

Police and Crime Plan Draft Variation

Foreword from Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite

Since being elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in May 2016, I have been, and continue to be, proud to represent the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Equally I am proud of Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Through spending time out on the frontline, I have witnessed first-hand the hard work and dedication of the Constabulary's officers and staff to provide a public service that keeps the county safe. I am particularly pleased that in 2018 I was able to appoint Nick Dean as Chief Constable for Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Nick brings with him a wealth of policing experience, with a clear and strong focus on having an effective neighbourhood policing presence in Cambridgeshire.

Over the past two years, I have worked hard to progress the four strategic themes of my Police and Crime Plan, published in March 2017: victims, offenders, communities, and transformation. My Police and Crime Plan was not developed in isolation and continues to reflect policing priorities and significant partnership work.

Modern policing has changed and will inevitably continue to change and bring with it different and complex challenges. Demand on policing continues to grow. Our police officers now have to spend more time tackling 'hidden crimes' such as domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and modern day slavery. They also spend time helping those in mental health crisis, all of which means resources can be stretched. Added to that, our county's population is set to rise by 20% by 2031. Therefore it is vital we have enough resources in place to police our county.

The Constabulary cannot tackle these challenges alone. Since my Police and Crime Plan was first launched in 2017, I have had the opportunity to work with partners to seize opportunities and find solutions to meet the needs of our many and diverse communities. The work I do with partner organisations locally, regionally and nationally, enables me to be able to influence the way public organisations work together, ensuring work is joined up and considers the "big picture" rather than just the work of individual organisations.

When I became Police and Crime Commissioner, I said that we needed to think and act differently about the way we work through collaboration and new technology. The police never work in isolation. We need to continue to think innovatively about how we work with others to provide the public with effective, joined up services and move away from crisis management to prevention and support, particularly in the area of supporting people not to re-offend.

I spend time regularly out and about meeting members of the public where they live and work and understand that what people want to see is increased visibility. With public support over the last two years, I am pleased that we have been able to increase Police Officer numbers, with 1,496 police officers being budgeted for 2019/20.

Although in the face of increasingly complex economic and social pressures, it is important that we are not complacent. With such a professional and committed number of officers and staff within the Constabulary, I am proud to say I feel we are ready to meet future challenges.

March 2019

Police and Crime Plan Draft Variation

Foreword from Chief Constable Nick Dean

On joining Cambridgeshire Constabulary as Chief Constable in September 2018, I have been impressed by the dedicated, diligent and professional officers, staff and volunteers who work hard every day to keep the people of the county safe.

On coming into the role, I spent a significant amount of my time listening to people - staff within the organisation, colleagues in partner agencies and members of the public - the people we serve - to really understand what they want from their police service and how we can work with them to continue to build trust and confidence in the community.

Being visible in our communities means different things to different people. To some it's being out on the streets patrolling their neighbourhood, but to others it's reading about successful prosecutions in the local media, or following our day to day policing activity on social media.

Overwhelmingly though, what true visibility means is not only to be able to react and deal with problems when they happen, but to work with our partners and community to prevent crime in the first place.

We need to effectively and efficiently deal with all kinds of demand in a timely and dutiful manner, from supporting victims or people who require our help, in particular the most vulnerable in society, to ensuring we tackle criminality to bring offenders to justice. The changing nature of crime and demand means we have to prioritise how we deal with all incidents, focusing on the highest harm and the greatest threat, yet at the same time balancing the need to be able to respond to such incidents which we know have a real impact on people's quality of life.

While we know budgets continue to be a challenge - both for policing and our other public sector partners - I see this as a great opportunity. From regularly reviewing our resources to making sure we are using them in the best way we can, to working in collaboration with other police forces, partner organisations and communities, bringing together what we have to be more effective for the public we serve. We will continue to make sure we spend every penny as effectively we can to help us deliver the highest quality of service.

Our public confidence levels are good, but we are not complacent. We can't solve all problems on our own and we will always need the public's help to fight crime and tackle issues in the community, so we are working hard to build relationships and partnerships on all levels.

While I don't believe the journey we will go on will be easy, I am confident that by working together we can continue to keep Cambridgeshire one of the safest counties to live, work and visit.

March 2019