

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 1
25th September 2024	Public Report

Report of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

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POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2024-2028 – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1.	PURPOSE
1.1	To provide the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) with details of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) approach to consulting with the public on a new Police and Crime Plan for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
2.	RECOMMENDATION
2.1	The Panel is recommended to review the action taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner, to support the Commissioner in this work and raise awareness of opportunities to engage with their constituents.
3.	TERMS OF REFERENCE
3.1	Item 6 – to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions. Item 8 - To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
4.	BACKGROUND
4.1	Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the “Act”) the Panel has a role in scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) in the exercise of his statutory functions.

4.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner has a statutory duty to produce a Police and Crime Plan (“Plan”) as soon as practicable after taking office – specifically before the end of the financial year in which they are elected (i.e. 31st March 2025). The Plan must determine, direct and communicate the Commissioner’s priorities during their period in office and set out for the period of issue:

- The Commissioner’s police and crime objectives for the area.
- The policing of the area which the Chief Constable is to provide.
- The financial and other resources which the Commissioner is to provide to the Chief Constable.
- The means by which the Chief Constable will report to the Commissioner on the provision of policing.
- The means by which the Chief Constable’s performance in providing policing will be measured.
- The services which the Commissioner is to provide or arrange to support crime and disorder reduction or help victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Any grants which the Commissioner is to make, and conditions (if any) of those grants.

The statutory requirements relevant to the Plan’s development include arrangements for obtaining the views of the community, including victims of crime, on policing, and co-operative working with the Chief Constable and other responsible authorities and criminal justice bodies.

This document sets out the actions taken by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“OPCC”) in the light of these requirements and the Commissioner’s commitment to listening to local people and making sure their concerns are addressed. It provides a summary of public responses to the survey.

It should be noted that as well as the specific Plan consultation activity, the Commissioner has also undertaken a wide range of activity with members of the community and stakeholders before and since his election in May 2024.

	All this engagement is contributing to inform the development of the Plan.
4.3	As described above, one of the first priorities of a newly elected Commissioner is to produce a Plan for the local area, which sets out policing priorities for the next four years. An extensive range of consultation methods have been utilised to gather the views of the public and key stakeholders which this report summarises.
4.4	Following conversations held with residents, community groups and local businesses during the election period and since through community engagement, a number of emerging themes were identified. The shared objectives of organisations working within the criminal justice system, along with government policy documents also informed, (and will continue to inform) the emerging priorities.
5.	OUTLINE OF THE SURVEY
5.1	<p>The Commissioner launched a four-week consultation with the public, partner agencies and stakeholders from 15th July 2024 until 16th August 2024. Using an over-arching banner of ‘safe communities’, the survey included the following emerging priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention and prevention • Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour • Supporting victims and witnesses • Building trust and confidence <p>A graphic explaining what these priorities mean in more detail was included in the survey and is provided below:</p>

Tackling Crime & Keeping Communities Safe

Safe Communities



From initial contact to response, we will support the Chief Constable to ensure police officers are visible and accessible within communities, listening and responding to your concerns.

Whether you live in a town, city, or village, we will ensure you get the police service you need.

Early Intervention and Prevention



We will work with police and partners to take an early intervention approach to help prevent crime and serious violence, including violence against women and girls, from happening in the first place.

Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour



We will support and encourage communities to work with the police and other organisations to resolve local issues such as anti-social behaviour, road safety, rural crime, and business crime - issues that matter to them.

We will continue to support the county's Community Safety Partnerships so that local issues can be quickly resolved.

We will work with the police and agencies such as courts, prosecutors, probation, and local authorities to ensure they are using criminal justice and other enforcement processes effectively to tackle crime and disorder.

Supporting Victims and Witnesses



We will ensure victims can access support services which offer a bespoke response to their individual needs.

We will provide opportunities for victims and witnesses' voices to be heard.

We will work in partnership with criminal justice agencies to ensure victims and witnesses continue to be placed at the heart of the criminal justice system and offered the services they are entitled to under the Victims Code.

Building Trust and Confidence



We will hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure police officers and staff always carry out their duties with integrity and social responsibility.

We will aim to strengthen public trust and confidence through independent scrutiny of police powers.

We will support the Chief Constable and senior officers to continue to promote a culture that is inclusive and diverse and reflects the communities they serve.

