

Transition to Police and Crime Commissioner

From 15 November 2012, Kent Police Authority will be replaced by a Police and Crime Commissioner directly elected by people in Kent and Medway.

This follows Parliament's approval of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act which received Royal Assent on 15 September 2011.

Police and Crime Commissioners have been introduced by the Government with the aim of improving police accountability.

Ann Barnes, Chair of the Kent Police Authority:

'The Police Authority has been an important and prominent fixture of policing for nearly half a century. It will go and in its place will come a directly elected person who alone will hold Kent Police to account, scrutinise its actions and determine its priorities.

'It is important for the public to realise that the Commissioner is not replacing the Chief Constable, but the Commissioner will in future shape the direction of policing in a very profound way.

'Kent Police Authority is working with the force and partners across the county to ensure a smooth transition to the PCC era, and is committed to continue this until the PCC takes office.'

Police and Crime Commissioners will:

- Ensure the police force is efficient and effective
- Issue the policing precept (policing/police element of council tax)
- Set the police budget and receive all policing grants
- Prepare and issue a police and crime plan
- Consult, engage and provide information to the public
- Appoint, and if necessary, dismiss the chief constable
- Deal with complaints and other disciplinary matters regarding the chief constable
- Award crime and disorder grants
- Hold the chief constable to account for the totality of policing in the force area