

# Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panels – Member briefing

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# Structure of briefing

- The current system
- Context - police and crime in Essex
- Community safety strategy and priorities
- The Act and the new structure
- The Police and Crime Panel
- PCC funding
- The PCC electoral system
- PCC timeline
- PCC candidates and latest developments

# The current system

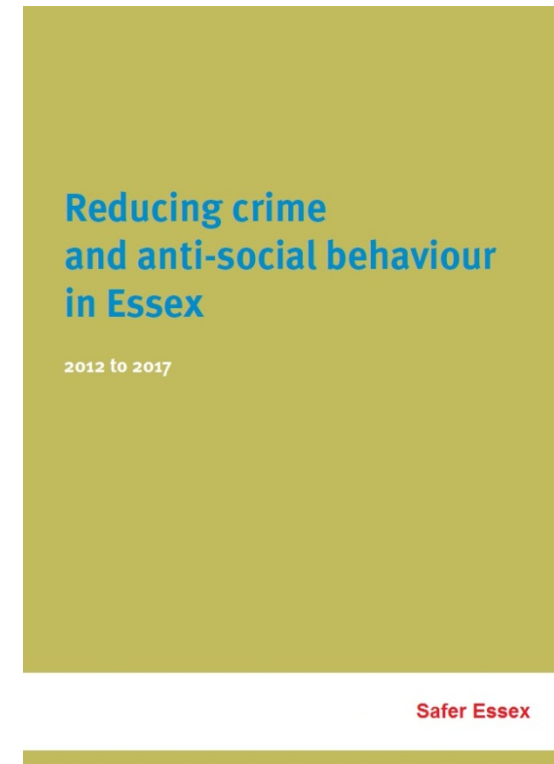
- Home Office grant allocated to top-tier authorities (Essex, Southend & Thurrock receive separate grants)
- Essex County Council use Safer Essex partnership to recommend funding allocations
- Each district Community Safety Partnership (CSP) receives funding to support local community safety activity
- Police authorities hold local force and Chief Constable to account
- Essex Police authority made up of 16 members, 7 of which are politically independent

# Police and crime in Essex

- Essex Police employs over 6,000 people, more than half of whom are Police Officers
- The annual force budget is £260m (£90m of which comes from council tax precept)
- Essex Police are working to identify savings of £42.2million between now and 2014-15
- Crime is consistently selected as the top priority by Essex residents in our regular tracker surveys
- Essex Police are on target to exceeding their goal of cutting all recorded crime by 1% in 2012-13
- Essex remains one of the safest places to live in the UK

# Strategy and priorities

- Safer Essex has produced a 5-year Reducing Crime and ASB in Essex strategy
- Strategy identifies 3 key priorities of domestic abuse, ASB and serious acquisitive crime
- Each priority is under-pinned by an action plan
- The Community Budgets pilot work was informed by the SE strategy
- The strategy is also intended to assist the PCC in developing their 5-year Police and Crime Plan



# Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011



The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 shifts power away from Whitehall bureaucrats and, through Police and Crime Commissioners, into the hands of the public



Supported by

Removal of targets

Crime maps

Beat meetings

101

Community Engagement

# The new structure

- PCCs are intended to give the public more of a say in local policing priorities, and how their force is run
- PCC will hold the Chief Constable to account, set priorities, and ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the force
- 41 PCCs to be elected across England & Wales
- Essex PCC area covers Essex, Southend and Thurrock
- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections to be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012
- PCC takes office on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, serves 4-year term
- Police Authority disbands once PCC elected

# The Police and Crime Panel



- Joint committee of all authorities in the Police force area
- In Essex; 18 members. Made up of:
  - 12 District, Borough and City councils, County council and 2 Unitary authorities
  - A minimum of 2 Independents
  - One Lib Dem member, to ensure political balance
- Essex County Council selected as host authority of the Panel
- Cllr John Jowers elected as PCP Chair



**Essex County Council**



# PCP Powers

The panel has the power to:

