

Policing Green Paper Consultation response form

Completed consultation response forms should be sent no later than Friday 10th October 2008 to the following address:

Electronic: policinggreenpaper@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

By post:

Policing Green Paper Consultation Responses
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Date	10 October 2008
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Empowering Citizens

Chapter 1:

Improving the connection between the public and the police

1. How can we best ensure that neighbourhood policing teams can hear from as many people locally as possible in shaping their plans?

The Neighbourhood Policing Programme has been rolled out across England and Wales, giving every community access to a dedicated local team. The Neighbourhood Policing Team's role is to engage with their community so that the police can understand the community's priorities and tackle them. (Free response)

Regular meetings with local elected Members, partners and residents are an important forum for neighbourhood policing teams to listen to and work with local people. In South Warwickshire Safer Neighbourhood Panels are well established, engagement with and participation of local residents is improving, whilst Councillors are an integral part of these groups with an elected member always chairing.

A robust relationship exists between the District Councils and Neighbourhood policing teams which enables reporting of local issues raised by elected members (who have an extensive understanding of their local area), community groups and neighbourhood watch groups.

2. What is the most effective means of encouraging customer service in the police?

The police service's customers are the general law-abiding public. However, people are also more individually customers of the police service – for example as victims, witnesses, or citizens. This experience of the police service shapes perceptions and feelings of safety and confidence. (Free response)

South Warwickshire supports the view of the LGA that citizen focussed policing is the most effective means of encouraging customer service. Community engagement and meaningful consultation with local residents through meetings, surveys etc will enable local people to directly influence priority setting.

3. Given the core role of PCSOs – which is one of high visibility patrol, community engagement and problem solving - do PCSOs have the right powers to enable them to do their job?

The current powers available to a PCSO can be found on page 18 of the main document. (Free response)

South Warwickshire recognises the important role that PCSOs play but does not consider that PCSOs require any additional powers to enable them to do their job. We are concerned that changing the role of the PCSO by giving them greater powers would result in confusion about the role of the PCSO amongst local communities, and that the current success of PCSOs as a visible local police presence and valuable community contact may be lost.

4. How can we ensure that police authorities and local authorities everywhere cooperate in tackling local people's priorities – including ensuring that the local pledge is delivered everywhere?

The police are not solely responsible for crime and disorder reduction; it is important that they work alongside their partners such as the police authority, fire and rescue services, the local council and health trusts. It is important that they cooperate in order to make communities safe. (Free response)

Regular meetings between Police, Councils, partners and local people as outlined in question 1 will facilitate cooperation between agencies. In South Warwickshire the Police, Police Authority and local authorities are already actively engaged in developing and implementing strategies to tackle crime and disorder as Responsible Authorities within the CDRP and as partners in the Local Area Agreement.

5. What is the right balance between local council representation and independent members?

Under these proposals police authorities will have a majority of directly elected members, complemented by representation from local councils and independent members. (Free response)

South Warwickshire supports the LGAs view which opposes the replacement of Councillors on police authorities by directly elected Crime and Policing Representatives (CPRs). A reduction in councillor representation on the police authority would result in the loss of both the democratic accountability of councillors for service delivery, and councillors experience and knowledge of their local area. It would also present barriers to successful partnership working between police authorities and local authorities, and decision about local authority budgets and police budgets are more likely to be taken in isolation.

South Warwickshire has additional concerns about the ability of elected CPRs to represent very local views, and the opportunity for the election of representatives with extremist or narrow views. There will also be significant financial implications of holding elections for CPRs.

6. To what extent might police authorities be able to allocate part of their budgets by participatory budgeting?

Participatory budgeting is when ordinary citizens are able to decide how to allocate elements of a budget. (Free response)

South Warwickshire support the LGAs view that the money proposed for the Community Safety Funds should be held by the CDRP, which would be in a position to commission policing and community safety services to tackle local issues, and could be held accountable for the use of funding through the local authority.

The CDRP's are best placed to allocate funding to address issues raised in the strategic assessment. It doesn't matter where it comes from.

