

Supplementary Agenda

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 8 October 2005

Subject: Consultation on the structure of Essex Police.

Officer contact for further information: J Scott

Committee Secretary: Simon Hill (ext 4249)



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) That the consultation on the structure of the Essex Police be noted;**
- (2) To consider whether the Council should respond to the consultation; and**
- (3) That subject to recommendation (2) above to determine:**
 - (i) that a special meeting of this Committee be held to consider the matter in detail; or**
 - (ii) the appointment of members to be authorised to respond on behalf of the Council;**

Report

1. Attached to this report are copies of a consultation document issued by the Essex Police Authority and Essex Police in relation to a best value review currently being carried out in relation to policing and Force Structure, a press release and notice of a public meeting to be held in Ongar on Wednesday 12 October at 7.30 p.m.
2. The Police are seeking the views of partner organisations to identify external considerations that will impact on their ability to act effectively with partners for the benefit of the community. They say they are seeking extreme perspectives in general and will welcome any considerations which the Council feel they should take into account in their deliberations on which structure represents the best for Essex.
3. The Consultation Document was issued on 23 September 2005 and asks for written submissions by 25 October 2005.
4. If the Committee is minded to agree that the Council should respond then it is necessary to agree how such a response should be put together. The options appear to be a special meeting of the Committee or the appointment of a small panel of members who are authorised to submit a response.
5. In that connection, the Committee should note that there will be a public debate on the proposals at the next meeting of the Police and Community Consultative Group which is programmed to be held at the Great Stony Arts and Education Centre in Ongar at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 12 October 2005. It would be helpful if the members authorised to agree the response could attend that meeting. This would

then be followed up with one further meeting at which the reply to be sent by the Council could be agreed.

6. The Council has appointed members to serve on the Police and Community Consultative Group and the current representatives are:

Epping Section- Councillors P Gode, R Haines, Mrs S Perry, Mrs J Whitehouse

Loughton Section - Councillors M Cohen, Mrs J Davis, J Hart and L Martin.