

Approved By: Charles Garbett A/Chief Executive	Classification of Paper: Not Protectively Marked
Report to PCC	Report reference number PCC/0039/13
Date of Report 16 th August 2013	Area of County/Stakeholders affected Castle Point and Rochford Districts
Title of report: Merger of Castle Point and Rochford District Community Safety Partnerships	
Report by: Charles Garbett A/Chief Executive	
Enquiries to: Jerry Drewett Operating Manager	

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report sets out the formal request for the Police and Crime Commissioner, 'the relevant local policing body', to make a combination agreement with Castle Point and Rochford District Community Safety Partnerships.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Agree the request by Castle Point and Rochford District Community Safety Partnerships that they may formally merge into one partnership known as 'Castle Point and Rochford District CSP', by means of a Combination Agreement under the power vested in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, Schedule 11 s5(1A).

3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1 The benefits of the merger would be more effective use of resources in local arrangements, improving operational delivery to continue to drive down crime and disorder.
- 3.2 The merging of the two CSPs will provide greater flexibility to develop a local commissioning model for the delivery of local priorities. Joint priorities will provide a greater opportunity to apply for funding and make a larger community impact with developed initiatives.
- 3.3 The consequences of not proceeding would be the inability to realise those benefits. In addition, the CSPs would continue with their current informal arrangements.
- 3.4 There would be a possibility that if the CSPs did not merge and remained separate, the District Councils may not be able to properly resource two partnerships.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1 In June 2011, the two CSPs met individually to discuss and consult on the advantages or otherwise, of a merger.
- 4.2 The first Joint Castle Point and Rochford District Steering Group meeting was held on 12th July 2011 to consult on the merger paper and proposal to merge. An informal merger was agreed by both Steering Groups and this decision was agreed by the LSP Executive.
- 4.3 Membership of the joint steering group was reviewed in August 2011 and again in April 2013 to take into account changes to representation from Health as Clinical Commissioning Groups have now become statutory partners.
- 4.4 Terms of Reference and governance arrangements were agreed at a joint meeting on 25th August 2011. The joint CSP structure arrangements were approved.
- 4.5 In December 2011 application was submitted to the Home Office to formally merge both the CSPs into one. In July 2012 the Home Office declined approval, referring the decision to the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.6 In July 2013, a formal Combination Agreement application was submitted to this office.
- 4.7 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, Schedule 11s5 (1A) states "The relevant local policing body in relation to two or more local

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government areas in England may make a combination agreement with the responsible authorities in relation to those areas (the "combined area")." This section is the Police and Crime Commissioner's authority to formally agree the merger of the two CSPs, provided that the other requirements of the act are met.

4.8 This application meets those requirements.

5. Police and Crime Plan

5.1. The agreement meets a number of the PCCs key areas of focus and approach. The Police and Crime Plan (PCP) includes the championing of joint working, ensuring a district level focus and the commissioning of services through a community safety fund.

5.2. The first of the PCCs key areas of focus is 'Ensuring local solutions meet local problems' and the Combination Agreement will assist by allowing local resources to be delivered more effectively and efficiently to respond to local problems.

5.3. The priorities of the current informally 'merged' Castle Point and Rochford District Community Safety Partnership, includes reducing domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and integrated offender management. These priorities meet the following PCP areas of focus; reducing domestic abuse; reducing youth offending and re-offending in general and increasing efficiency in policing through collaborative working and innovation.

6. Police Operational Implications

6.1 None as Essex Police have already merged command of the two Districts under one District Commander.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None

8. Legal Implications

8.1 None

9. Staffing and other resource implications

9.1 None

10. Equality and Diversity implications

10.1 None

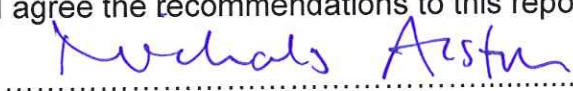
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Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the Chief Executive and CFO and the PCC Solicitor where legal implications arise.

Chief Executive/M.O 
Chief Financial Officer
PCC Legal Advisor (As necessary)

Decision

I agree the recommendations to this report

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PCC/Deputy PCC

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because
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PCC/Deputy PCC

Publication

Reasons for non-publication (state 'None' if applicable)

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Signed/Print name

Report for publication

YES

NO

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

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