The survey was launched and communicated to the public via the following methods:

- A traditional press release containing a link to the survey shared with all Cambridgeshire media with a morning show interview on BBC Cambs (15th July). This was followed up by a survey results interview on BBC Cambs breakfast with Dotty McLeod on Tuesday 27th August.
- A continuous social media campaign on Facebook, Instagram, and X to promote public involvement.
- A targeted mailing to the 21,510 subscribers of the Constabulary's Neighbourhood Alert (Ecops) system with a second sent to more than 3,000 subscribers signed up to the Commissioner's newsletter.
- Disseminated to all partners, commissioned service providers, stakeholders and via the CPLRF Warn and Inform group to local districts and other blue light services.
- Shared with MPs and Parish Council representatives.
- Shared with seldom-heard-from representative groups with face to face, 'focus' groups scheduled with young people in September, October.

6.	PUBLIC CONSULTATION
6. 1	<p>The survey, which was made available on the PCC’s website was launched on 15th July and ran for four weeks until 16th August 2024. Members of the public without access to the internet were offered the opportunity to provide their views by telephoning the OPCC directly, details of which were widely published.</p> <p>Entitled: Have your say – a new Police and Crime Plan for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the online survey (as shown in Appendix 1) asked a short number of questions asking whether people agreed with the draft priorities included in the survey – with an optional question allowing people to add further responses.</p>
6. 2	<p>Victims of crime were also asked three questions in relation to their experiences of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting the crime to the police • Any police investigation • The support services offered
6. 3	<p>Stakeholders with responsibility for community safety across the county were invited to provide their views through the same platform as well as through scheduled meetings with the Commissioner and his team. These included: local authorities (county, district, and parish), health, Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, local prisons, HM Courts & Tribunals Service, Cambs Fire and Rescue Service, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, and the Combined Authority.</p>
6. 4	<p>Additional efforts were made to reach those seldom-heard-from communities. Face to face sessions have been organised with some of the county’s more diverse secondary schools in September. The OPCC is also exploring bespoke engagement with for example, the Gypsy and Traveller community, through existing commissioning relationships. If successful, this model will be replicated for other communities and across the term of the Commissioner’s office to ensure those who don’t complete traditional surveys have their voice and views captured.</p>
6. 5.	<p>The survey questions were deliberately kept short and simple, to encourage as many people as possible to provide their responses.</p>

	<p>Question one asked if people agreed that the list of emerging priorities included in the survey were what they wanted to see. Responders were invited to use an optional free space (question two) to provide additional views.</p> <p>Question three asked if responders had been a victim of crime at any point over the last 18 months: there were then three optional questions for victims to respond to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Their experience of reporting the crime. 2. Their experience of any police investigation. 3. Their experience of support services offered.
7.	<p>DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION</p>
7. 1	<p>A total of 1,364 people responded to the new Police and Crime Plan survey. All respondents were given the opportunity to provide information on their gender identity, age, ethnicity, disability status, and residency. Responses from this section enable us to understand and analyse the policing priorities of all our communities across the county.</p> <p><u>Gender Identity</u></p> <p>Figure 1 provides a breakdown of the gender identity of survey respondents. Of the 1,361 people that responded to this question (three people declined to answer), 693 (51%) identified as a woman, 598 (44%) identified as a man, four (0.3%) identified as gender non-binary, and seven (0.5%) identified as 'other'. 59 people (4%) selected prefer not to say.</p>

