

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER: FIRST 100 DAYS

TO: Cambridgeshire County Council

DATE: 26th March 2013

FROM: Police and Crime Commissioner

1. THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

Protecting frontline policing, growing the number of Special constables and tackling anti-social behaviour, burglary and drug misuse are included as Sir Graham's personal pledges in his Police and Crime Plan.

Building on last year's plan, Sir Graham's overarching police and crime objectives are:

- Maintain local police performance
- Deliver policing within the available budget
- Continue to tackle crime and disorder, with a focus on anti-social behaviour, dwelling burglary, organised crime and drugs misuse
- Keeping people safe, with a focus on domestic abuse, vulnerable people - specifically child sexual exploitation and hate crime and reducing re-offending
- Maintain the resilience of protective services, with a focus on policing the roads and tackling extremism

The draft Plan was made available at the beginning of March on the Police and Crime Commissioner website www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk, and comments from the public were invited. At the time of writing this report, the Plan was due to be reviewed by the Police and Crime Panel on March 21. The Commissioner must publish the Plan by the end of March.

2. BUDGET AND PRECEPT

Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner approved a 1.96 per cent increase in precept which will provide for an increase in the number of constables since his election.

This increases by ten the number of local policing constables since his election and ensures no additional burden on taxpayers by keeping the rise below the 2.7 per cent headline rate of inflation, despite a 1.6 per cent decrease in Government grant. The increase amounts to six pence per week for a Band D property in 2013/14.

The Commissioner concluded that it would be unwise to accept the council tax freeze grant which has been offered by the Government to encourage all local authorities not to increase their council tax in 2013/14. If accepted, this would have left a £0.5m funding hole in the 2013/14 budget, which could otherwise have returned an extra ten officers to the frontline. However, it would not only have led to a funding gap for next year, but also an even steeper end to funding the year after next of £1.7m.

Sir Graham's precept proposal was considered by the Police and Crime Panel on February 7. The Panel was unanimous in its support for the proposal.

A £131.6m total budget has been set for policing in 2013/14. A total of £3.7m of savings was found to balance the budget. Further reductions in spending of £7.3m will be required by 2016/17 (see collaboration below).

3. COLLABORATION

Following a rigorous review process the Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire agreed in January not to proceed with further work exploring the Lincolnshire Police outsourcing framework, with G4S as the supplier, for the delivery of the three forces' Organisational Support services.

The Lincolnshire/G4S framework, which was awarded following a competitive process, was initially established to meet the specific requirements of Lincolnshire Police. It also afforded named forces, including Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, the opportunity to contract with G4S without the additional cost and delay arising from a new procurement process.

Over the past few months, a significant amount of work has been carried out to assess whether the Lincolnshire/G4S framework meets the unique and complex requirements of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Alliance. It was therefore decided not progress with this framework.

Sir Graham remains committed to collaboration with other forces to save money. He will continue to work with the Chief Constable to look at how they can continue to prioritise those parts of policing that provide a forward facing service to the public. This will mean working differently, exploiting technology better, finding new ways of doing things. It may involve working with partners, more collaboration, insourcing or outsourcing. Currently, all options remain open and no decisions have yet been made.

4. PUBLIC AND PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Sir Graham Bright has said he wants to be the voice of the public, not the police. The following forms the basis of his ongoing engagement with the public:

- Surgeries: these are regular (currently monthly) one to one meetings that give members of the public a chance to meet the Commissioner and raise any concerns regarding crime and community safety. Surgeries have so far taken place in Peterborough, Cambourne and Fenland. Others are now planned for Hunts, Cambridge and East Cambs. Details can be found on the Events section of the Commissioner's website www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk.
- Outreach workers: during his election campaign, Sir Graham stated that he would create two new 'outreach worker' posts for Peterborough and southern Cambridgeshire. The key purpose of the posts is to listen to the public as individuals and collectively and to work in partnership with local agencies and voluntary organisations to identify and deliver shared solutions to local crime and anti-social behaviour problems in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's priority areas. The Peterborough post is a 12 month contract and will be viewed as a pilot. Any lessons learned will be taken forward to develop the southern Cambridgeshire post. Recruitment to this post is now in train.

