

CLEVELAND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 14 SEPTEMBER 2021 ITEM 5 – MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

The following questions have been submitted by Cllr Steve Nelson for response by the Commissioner:-

- “1. In his proposed Police and Crime Plan the commissioner has stated that he wants to increase the number of special constables by using financial inducements in the form of councils agreeing to a reduction in council tax for those volunteering to be a special constable. At the last Stockton Borough Council Meeting a motion put forward by the Conservative Group proposing this was roundly rejected by other councillors. This was for a number of reasons but principally because it was felt to be divisive in respect of the other estimated 45,000 volunteers in the borough and the council did not want to send a message to those volunteers that some volunteers are more valued than others. It was felt that if the Commissioner feels that financial inducements are needed to increase numbers he has the legislative and financial ability to pay allowances himself as Commissioners in the West Midlands and Devon & Cornwall have done. I would therefore ask the Commissioner what thoughts, if any, he has given to paying special constables allowances and whether he intends to pay said allowances and if not why not?”
2. Arguably the best Chief Constable Cleveland Police has ever had has resigned just a few months into the new Police & Crime Commissioner taking up his new role. Is there a connection between the two events and what steps, if any, did the Commissioner take to try to retain the services of Mr Lewis?
3. Given the concerns the public has regarding the criminal use of motor bikes and the dangers they pose to public safety what consideration has been given to giving Cleveland Police Officers tactical stop powers?”