



**Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland**  
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## **Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Chair and Members of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013**

### **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1** To update the Police and Crime Panel on the achievements of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the previous 12 months.

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1** That members note the content of the report.

#### **3.0 Background**

**3.1** Cleveland's first Police and Crime Commissioner was elected in November 2012. This report looks at the achievements from the period November 2012 to October 2013, and then the challenges ahead. Details are contained in the appendix to this report, which is arranged according to the five priorities of the Police and Crime Plan, namely –

- Retaining and developing neighbourhood policing
- Ensuring a better deal for victims and witnesses
- Diverting people from offending, with a focus on rehabilitation and the prevention of reoffending
- Better coordination, communication and partnership between agencies to make the best use of resources
- Working for better industrial and community relations

**3.2** Each project and initiative update should be read in conjunction with the Police and Crime Plan and the wider responsibilities of the Police

and Crime Commissioner. The legal powers and duties are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act and the Policing Protocol Order. These include requirements to

- Set the strategic direction and objectives of the Force through the Police and Crime Plan.
- Provide the local link between the police and communities, working to translate the legitimate desires and aspirations of the public into action.
- and to have the ability to deliver community safety and crime reduction, bringing together Community Safety Partnerships at force level, making crime and disorder reduction grants, and the enhancement of the delivery of criminal justice in the force area.

- 3.3 Though a great deal of progress has been made, this cannot disguise the fact that crime is rising. Cleveland is not unique in this. This is compounded in that Cleveland remains one of the highest crime, highest cost per head of population force areas nationally.
- 3.4 Though burglary and violence have declined, other categories have increased, and shoplifting in particular is concerning. I am determined to do my utmost to address this, and have organised a retail crime summit to identify the main issues. I have promoted food banks to divert those tempted to steal essential groceries, and I will be looking at the retail sector to see what more they should be doing, while I will be requiring the Chief Constable to focus on this crime.
- 3.5 Through the budget planning process I will maintain my commitment to neighbourhood policing and so will endeavour to maintain PCSO numbers in particular. At the same time it cannot be right that no police constables have been recruited since 2010 and this must be addressed.
- 3.6 Reflecting further on the year so far, the spectre of the past problems of the force have never been far away, and with the Sacristy inquiry still underway, this represents an unwelcome shadow over the progress that is being made. In the next year I will commission a wholly independent 'health check' of the organisation to ensure that all the lessons that could be learned have been, and that the direction of travel is the right one. I am sure this will be welcomed as much by the hard working staff within Cleveland Police as it will be by the general public.

**Barry Coppinger**

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland