

Police and Crime Plan Update  
15 January 2013

**Police and Crime  
Commissioner**  
for Hertfordshire

### **Recommendation**

That the panel notes the progress that is being made in developing a Police and Crime Plan that balances continuity and development.

### **Consideration**

My first Police and Crime Plan will provide the blueprint for policing, tackling crime and improving safety in this county. It will build on the successes of the previous Police Authority Policing Plan in order to balance continuity with change and development. However, the plan will be the first to focus on the wider crime responsibilities that I have been elected to fulfil. I will be asking more of the police but will in particular be asking more of partner agencies and of the public. This paper should be read alongside the slide-set 'My Plan for Hertfordshire'.

### **Continuity**

I have been clear from the start that my first Police and Crime Plan would balance continuity with change and that I would be rolling forward much of the current Policing Plan in order to facilitate this, whilst increasing the demand that is made of partners and the public.

Hertfordshire Constabulary is a high performing police force. It has a strong senior team led by an excellent Chief Constable, Andy Bliss who is the expert on operational policing. It is through this that he delivers my strategic objectives on the public's behalf. To this end, I have asked the Chief Constable to develop the performance measures that will deliver my overall strategic objectives for policing in Hertfordshire.

In broad terms, I have asked the Chief Constable to ensure that Hertfordshire remains a low crime county. I want to ensure that our town, community and village centres are places where we can all feel safe during the day and into the evening. A focus on anti-social behaviour especially when this behaviour is repeated should be a high priority. Our roads should be well policed to ensure that drivers act responsibly and drive safely. The reduction of burglary to an all-time low should be maintained. Finally, when the public need to contact the police they should be able to get through quickly, speak to someone who can help them, when necessary have urgent attendance by officers, and feel supported and satisfied with the service received.

I will continue to scrutinise performance, highlighting areas of concern and success as the year progresses but ensuring a safe low crime county cannot be boiled down to a series of

targets it requires an intelligent, dynamic operational approach 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 52 weeks a year.

### Development

As well as building on the strong policing foundations we have here in Hertfordshire, my first Police and Crime Plan will outline a number of key areas where further development is required by the police, the public and our partners. These areas are:

1. **Public Focus**
2. **Offender Pays**
3. **Business Sense**

The accompanying presentation lays out the content of each theme in greater detail. I have invited residents and partners to play their part in the development of the plan through my open letter, website and social media. The open letter, particularly, has generated considerable public interest in Hertfordshire and more broadly.

The area of greatest media focus has been my **offender-pays** agenda. Those who commit offences should be punished in the pocket - this could mean paying the full costs of removing and storing vehicles, or paying the 'hotel bill' for a stay in the cells. Speed awareness courses are proven to have a real impact on future behaviour but those who take them should pay the full cost for them. And the principle of 'offender pays' could be taken further still for other types of crime. I also want to see a concerted attack on criminal assets, ploughing these back into services for decent people.

In all aspects of my plan, I will be putting the needs of victims and survivors of crime at the centre. Improving **public focus** is about building on Hertfordshire Constabulary's excellent record of attending scenes of crime and ensuring that once they have left, victims don't feel forgotten, even though efforts continue to catch the offenders. Victims of crime are also too often forgotten as the bureaucratic wheels of the criminal justice system turn and I will be asking more of our partners in this regard. I want to capture the volunteering spirit demonstrated by active citizens in the Olympics this summer. I want an expansion of Special Constables as well as police volunteering outlets for those who do not want to don a uniform and a concerted drive to involve the public at all stages of the criminal justice system.

The public need to play a role by reporting crime and getting involved but I also want to see businesses playing their part in sponsorship and corporate responsibility ventures. We could apply some more **business sense** in most areas of policing and community safety. This will also be the theme under which I discuss the approach to crime which particularly affects Hertfordshire's business and rural communities.

## **Agenda Item 6**

The community safety world with its many partners, including local authorities, has no shortage of innovation; what it appears to lack is co-ordination. Colleagues holding the relevant portfolios in each local authority and I are already meeting monthly to take action. I am building on district and borough council community safety priorities, and the safer neighbourhood priorities set at local level by residents, businesses, local police and elected representatives. There is clear common cause.

My agenda is large and it will be a big challenge to achieve everything that I set out to do. I hope that if I can provide an environment where individuals, groups and organisations can all play their part, then Hertfordshire will continue to go from strength to strength.

**David Lloyd**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire**