



# HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES COLLABORATION (POLICING AND CRIME BILL)

Tom Hewins, Broxbourne Borough  
Council

**Item 8**

**17 March 2016**

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That the Panel notes the changes being made through the Policing and Crime Bill.**

### Purpose of Report

To update the Panel on the Policing and Crime Bill, as introduced to the House of Commons on 10 February 2016.

### The Policing and Crime Bill

The Policing and Crime Bill will further reform policing and enable changes to the governance of fire and rescue services. The changes aim to build capability, improve efficiency, increase public confidence and enhance local accountability.

The Policing and Crime Bill will support the transformation of policing and the fire service by:

- Enhancing local accountability of the fire and rescue service by enabling directly elected PCCs to take over the governance from Fire and Rescue Authorities where a local case is made.
- Driving efficiency and better value for money by facilitating closer collaboration between all three emergency services and maximising the ability of chief officers to make best use of the police officers, police staff and volunteers in their workforce.

- Strengthening public confidence and trust in the police by radically reforming and simplifying the police complaints and disciplinary systems, including by providing for an enhanced role for PCCs and the IPCC and greater protection for police whistle-blowers.
- Ensuring the police and other law enforcement agencies have the powers they need to prevent and detect crime and protect children and young people from sexual exploitation.
- Strengthening the protections for those under investigation by the police by ensuring that there is a proper balance between the rights of individuals and the need to protect the wider public.
- Ensuring that those experiencing a mental health crisis receive the help they need, and that police cells are only used as places of safety in exceptional circumstances.
- Reforming firearms and alcohol licensing laws to better protect the public by preventing criminals and terrorists from exploiting loopholes in the Firearms Acts and strengthening the ability of licensing authorities to take action against alcohol driven crime and disorder.

### **Further information about the Policing and Crime Bill**

Further information is available from the following links:

- Overview of the Policing and Crime Bill: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/499172/Factsheet\\_Overview.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/499172/Factsheet_Overview.pdf)
- Minor amendments to the legislation affecting police and crime commissioners: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/499293/Factsheet\\_PCC\\_amendments.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/499293/Factsheet_PCC_amendments.pdf)
- Emergency services collaboration: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/policing-and-crime-bill-emergency-services-collaboration>
- Wider information about the Policing and Crime Bill: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/policing-and-crime-bill>