7. What other community safety budgets do you think might be suitable to be allocated in this way? *(Free response)*

South Warwickshire believes that the CCA process can only work with democratically elected members and does not consider it be appropriate for CPRs. CPRs would not have enough authority to fully represent local views or have the knowledge and experience of the broader issues for which local government is responsible. The role and functions of CPRs in relation to CCA would need to be clearly defined.

There is also a need to ensure that CCAs are issues of local community concern and there is a mechanism in place to demonstrate evidence of a genuine issue.

8. Do you consider the creation of the Communities Safety Fund to be the best way to use the money that currently makes up the BCU fund?

The BCU Fund is currently used at Basic Command Unit level to help deliver crime and disorder reduction locally and promote partnership working. The Community Safety Fund will be available to Crime and Policing Representatives to allow them to address locally identified priorities. (Free response)

In line with LGA view the proposal to create CPR's is unlikely to be helpful in this respect as very local views and minority groups will not be properly represented.

9. How might the Councillor Calls for Action be best used to complement the broader changes to local accountability arrangements for policing?

Councillor Calls for Action is a new power enabling local people to raise issues of concern on local Government and Crime and Disorder matters. The Councillor Calls for Action would allow councillors to raise local concerns with the relevant member of the local CDRP. In extreme cases it would allow the local councillor to refer a concern to the relevant overview and scrutiny committee for further action. (Free response)

No response.

Professionalising and freeing up the police

Chapter 2:

Reducing bureaucracy and developing technology

1. How can we best involve frontline officers and staff in designing more effective and less bureaucratic processes?

We ask a lot of the police and so it is critical that they are able to focus on meeting those priorities in the most efficient way possible. We believe that frontline officers are best placed to identify what is effective and what is not. We propose that we create bureaucracy champion who will convene a frontline practitioners group to test proposals of the police service, Government and CJS for impact on the frontline. (Free response)

No response.

2. How can we ensure that new forms of bureaucracy do not replace those that we are committed to reducing? *(Free response)*

No response.

3. How best, together, can we tackle the risk aversion that Sir Ronnie Flanagan identified? *In his Report, Sir Ronnie Flanagan identified a number of areas that together had helped to create the bureaucracy that now surrounds the police. Sir Ronnie identified that the majority of these reasons stemmed from risk aversion. (Free response)*

No response.

Chapter 3:

Defining roles and leadership in the police service

The NPIA will consult on how we can ensure that constables gain a wide professional understanding of their force's work through their initial training and deployment, and their subsequent development, balancing this requirement practically with the need to provide constables with the specialist skills to enable them to deliver professionally in the complex environment of 21st Century policing. The NPIA will also consult on how best to ensure that all new Police Constables are trained in providing the best possible quality of service to the public.

- 1) How can we best change the operation of Senior Appointments Panel to make it more proactive in succession planning and appointments, with greater strategic input into leadership development?

Currently the Senior Appointments Panel spends most of its time discussing individual chief officer applications to posts as they arise. We are proposing that in future, the SAP spends relatively more time on the strategy for the management of the overall pool of top police talent. (Free response)

No response.

- 2) How should a scrutiny gateway for the renewal of fixed term appointments work? (Free response)

No response.

- 3) What is needed to recognise that it can be right for chief officers to leave a force before the expiration of their contract because that is best way forward for the individual or for the organisation?

Sometimes it can be right for an individual to leave before the end of their fixed term appointment not necessarily due to poor performance but because it is best for the individual or organisation. (Free response)

No response.

- 4) How can we establish better succession mechanisms, including in poor performing forces?

Currently candidates apply for chief officer roles as and when they are advertised and there is little/no succession planning. (Free response)

No response.

- 5) The government would also appreciate views on the proposed approach to Regulation 11's provisions on serving in another force as chief officer before becoming a chief constable.

Legislation demands that a chief officer must have served at least 2 years at chief officer rank in another force if they wish to become a chief constable. Regulation 11 allows for this to be waived in exceptional circumstances. (Free response)

No response.

Chapter 4:

Focusing on development and deployment

1. The Government would be grateful for initial views on its outline three-year equality, diversity and human rights strategy for the police service.

