

PERSONAL STATEMENT

JOHN PEACH

I have been asked by Darryl Preston to be his Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

I am aware that the Police and Crime Panel needs to review my proposed appointment before I am confirmed in the post and as such assure themselves that I am suitable for the role and will be able to support the Commissioner in his role.

I hope that my experience in the many and varied positions I have held in local government, in business and the wider community, will enable me to support Darryl in tackling crime, supporting victims and keeping communities safe across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

I have always lived and worked in the county and therefore know it well in terms of its communities, their needs and the challenges faced. This is so important as an elected representative. Equally important is knowing how to work with stakeholders, organisations, and all elected representatives to discuss matters in order to take a holistic approach which is responsive to find solutions to local needs. This is something that I have undertaken and achieved during my career, believing in 'positive politics' achieves more.

I have always taken a keen interest in policing and how it works in Cambridgeshire. This is from the perspective of those who I represented as a Ward Councillor and as Leader of the Council, but equally taking into account the views of local officers and PCSOs. I've engaged with the Constabulary on numerous occasions from going out with them on day and night patrols and at meetings. At the same time I recognise the operational independence between policing and politics, and that of a Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and the police force they hold to account.

I started my career in local media, moving on to national newspapers and magazines working as part of a team in marketing and business organisation roles.

I have always been passionate about serving the public and have vast experience in local politics. I have over 30 years' experience as a local and county Councillor representative. I was initially elected to Cambridgeshire County Council, where I served 12 years before moving to Peterborough City Council when it became a unitary authority in 1998.

While on the County Council I was Chairman of its Environment Committee, and a member of three other separate committees: Police; Fire; and Policy.

Whilst serving on Peterborough City Council, I had several roles as Committee Chairman and Cabinet Member. I was elected Deputy Leader of the City Council for three years and its Leader for another three years.

I have served on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority and was Deputy Chairman for three years between 2015 to 2018.

I've also been the Mayor of Peterborough raising thousands of pounds for my charities which included the scouts, the guides, and various charities encouraging people back into stable accommodation and work using my experience in the property/housing field.

I have, and continue to, serve on various local and community groups including being a School Governor and Trustee of the Thomas Deacon Academy and Foundation (respectively) in Peterborough, the largest secondary school in Europe.

I have owned a property maintenance and development business for many years.

Overall this is why I feel that my various life, business, local authority, and political experiences will put me in good stead to help serve the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

As Deputy Commissioner it will be an honour to support Darryl in the delivery of his new Police and Crime Plan in order to achieve his vision to make a difference to those within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. I hope my assistance and support to Darryl will bring the necessary resilience and capacity required in a range of tasks, from deputising at meetings through to attending engagement opportunities, and of course working with his Team.

I am fully committed to adopting the policing Code of Ethics and to upholding the highest professional standards in carrying out my role.