





**GET CLOSER TO...**

## **...the Commissioner**

**The election of a Police and Crime Commissioner marked one of the biggest changes to the way in which our Police Service is managed for many years. I am delighted that I was chosen to be your Commissioner at the election.**

I am hugely impressed by the Chief Constable and his team and have found it very easy to work with them since my arrival. I had to make some major decisions in the first few weeks of holding office, including a very difficult decision on the policing part of the council tax. The decision to raise the precept in 2013/14 by six pence per week for homes in the Band D category enabled us to balance the budget, fund ten extra frontline police officers and to show a sustainable path ahead.

However my first annual report covers both work overseen by Cambridgeshire Police Authority and, since November, myself alongside the Chief Constable. I am pleased to report to the public some excellent achievements throughout the year.

Overall crime levels in Cambridgeshire have continued to fall more than the national average; most objectives in the Local Policing Plan have been met. Two of our policing areas are ranked in the top ten most peaceful places in the country to live, according to the UK Peace Index. The Chief Constable has made big savings while driving further improvements.

These achievements should not be understated, especially when seen against the background of immense change required to deliver an efficient and effective policing service within the available budget. Every officer and member of staff has been affected in some way; to remain professional and motivated in these challenging times is a credit to everyone involved.



# The Commissioner's pledges

**My pledges were created in direct response to feedback from the public during my election campaign, subsequent correspondence, meetings with members of the public and staff from partner agencies.**

- **Be the voice of the people**, not the police. The views of the public, heard at both formal and informal meetings and surgeries, have helped shape my decisions. The appointment of an **engagement outreach worker** will enable me to learn more about what the public need and want.
- **Work in partnership** with the public, partner agencies, the voluntary sector and Neighbourhood Watch. I have provided funding to allow Neighbourhood Watch to communicate more effectively with communities to both tackle and prevent crime. Partner agencies have also been encouraged to look at alternative ways of working which allow them to be sustainable in the future.
- **Focus on localised policing** and meeting local needs. Policing cannot be one size fits all. In particular I have been working with the force to ensure the prioritisation of road safety, including an operation in Cambridge to tackle anti-social cycling which was led by special constables. A total of 346 fines were issued for offences such as riding with no lights and contravening traffic signs. Patrols continue in the area.
- **Visible policing** giving priority to front line policing and as much visible policing as possible. I have been able to balance the 2013/14 budget and provide for ten more officers on the streets. This, along with an ongoing programme to provide officers and staff with mobile data devices to update crimes and incidents while on patrol, have increased the number of operational hours spent in the community.
- **Increase the number of special constables**. I have been building on the existing regional work in developing the Employer Supported Policing scheme within businesses. This scheme encourages companies to support their employees to volunteer as special constables. It is hoped the time invested in promoting this scheme will enable the force to increase both the number of special constables and the hours they work.

- **Improve call handling** to see a better and faster response to all telephone calls to the police. I have been monitoring and overseeing performance which has resulted in an improvement in non-emergency call handling through the 101 service, with up to 94 per cent of calls now picked up within 30 seconds.
- **Focus on tackling anti-social behaviour, burglary and drug misuse.** The force has reported a one per cent decrease in burglary in the past year. They are also prioritising their attendance at burglaries in order to capture the evidence needed to catch the offender.
- **Take a preventative approach** towards crime working with young people, persistent offenders and troubled families. The force continues to use restorative justice where possible to reduce the number of young people beginning their working life with a criminal record. In the last year 45 per cent of all restorative justice disposals, equating to 700 incidents, were for young people.
- **Increase collaborative working** with neighbouring police forces. I have been forging ahead with plans to collaborate, creating new shared units with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire to reduce costs and improve efficiency. New collaboration agreements include: Armed Policing Unit, Cameras, Tickets and Collisions, Operational Planning and Support Unit, Dog Unit and Roads Policing Unit.
- **Hold the police to account** with a genuine public partnership. I have published my Police and Crime Plan which illustrates what I have asked the force to focus their resources on, and how I intend to monitor how well they are doing. I have also ensured the long term stability for the public and Cambridgeshire Constabulary by extending the Chief Constable's contract until six months past the next police and crime commissioner elections.



