

Suggested consultation responses

Consultation questions	Comment(s)
<p><u>Increasing Democratic Accountability</u></p> <p>1. Will the proposed checks and balances set out in this Chapter provide effective but un-bureaucratic safeguards for the work of Commissioners, and are there further safeguards that should be considered?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A difficult area issue in endeavouring to preclude ‘extremist’ or ‘one issue’ candidates from succeeding at an election. Need also to ensure that political patronage is not allowed to cloud the process
<p>2. What could be done to ensure that candidates for Commissioner come from a wide range of backgrounds, including from party political and independent standpoints?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another difficult area in seeking a balance between attracting a wide spread of candidates whilst at the same time dealing with concerns alluded to in the comments in question 1. above. Possibly the use of deposits, such as in elections might be considered to prevent frivolous candidatures.
<p>3. How should Commissioners best work with the wider criminal justice and community safety partners who deliver the broad range of services that keep communities safe?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the focus on local policing • Ensure local priorities are reflected • Commissioner representative on local CSPs (replace existing Police Authority representation), although for this to be practical there may need to be mergers of CSPs • Commissioner to be part of Safer Essex (force level group)
<p>4. How might Commissioners best engage with their communities – individuals, businesses and voluntary organisations - at the neighbourhood level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through existing channels including Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPS) resident associations and so on • Working with CSP partners to consult jointly • Some concern here regarding force wide Commissioners (i.e. all of Essex) and how that person will be able to engage with communities effectively other than through the appointment of a number of Commissioner representatives and/or the merging of existing CSPs
<p>5. How can the Commissioner and the greater transparency of local information drive improvements in the most deprived and least safe neighbourhoods in their areas?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the right resources are in the right place avoiding situations where the ‘person who shouts loudest’ gets the most attention. • Work with all partners to tackle issues • Ensure a good flow of accurate information on which to base decisions
<p>6. What information would help the public make judgements about their force and Commissioner, including the level of detail and comparability with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of clear language • Move away from the current target driven mentality focusing instead on

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other areas?	<p>the issues that are important to the local community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clear definitions (i.e. through both simpler definitions and fewer categories of crime)
<p><u>Removing Bureaucratic Accountability</u></p> <p>7. Locally, what are examples of unnecessary bureaucracy within police forces and how can the service get rid of this?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Prevent” and the bureaucracy surrounding the Counter Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLP) • Being able to decide locally what is appropriate, rather than central direction irrespective of local circumstances. This is particularly relevant in a force area such as Essex, with wide variations in its demographic makeup, and districts such as EFDC bordering a number of London Boroughs • How information is shared, with the provision of simpler and fewer information sharing protocols
8. How should forces ensure that information that local people feel is important is made available without creating a burdensome data recording process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be clear by asking people what they think they need, rather than giving them what the police think they need. This could easily result in less but more useful information provision
9. What information should HMIC use to support a more proportionate approach to their ‘public facing performance role’, while reducing burdens and avoiding de-facto targets?	
10. How can ACPO change the culture of the police service to move away from compliance with detailed guidance to the use of professional judgement within a clear framework based around outcomes?	
11. How can we share knowledge about policing techniques that cut crime without creating endless guidance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for secondment for Police Officers to different forces to see good practice • Provide a Good Practice database such as the “Local Government Regulation” (formerly LACORS) Local Government tool
<p><u>A National Framework for efficient local Policing</u></p> <p>12. What policing functions should be delivered between forces acting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Policing

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collaboratively?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical work • Specialist resources such as (air support, marine, diving unit, scenes of crime, firearms and public order response, centralised intelligence handling). • Counter terrorism work • Prolific Offenders work • Back office functions
13. What are the principal obstacles to collaboration between forces or with other partners and how they can they be addressed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information /Intelligence data systems that do not talk to each other • Parochialism with forces failing to work and plan forwards together. This can be an issue between the Essex Police and the Metropolitan Police for example • Culture of target driven senior officers, which in significant part is driven by the target culture of central government, which can result in a failure to sometimes fully recognise the benefits of partnership working and the pooling of resources
14. Are there functions which need greater national co-ordination or which would make sense to organise and run nationally (while still being delivered locally)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counter terrorism • Internet Crime • Specialist Units • Organised crime • Border issues • Child Protection violent & sex offender monitoring to comply with Richard Enquiry.
15. How can the police service take advantage of private sector expertise to improve value for money, for example in operational support, or back office functions shared between several forces, or with other public sector providers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be opportunities for public sector partners to provide and/or share back office functions such as HR, payroll and the like. • Spend time with partners to learn what they do, how they do and develop best practice solutions to common problems
16. Alongside its focus on organised crime and border security, what functions might a new National Crime Agency deliver on behalf of police forces, and how should it be held to account?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Crime originating from outside UK borders • Sex Offenders • When operating locally it should be accountable to the newly created Commissioners or where relevant to groups of Commissioners

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<p>17. What arrangements should be in place in future to ensure that there is a sufficient pool of chief officers available, in particular for the most challenging leadership roles in the police service? Is there a role for other providers to provide training?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training for Senior Police Officers in the workings of Local Government and other partner agencies • Have a system whereby senior officers spend time with all statutory partner organisations to see how partners work • Senior police officers must be less insular in their approach to partner organisations
<p>18. How can we rapidly increase the capability within the police service to become more business-like, with police leaders taking on a more prominent role to help drive necessary cultural change in delivering sustainable business process improvement?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See comments in 17. above
<p><u>Tackling Crime together</u></p> <p>19. What more can the Government do to support the public to take a more active role in keeping neighbourhoods safe?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make ASB and low level crime more of a priority for Police with a requirement for them to improve their responses to minor ASB thereby building a better rapport with the public • Reallocate resources to provide additional funding and support for neighbourhood Natch • Work with insurance companies to offer premium incentives for members of Neighbourhood Watch (NW) • Make membership of schemes such as Pub Watch and “Behave or Be Banned” (BOBB) Scheme mandatory for license holders
<p>20. How can the Government encourage more people to volunteer (including as special constables) and provide necessary incentives to encourage them to stay?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make volunteering more accessible through working with employers to release staff to volunteer • Consider 6 month voluntary work with the Police or similar agencies compulsory for school/college leavers, or as part of pre-employment training
<p>21. What more can central Government do to make the criminal justice system more efficient?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More victim focused. At present the balance lies too much with the perpetrator of crime and not with the victim. This discourages victims from coming forward to seek redress • The greater use restorative justice, thereby keeping some low level

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	<p>crime out of the mainstream justice process altogether</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding justice up. Too many cases take too long to bring to a conclusion, again discouraging victims from coming forward or from assisting the police in criminal investigations. This is also linked with retoring the balance between the victim and the criminal • Consider use of FPNs for ASB which PCSOs could issue.
22. What prescriptions from Government get in the way of effective local partnership working?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arbitrary campaigns – one size does not fit all • Too many information sharing protocols – have one National Information Sharing Protocol