

AGENDA ITEM 29

Policing in the 21st century - reconnecting police and the people **From the Home Office website**

The Home Office 'Policing in the 21st century' consultation closed on 20 September 2010. It looked at how the police in England and Wales can be made more available and responsive, more accountable, more effective, and deliver better value for money.

Key proposals in four main areas are:

Increasing democratic accountability by:

- abolition of Police Authorities
- directly elected *Police and Crime Commissioners*

Removing bureaucratic accountability by:

- removal of central targets and performance management
- reducing bureaucracy and form filling

A national framework for efficient local policing by:

- better value for money in local policing
- collaboration between forces
- introducing a new National Crime Agency

Tackling crime together by:

- encouraging people to get involved
- criminal justice system reform
- removing unnecessary prescription and bureaucracy for partnerships

Over 800 responses were received, including 444 online covering a wide range of issues. A response document will be published on the Home Office website, summarising the responses received.

A number of the proposed changes will feature in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, to be published later in the year.

Some ideas received for consideration during the consultation have been:

Local policing

Ask local people what information they want from their local police, is it crime information, road traffic collision data, complaints. Once this is identified it should be published on the internet. This will prevent, rightly, forces being compared against each other which ends up as a game...to be the best.

Volunteer network

Create a volunteer network to assist paid PCSOs - maybe doing some 'back room' functions, arranging events, etc. There's a wealth of untapped knowledge in local areas, use it!

One-stop shop

Develop a seamless one-stop shop approach between agencies which is victim-centred and allows making direct connections between harm suffered and remedy. In other words, make it worthwhile for a victim to report crime in full confidence of achieving a timely and positive outcome.

Neighbourhood Watch

Greater recognition for Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, victim support, Special Constables etc through the honours system.

Police and Crime Commissioners

The public should have the genuine ability to get in touch with the Police and Crime Commissioner should they wish to. Via letters, or set surgery hours. The Police and Crime Commissioner should be able to record and report all public interactions, in order to evidence his/her commitment to engaging, and what issues have been discussed during that engagement.