

Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner

Topic: Association of Police & Crime Commissioners (APCC)

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Purpose of briefing

To appraise the new Commissioner of national membership organisation, the APCC.

Background

The APCC:

- Is the national membership organisation for PCCs and equivalents, providing a national voice into government and other national bodies, enabling PCCs to work together and share good practice and supporting them and their offices to implement policy locally
Is led by a Chair, two Vice Chairs and four other Board members drawn from and elected by the organisation's membership, with PCCs providing national leadership on thematic areas of work as portfolio leads and deputy leads
- Plays an important national role because it is by coming together that PCCs are best able to influence change and shape policy. A national body enables PCCs to maximise their ability to influence at a national level and deliver on their Police and Crime Plans.
- Is supported by the APCC secretariat, which is led by the Chief Executive and a small team of policy and communications specialists, with experience in local policing governance bodies, criminal justice, health and mental health and local government.

The APCC provides the national voice for PCCs into government and a wide range of national bodies, so that the expertise and role of PCCs can influence and drive national policy developments on policing, crime, and criminal justice, and contribute to reducing crime, supporting victims, and keeping the public safe.

The APCC is largely funded through membership fees, as well as receiving some time-limited funding from government for specific pieces of work. Its role includes:

- supporting PCCs to play a lead role in the development of national, regional, and local policy and strategy on crime reduction
- enabling PCCs to play a full and active role in the national leadership and governance of policing including through the National Policing Board, and working with other key policing organisations such as the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the College of Policing (CoP), as well as in the development of regional structures to tackle crime like Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU)
- working with PCCs to shape and influence national policy and strategy in key areas such as reducing crime, workforce development, digital and technology, police finances and resourcing, Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) and specialist capabilities, criminal justice improvements, support for victims, crime prevention and local partnership working
- championing local decision making and the role of PCCs in ensuring that police and criminal justice services address local priorities and are accountable to the communities that they serve
- support PCCs to take the lead in transforming policing through digital, technology and enabling services - including establishing and developing national ICT and commercial capabilities such as the Police ICT Company and BlueLight Commercial

- creating opportunities for PCCs to come together to share good practice and learning, tap into research and evidence, draw on expertise, and to develop shared positions and approaches where this can deliver improved outcomes for the communities that they serve
- supporting PCCs to work within and across their political groups to develop policy positions and influence government
- supporting PCCs to work with key national partners outside of policing – for example, the Local Government Association (LGA), Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, and Public Health England.
- advising PCCs on their statutory role in law and governance responsibilities – e.g., transparency, dealing with complaints and performance
- supporting the Offices of PCCs (OPCCs) to engage with national policy and strategy and to share good practice and learning, working with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Chief Executives (APACCE) and the Police and Crime Commissioners Treasurers Society (PACCTS)
- and supporting those PCCs who seek to take on responsibility for governance of fire and rescue services.

Decisions Needed

The new Commissioner is recommended to become a member of the APCC. Currently all PCC are members, as is MOPAC, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, City of London Police Authority, and MoD Police Authority.

Partnership Involvement

Membership of the APCC will facilitate partnership working and networking opportunities for the sharing of knowledge and good practice.

Police Involvement

The APCC also runs a yearly joint national conference with the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC). The event, held in the autumn, provides an opportunity for PCCs and Chief Constables to come together to discuss national policy.

People to Meet

Chief Executive Susannah Hancock

Cat McIntyre

Eddie Smithwick

Andrew Tremayne