- Veto proposed precept and candidate for Chief Constable
- Review draft Police and Crime Plan, making recommendations to which the PCC must have regard
- Review PCC's Annual Report and make recommendations at a public meeting, which the PCC must attend
- Require attendance of the PCC at a meeting, and require access to any relevant reports
- Ask HMIC for a professional view when the PCC intends to dismiss a Chief Constable
- Hold confirmation hearings for the PCC's proposed appointments

# PCP veto power

PCC notifies Panel of proposed precept by **February 1<sup>st</sup>**

PCP considers precept and responds by **February 8<sup>th</sup>**

If PCP vetoes the precept, PCC has to respond with an amended precept by **February 15<sup>th</sup>**

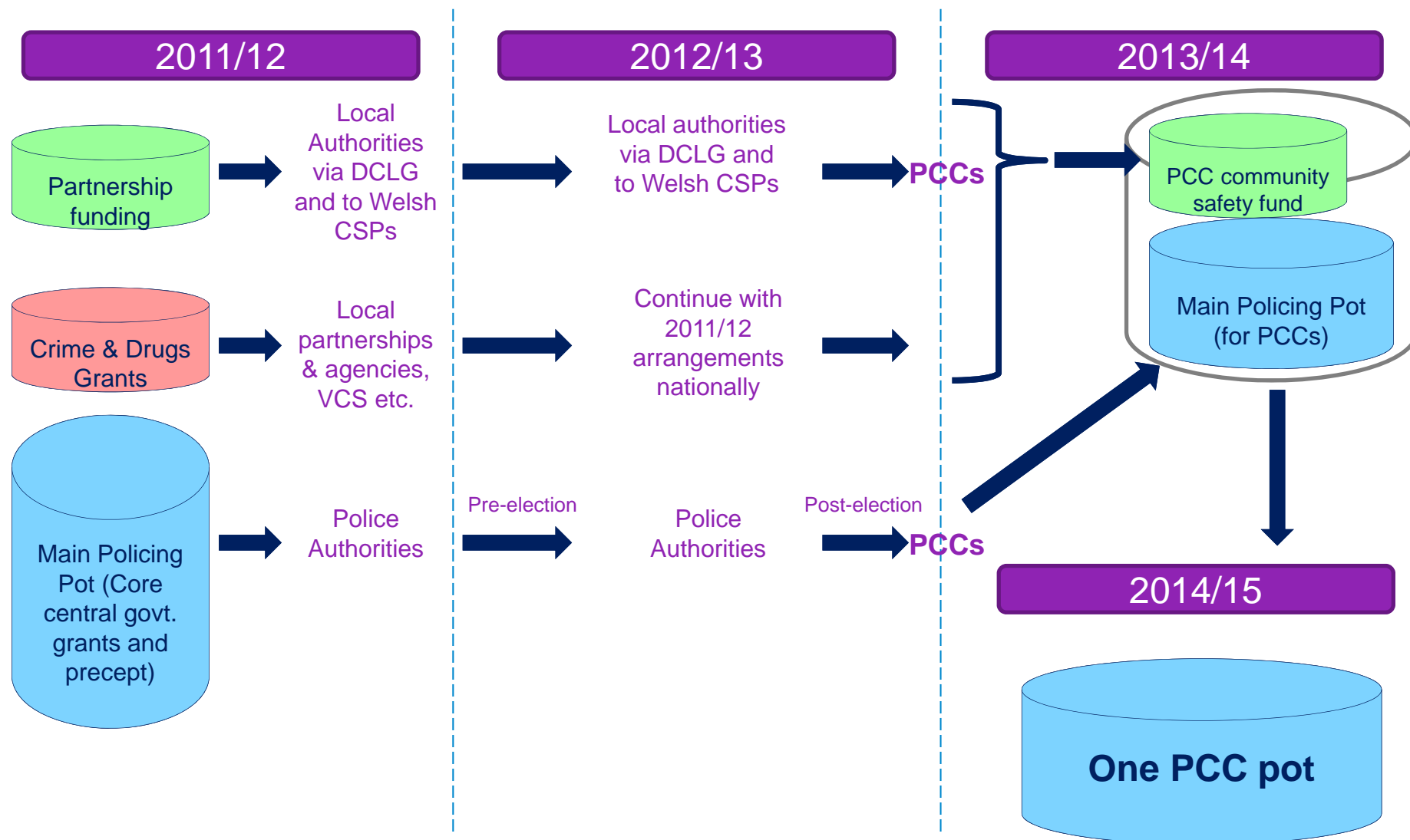
PCP has to review and respond to amendment by **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