- Neighbourhood meetings: The Commissioner recognised that the former Police Authority's 17 members regularly attended neighbourhood meetings (forums, area committees and panels) and that diary management would be a challenge. He has committed to himself or his Deputy attending one such meeting in each local command area per quarter (6 meetings per quarter). In this way he hopes that in rotation he will attend every area. Sir Graham believes that policing cannot be one size fits all. Different local communities have different needs and he wants to support flexibility at a local level.
- Community Safety Partnerships: Sir Graham and Brian Ashton have now attended, or plan to attend in the near future, each Community Safety Partnership.
- Correspondence: At the time of writing this report the Commissioner has received and responded to around 600 letters and emails from members of the public and elected representatives. The @PCCCambs Twitter account is active and now has more than 500 followers. Numerous online comments from members of the public have also been received in response to news items published on the Commissioner's website.

5. PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

The Constabulary remains on track to meet the target to reduce recorded crime over the next 12 months. The most recent 12 month period shows a 6.3% reduction compared to the same period in the previous year and a 5.8% reduction compared to the baseline. Improvements are noted in all Local Policing Areas.

The proportion of residents who perceive a high level of ASB in their area has remained very low at 1.4%.

Following high levels of Domestic Burglary in June / July 2012, offence levels have remained stable and consistent with the same months last year. The expected seasonal rise in November was mitigated with offence levels in November 2012 72 lower than November 2011.

Initial call handling for non-emergency calls remains at 90% within target (average wait time of 11 seconds). Most recent data shows a notable improvement in abandonment rates for these calls

A commitment to reduce the level of communication and power cable thefts in the county has been given. Data suggests the volume of power and communication infrastructure thefts to have fallen compared to the baseline. A total of 126 offences have been recorded during the last 12 month compared to 205 during the 12 months to March.

6. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY

Sir Graham Bright appointed Brian Ashton as his Deputy in December following positive comments from the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel's Summary of Reasons for Approval was published, stating that Mr Ashton is "a confident and capable person with a good history of public service". The summary goes on to say that the Panel particularly noted Mr Ashton's sound commercial experience and that he is "adept in dealing with budgets and these skills will inevitably add value to his role". Sir Graham appointed Mr Ashton on the basis of his relevant experience, skills, knowledge and

abilities to perform the role to a high standard for the people of Cambridgeshire. Mr Ashton has had considerable involvement in setting the police budget and assisting Sir Graham in his full range of duties.

7. RURAL CRIME

The Commissioner is committed to ensuring the Constabulary is tackling all rural criminality. In order to achieve this, the force has a dedicated Rural Crime Team as part of the Centralised Intelligence Bureau based at the Headquarters site in Huntingdon.

The team have and will continue to investigate, in partnership with other local and national agencies, many offences. Assisting the Constabulary with its work there is active support from Countryside Watch whose members number in excess of 800 and provide a welcome and necessary additional information source.

Recognising the largely rural demographic of our county and associated concerns of the community, Cambridgeshire Constabulary will continue to provide focus and take positive action in response to incidents of rural criminality.

8. BUSINESSES AND CRIME

The Commissioner has identified in the first 100 days that building close relationships with business can help to support reductions in crime and offending.

The Commissioner is keen to build links with business against crime organisations and to support the Constabulary's Employer Supported Policing scheme which provides a framework for employers to support their employees to be part of the Special Constabulary. He is also keen to build links with businesses that do or may in the future carry out or support activity through their corporate social responsibility strategies that help to reduce crime and offending directly and indirectly.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	Location	Contact
Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner as published on the Commissioner's website	Office of the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner Hinchbrook Park Huntingdon Cambs PE29 6NP	Anna Horne 01480 422649 Anna.Horne@cambs.pnn.police.uk