Sir Graham Bright

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## ...the force

**The force has made significant inroads into delivering against the actions contained within each Local Policing Plan 2012/13 priority. This plan also provided a firm foundation from which Sir Graham could develop his first police and crime plan and continue the great work into the next financial year.**

Performance highlights from 2012/13 include:

### 1. Maintain local police performance

- Increase in public confidence in five of the six local policing areas
- Improvement in the satisfaction victims of crime have with overall service delivery
- Burglary satisfaction rates are 'better than peers'

### 2. Deliver policing within available budget

- Force re-structure which focuses on a new service delivery model for response policing, neighbourhood policing and volume crime investigation, has released £5m in savings
- During 2012/13 new agreements were reached between Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire for collaboration on Cameras, Tickets and Collisions, Operational Planning and Support Unit, Dog Unit, Roads Policing Unit contributing £1m in savings for Cambridgeshire.

### 3. Reduce crime and disorder

- 5,200 fewer offences recorded last year, down from 51,658 in 2011/12
- Significant force-wide improvements in total crime and victim-based crime
- Public perceived levels of anti-social behaviour remain very low

### 4. Keeping people safe

- Increase in the number of reports and detections for domestic abuse
- New department created to better safeguard victims of abuse by bringing the dedicated investigation teams together
- Introduction of Specially Trained Officers (STOs) to support victims of sexual assault

### 5. Maintain the resilience of protective services

- Number of people killed or seriously injured in Cambridgeshire, including on the roads and as a result of certain crimes, has fallen, with 27 fewer victims last year, down from 400 in 2011/12.

# Focus on...

## ...maintaining local police performance

This objective focuses on providing an effective policing service which makes innovative use of existing resources and extends public involvement.

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## ...volunteers

The force is supported by more than 250 volunteer special constables who provided nearly 60,000 duty hours in the past year. From taking responsibility for bespoke local policing campaigns to supporting the policing of the Olympics these men and women have an invaluable part to play.



Volunteers also get involved in other areas of the force's business such as running the CCTV scheme in Ely and working within the High Tech Crime Unit.

Hundreds of members of the public act as the force's eyes and ears through a range of Watch groups. Neighbourhood Watch helps keep communities safe, while nearly 500 Speedwatch volunteers are taking to the county's roads to both report and deter speeding drivers.

## ... delivering policing within available budget

This focuses on identifying and implementing activity which will help reduce costs or improve efficiency.

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### ...local policing

A force restructure in April 2012, the second year of the Government's Spending Review period 2011-15, created a local policing delivery model around existing local authority and community safety partnership boundaries. As part of the restructure senior posts were removed in favour of constables dedicated to local policing, and officers and staff moved from back office functions onto the frontline. Thus far it has been possible to protect local policing and deliver a bespoke, rather than one size fits all, policing approach to local issues.





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### ...balancing the budget

Cambridgeshire Police Authority approved a budget of £127.6m for 2012/13. To balance the budget, the policing element of the council tax was increased by 2.9 per cent and savings and efficiencies of £5.4m identified. From within the budget it has been possible to finance capital spending and remove the need to borrow. At the end of the year, spending was £125.4m, an under spend of £2.2m.



Year on year, budget reductions of £5m to £6m have been required. For that to be achievable reductions are made throughout the year. This enables the reductions to be smoothed so that the focus can remain on day to day business rather than the need to suddenly cut spending.

Capital expenditure on buildings, vehicles and information and communications technology amounted to £5.4m. This was financed by grant (£1.6m), revenue contributions (£3.2m), and capital receipts/reserves (£0.6m). Sixty-nine per cent of the budgeted capital programme was achieved.

