Committee:	Date:
Police Committee	12 April 2013
Subject: Association of the Police and Crime Commissioner - Update	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update about the work of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), an organisation of which the City of London Corporation is a constituent member.

The APCC is the successor body of the former Association of Police Authorities (APA), and came into existence officially on 1 April 2013. The transitional period was led by Simon Duckworth, who as your Committee's representative to the APA, chaired the Shadow and Transitional Boards that oversaw the establishment of the APCC until March 2013.

Under Mr Duckworth's leadership, the APCC successfully garnered support from the 41 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and the remaining local policing bodies nationwide, all of which have now signed up to become full members. This met the expectations placed by the Home Secretary that the association should provide a single platform for all those involved in Policing Governance to engage effectively on national policing issues.

Recommendation

That the report be received and its contents noted.

Main Report

Background

1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced wide-ranging reforms of policing governance, with the key one being the election of the first Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in November 2012. There is now one PCC for every police force in England and Wales, with the exception of the City of London, the Metropolitan Police area and non-Home Office forces (e.g. British Transport Police, MoD Police, Civil Nuclear, etc.) all of which continue with separate governance arrangements. Of the 41 PCCs elected last November, 16 are Conservative, 13 are Labour and 12 are Independent (no affiliation to a mainstream party).

Transition

2. The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) describes its function as “enabling effective national engagement and supporting [PCCs] in their oversight of core national policing and crime functions”. It was set up as a Shadow Board as part of the structure of the Association of Police Authorities (APA) in May 2012 and it was commissioned by the Home Office to deliver a national representative body for PCCs and the remaining local policing bodies. At its first meeting on 9 May 2012, Simon Duckworth was elected as Chairman of the Board.
3. In October 2012, at the start of the PCC election campaign, the Shadow Board took the form of an interim body, thus overseeing the winding down of the APA and the establishment of the APCC as a company limited by guarantee. It remained in an interim form for the period leading up to March 2013, when its provisional funding (which originated from the legacy of the APA and from a Home Office grant) came to an end.
4. Following its creation, the APCC quickly became an essential source of information and support for prospective PCC candidates. It has been instrumental in championing the interest of PCCs in the context of the changing policing landscape, and its lobbying activities have included several meetings between Mr Duckworth and ministers and senior officials, as well as his presence at numerous events and the annual party conferences. Importantly, the APCC led a considerable effort in stirring up media and public interest in the November PCC elections.
5. The APCC aspired to reach out to all PCCs regardless of their political affiliation and presented a persuasive case for them to assemble in a single, representative body that would help them maximise their influence at a national level. It also argued for the inclusion of non-PCC bodies as these would provide considerable strength in numbers. Following extensive consultation and influencing led by Mr Duckworth, the decision to form was overwhelmingly endorsed by all PCCs at their first ever meeting on 23 January, in an event hosted in Guildhall.

Current Position

6. Membership of the APCC is open to all PCCs and other policing governance bodies. Constituent members were keen to see a ‘light-touch’ approach to leadership and governance. Unlike the former APA, it was agreed to adopt the formula ‘one area, one vote’ for full members (i.e. the 41 PCCs plus the City of London, MOPAC, and BTP). There are a further six associate members with no voting rights which pay a reduced rate. The subscription fees for 2013/14 were set as follows:-

- Full members: £19,750
- Associate members: £5,000 (subject to review)

7. A budget of £899,000 was agreed for 2013/14. A 'single service package' allows all members to receive the same level of service and gives them the ability to commission the APCC for additional services 'on demand' at an additional cost. It was also agreed that a review of staff remuneration would be carried out by the APA Board, in view of the budgetary pressures facing all police forces in the country.
8. In terms of leadership, it was agreed to establish a Board of Directors comprising 2 Lab representatives, 2 Con representatives, 2 from among the independents and 1 from the Governance Bodies (non-PCCs), all on a rotating annual basis. The Chair of the Board of Directors is elected at the first meeting of the year with Tony Lloyd, PCC for Greater Manchester (Lab), having been elected on the 21st March. The remaining Directors for 2013/14 are as follows:-
 - Vera Baird, PCC for Northumbria (Lab)
 - Sir Graham Bright, PCC for Cambridgeshire (Con)
 - Anthony Stansfeld, PCC for Thames Valley (Con)
 - Ron Ball, PCC for Warwickshire (Ind)
 - Simon Hayes PCC for Hampshire (Ind)
 - Simon Duckworth, City of London
9. In addition to the Board of Directors, the APCC will also have a Reference Group comprising 12 members appointed from the constituent groups plus a representative from Wales and MOPAC. The group will enable closer engagement on ongoing policing issues, although it will not have executive powers.

Benefits of Membership for the City of London

10. The City of London was an active and prominent member of the APA, particularly following the APA review of governance in 2008, which saw the City of London taking a seat on the APA Board as a representative of the non-geographic group of authorities. The APCC offers the City an opportunity to engage with PCCs in what is now a markedly different policing landscape.
11. The City is currently well positioned to continue to exercise influence in this arena, with our place on the Board of Directors and the Reference Group. PCCs nationwide have recognised the considerable work which the City, through the work of the Chairman of the APCC, has put into forming a national representative body.
12. The City of London had an annual allocation for the APA subscription, which, reflecting the different voting weighting structures used to be on average £11,000. The higher membership fees for the APCC reflect the fact that the City of London will have an equal vote in respect of all PCCs.
13. To fit with the timescales for confirming our willingness to become full members, a decision was sought using urgency procedures (pursuant to

Standing Order no.41b). This decision was approved by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Senior Member of the Police Committee on 15 March 2013. The membership fees continue to be met from the Town Clerk's local risk budget.

Conclusion

14. The newly-established APCC will provide the City of London Corporation, alongside other local policing bodies, with a platform to influence the Government in matters relating to local and national policing. The City of London Corporation was an active member of the APCC's predecessor, the APA, and is well positioned to continue to exercise influence in this new arena.

Appendices - None

Background Papers:

None

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