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## REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

### 1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

#### Essex Wide Police and Crime Panel

- 1.1 This item of business was referred by the Executive on 8 February 2012 to Full Council with a recommendation relating to the appointment of a representative to the Police and Crime Panel.
- 1.2 The legislation associated with introducing elected Police and Crime Commissioners (the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011) establishes Police and Crime Panels (PCP), who will have a role in holding elected Police and Crime Commissioners to account. Each council in the force area will need to appoint a councillor onto the PCP, which needs to have a minimum of 10 councillors and two co-opted members. The maximum size is 20 members, unless there is agreement by the Home Secretary to a larger number. Thus in Essex, we will be looking at a PCP of at least 17 members – 15 councillors plus 2 co-opted members. The key functions of a PCP include potentially vetoing the police precept, reviewing the Police and Crime Plan and, potentially, vetoing the appointment of the Chief Constable. The Panel does not replace the Police Authority; that is replaced by the elected Police and Crime Commissioner. The Panel is seen as a ‘critical friend’ to the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 1.3 The PCP will in many ways be similar to Overview and Scrutiny Panels and Select Committees in holding the PCC to account. It is important that provisional arrangements are in place by the next municipal year, so that the PCP is ready to operate from the time the PCC is in existence. A nominated term would normally be 2 years.
- 1.4 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES** that the representative on the Police and Crime Panel should be the Portfolio Holder for Young Persons, Adult Services, Community Care and Well-being, Health and Community Safety.  
(CE)

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