PCC then issues the precept by **March 1<sup>st</sup>**, but must take into account PCP's views

Issues:

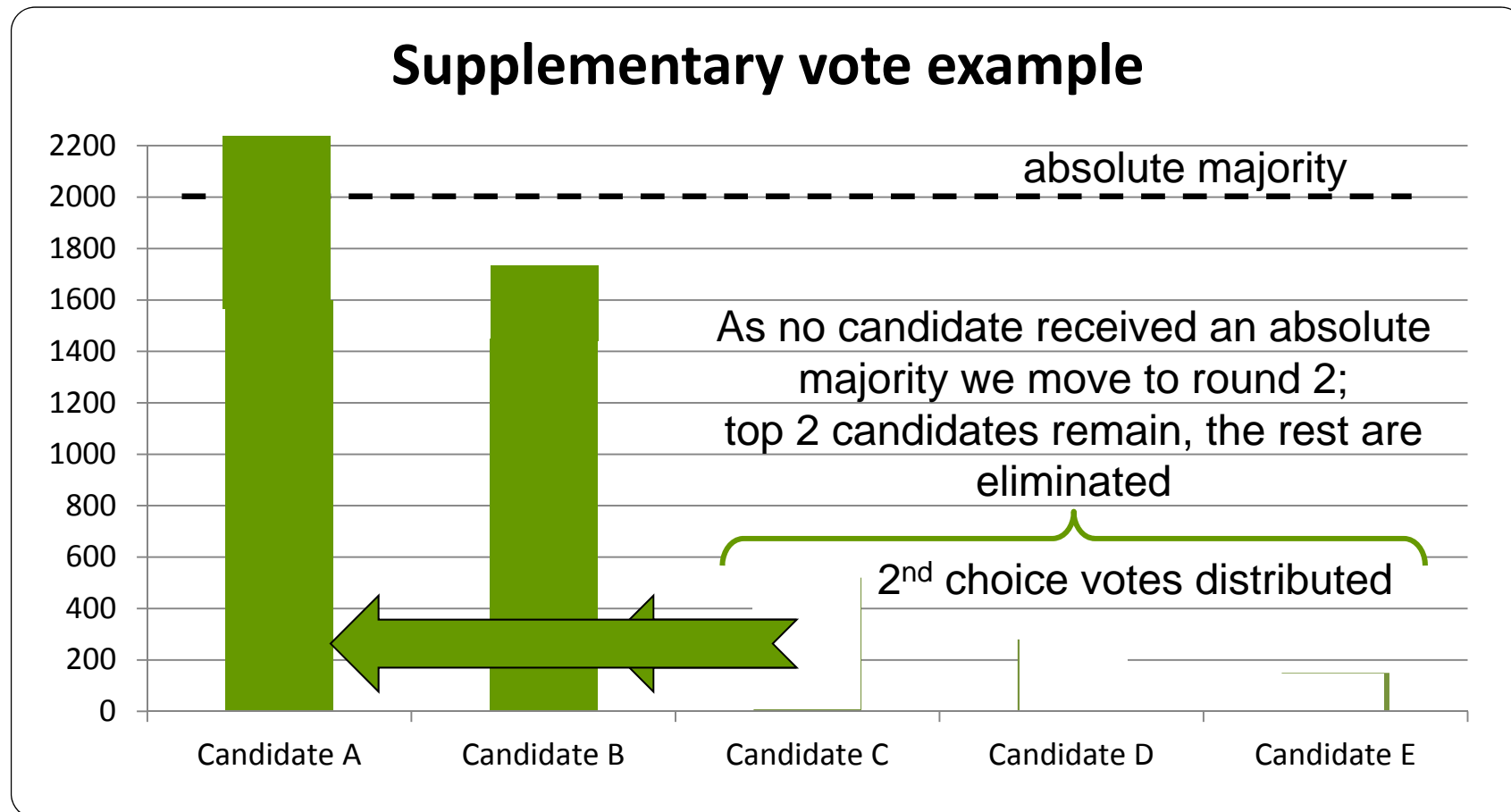
- LGA criticise that this is insufficient to allow the PCP to effectively scrutinise the proposed precept
- Further criticism that this timeline does not fit with council-tax timetables of Councils