**Reserves:** Total (useable) reserves at the 31st March 2013 are £22.1m (£26.2m at 31 March 2012) of which £12.3m are earmarked for specific purposes, including £6.3m for future capital spending. Of the remainder, the General Fund Balance, held as a working balance and general contingency, is £9.2m (about seven per cent of the Net Budget Requirement for 2013/14). More details on the above can be found in the Statement of Accounts 2012/13.

The austerity measures will continue through the next Spending Review Period. At the time of writing, budget reductions of around £20m will be required over the period April 2014 to March 2017. Significant further change will be required over the years ahead to deliver savings of this magnitude.

## ... reducing crime and disorder

This focuses on continuing to drive crime and disorder to lower levels, transferring the fear of crime from the law abiding public to those who persistently commit crime.

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### ...the Tactical Team

The Central Intelligence Bureau's operational arm, the Tactical Team, was launched in April 2012. This group of officers and staff not only provide a fast time response to critical incidents, but are responsible for the 'door a day' warrants, acting on local intelligence and investigating rural crime.



During the past year the team has arrested 441 people, conducted more than 2,600 stop-searches of people in identified crime 'hot spot' areas, submitted 1,753 items of intelligence, carried out 232 search warrants and arrested 23 people wanted under European Arrest Warrants.

They have been involved in a diverse range of operations and achieved some notable results including a car key burglary series, in which thieves broke into homes and stole the keys to expensive cars, resulting in the arrest and charge of three prolific burglary suspects; the Fitzwilliam College artefact burglary and an ATM theft series.

## ... keeping people safe

This focuses on dedicating resources to ensure those at most risk from harm are protected.

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### ...the Public Protection Unit

The Public Protection Department was launched in April 2012 and saw dedicated units set up to investigate rape, domestic abuse, adult and child abuse. The department also has a Multi-Agency Referral Unit, a Missing Persons Investigation Unit and Integrated Offender Management.

This new approach to protecting the most vulnerable people in Cambridgeshire has already reaped rewards. The Domestic Abuse Investigation and Safeguarding Unit aims to encourage people to report domestic abuse. The force has seen an increase in reports of domestic abuse – up by 408 recorded victims to 2,604 in the last 12 months. The number of offences detected has also risen from 41.8 per cent to 49.4 per cent.



The number of recorded rapes and the subsequent detection rate has also increased with detections rising to just over 30 per cent from 19.6 per cent.

Staff working in the department have secured jail terms ranging from life to 17½ years. In one case a victim of a serial domestic abuser waived her right to anonymity to encourage other victims of domestic abuse to come forward.

## ... maintaining the resilience of protective services

The management of resources and delivery of service is maintained to support both local policing and national requirements.



### ...major crimes

A new Major Crime Unit for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire opened in April 2012 providing increased resilience and strengthening each force's investigations capability.

The unit investigates murder, manslaughter and other major crime enquiries across the three force areas. Jail terms totalling almost 800 years have been handed out to offenders including killers and rapists during the unit's first 12 months. Since its launch the unit has taken on 38 fresh investigations.

It was recently involved in the investigation of three linked murders in Peterborough which resulted in several charges. The suspects are currently awaiting trial.

In a separate investigation a 19-year-old man was jailed for 15 years in December 2012 for killing a man and seriously injuring two others in Cambridge.

As well as improving resilience and strengthening major crime investigations, the new unit will also deliver almost £700,000 in cashable savings.

Criminals have been ordered to pay back more than £1.4 million pounds worth of assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Officers and staff working in the Economic Crime Unit successfully applied for 128 confiscation orders.

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## **...Roads Policing Unit**

Monthly topical 'Think' campaigns have made Cambridgeshire's roads safer by encouraging motorists to belt up, stop using their mobile phones, drive within the speed limits and not drink and drive.



### **Contact the Police and Crime Commissioner**

**Write to:** South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA

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