We are proposing to set minimum equality standards for policing, support and work with statutory staff associations and diversity staff support groups and to explore the possibility of widening the interpretation of the Genuine Occupational Requirement to increase representation of under represented groups in the police service and higher ranks of the organisation. (Free response)

No response.

2. The Government would be grateful for views on what impact (positive, negative or none) will the Green Paper proposals have on communities, police officers and staff from diverse backgrounds. This will inform further development of the Equality Impact Assessment for the Green Paper. *(Free response)*

No response.

Strategic role for Government

Chapter 5:

Co-ordinating change in policing

1. Are our proposals for strengthening the National Policing Board and encouraging collective action on the small number of issues that demand national attention right?

*The National Policing Board is made up of representatives from NPfA, ACPO, APA, SOCA, HMIC and the Home Office. The NPB is the main forum for discussions on policing, allowing structured discussions on key strategic issues, and providing governance to joint work conducted at lower levels. In order for its support to be well-targeted, a new approach to decision-making is needed based on an agreed set of principles. We propose that these principles form the 'rules for engagement' which help determine when it is right for decisions to be taken nationally, encouraged regionally, or devolved locally. *(Free response)**

No response.

2. Using the principles we have outlined, what issues should be decided at the national, regional and local level, and who should have responsibility for taking those decisions?

*The principles outlined in the Green Paper are the importance of whether **operational benefit** and **cost-effectiveness** are maximised at that level. The decision-making level should be **proportionate** to the scale to the problem, and enable **risk** to be managed effectively. Those responsible for a decision should have the right **skills and resources** to deliver and to innovate, and should be **accountable** for their decisions. There should also have sufficient **resilience and flexibility** to meet changing demands and to ensure a **consistent** and high-quality approach is in place. (Free response)*

No response.

3. In what areas of policing should we give greater freedoms to frontline practitioners to enable them to deliver on local priorities and on seriousness in the most effective and efficient way? (Free response)

Police forces are currently piloting a scheme which allows officers discretion over making arrests rather than focusing on achieving set targets.

No response.

Chapter 6:

Reinforcing collaboration between forces

1. What more can be done to build upon present policing arrangements to improve the security of our borders?

Currently there three main policing functions at ports, who work alongside the UKBA; Special Branch is responsible for national security and counter terrorism matters, Protective Security provide policing to secure the port infrastructure and General Policing deal with crime and disorder. (Free response)

No response.

2. If a border policing agency were created, how far should links with local forces and local accountability be preserved?

Any border policing agency independent of local forces would require a police authority-like structure to scrutinise its activities. We have proposed that locally elected Crime and Policing Representatives should make up a significant proportion of a police authority. (Free response)

No response.

3. What are the operational benefits and risks of creating a national police border force as proposed by ACPO?

ACPO propose creating a separate national police border force in England and Wales that would focus on all aspects of security and law enforcement at the borders, under its own chief constable. (Free response)

No response.

4. Are there any variations to ACPO's national policing model that could offer greater operational benefits than those currently being delivered under the present arrangements? *(Free response)*

No response.

5. What would be the main costs?

Proposals for changing present structures would need to be both affordable and cost effective. (Free response)

No response.

6. Will structural reform be required?

The scope and timing of changes to police structures may be dependant upon new legislation. Some would require constitutional changes to the police service, others just changes to working practices. (Free response)

No response.

Respondent information

How did you find out about the consultation?

- a) from the Home Office
- b) on line
- c) Through our organisation**
- d) through friends
- e) through an event
- f) through the media
- g) other (please specify)

How are you replying to us?

- a) by e-mail**
- b) by post
- c) at an event
- d) other (please specify)

Please indicate the region of the UK you are from, or the organisation that you represent is based:

- a) England**
- b) Scotland
- c) Wales
- d) Northern Ireland

Are you a: (please tick all that apply)

- a) member of the general public
- b) member of the police force
- c) member of a police body (eg police authority / ACPO / APA)
- d) local government
- e) central government
- f) other (please specify) CDRP**