# PCC Funding

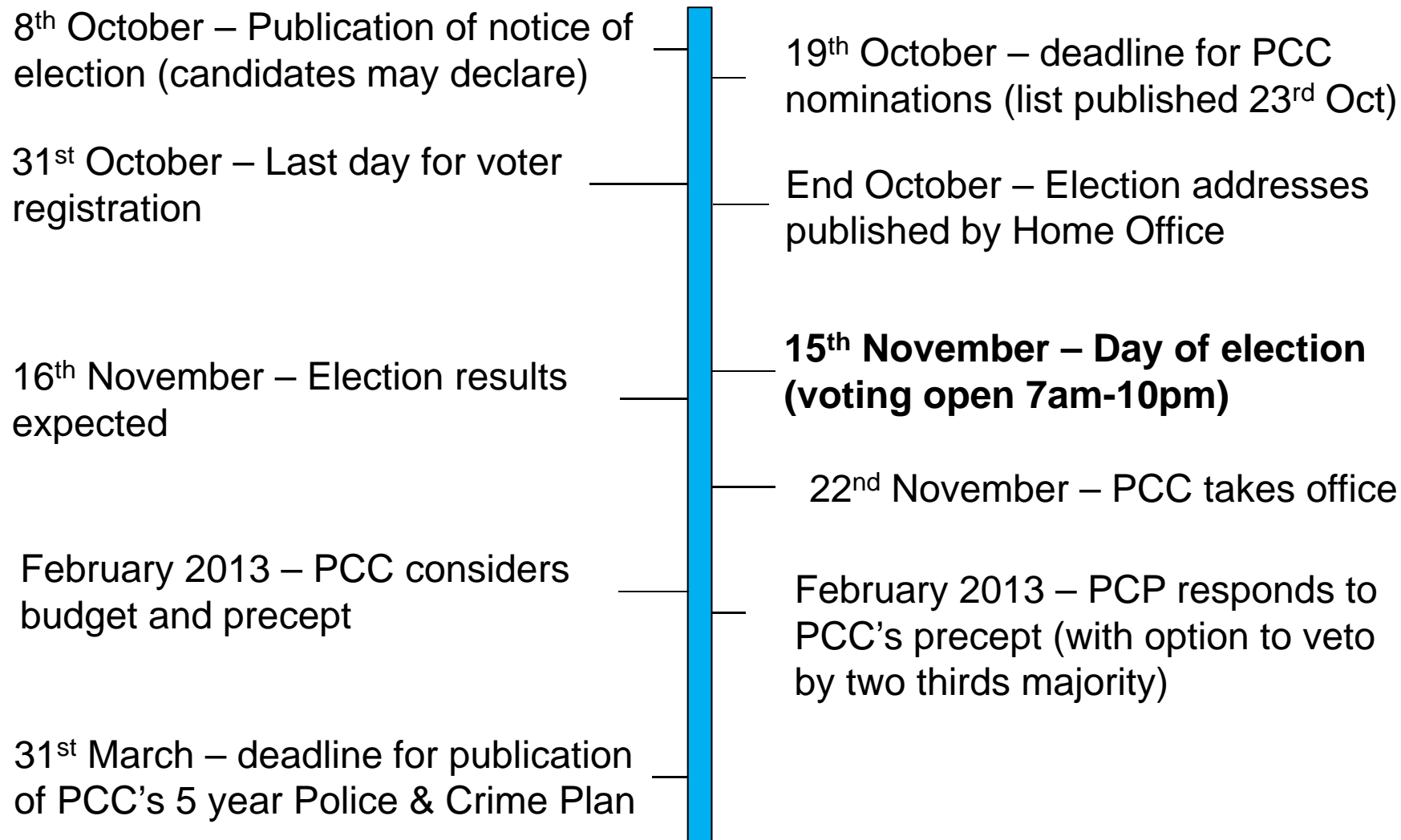


# The PCC electoral process

- The election will use the **Supplementary Vote** system, which is the currently used to elect the London Mayor



# The PCC timeline

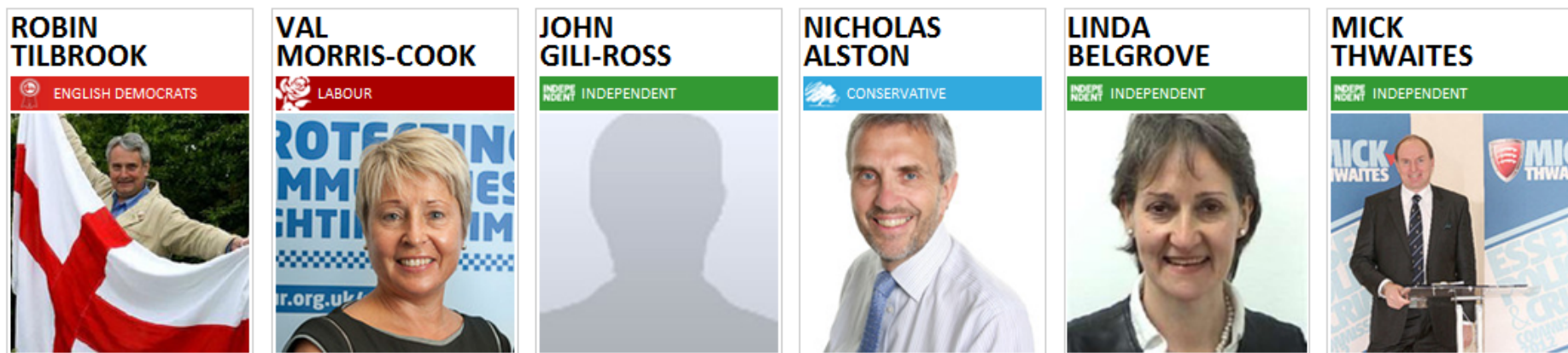


# PCC candidates

Must...

- Be 18 or over
- Be a resident of their Police Force area
- Not have been convicted of an imprisonable offence
- Not be employed as a police officer, judge, or employee of a police related agency, local council or the armed forces

Essex currently has 6 prospective candidates. They are:



Source: [www.policeelections.com](http://www.policeelections.com), 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012

# Publicising the role

- Press coverage around lack of publicity of new role
- Home Office campaign – October 2012
- Election addresses published on Home Office website – end October 2012
- Candidates free to use their own publicity
- Concern around likely turn-out – Electoral Reform Society suggest it may be as low as 18.5%
- Members could use their influence and connections to ensure public is made aware of the new role

# Interesting developments

- Some candidates forced to withdraw from election because of rules around criminal convictions
- Some candidates have already declared who their deputy PCC will be if they are elected
- Derbyshire candidates proposing public debate
- Former leader of Somerset County Council standing for role
- Humberside candidate pledges to donate  $\frac{1}{3}$  of her salary to support victims