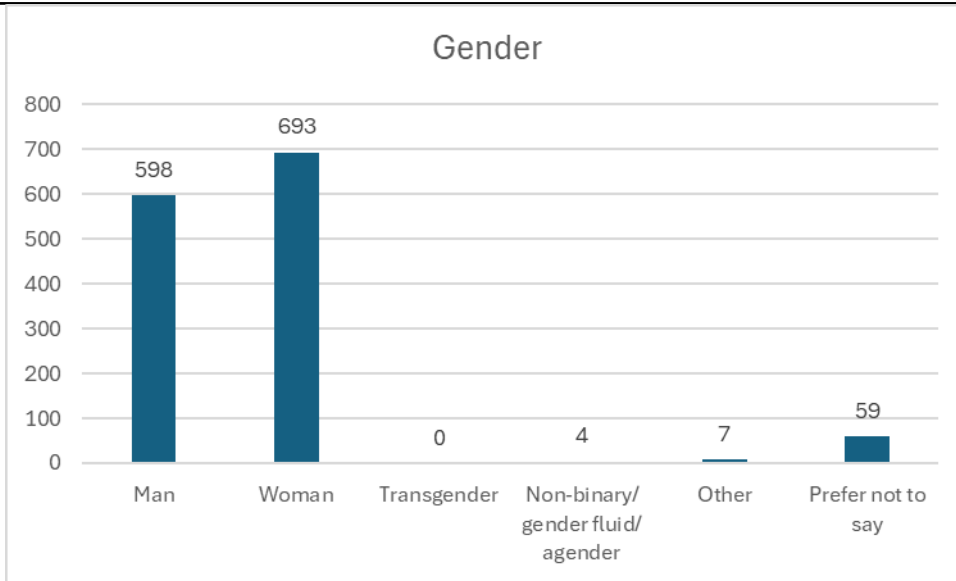
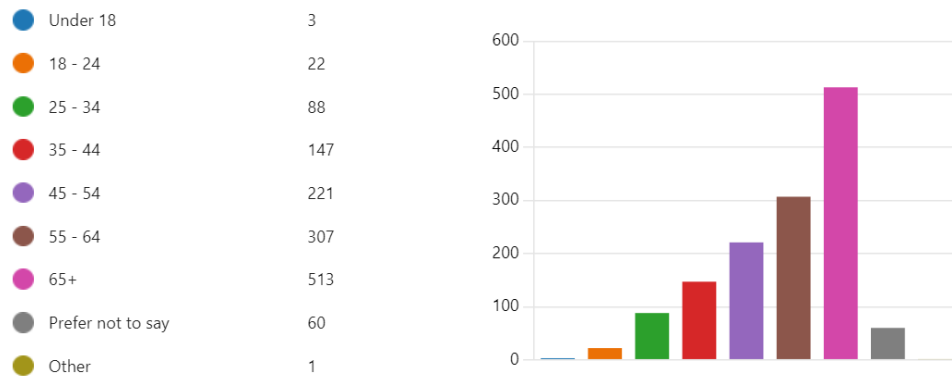


Figure 1: Gender identity of survey respondents

Age Group

Figure 2 provides a breakdown of the age profile of the survey respondents. The age profile is not evenly distributed, with response rates notably increasing among the older age groups. This means that the survey alone is not reflective of the age demographic of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.



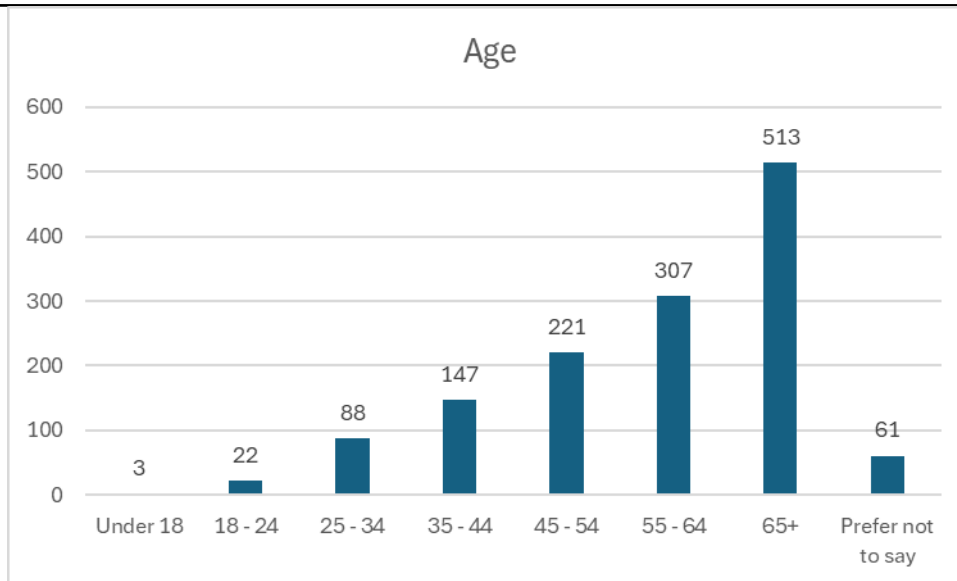


Figure 2: Age profile of survey respondents

Of the 1,362 respondents that answered this question (two declined to answer), the majority (60% or 820) were aged 55 or over, with persons aged 65 plus providing the most (38% or 513) responses. Only 113 respondents (8%) were aged 34 or under, while 368 (27%) were aged 35-54. 61 respondents (4%) selected 'prefer not to say', while one selected 'other'.

Throughout his first term, the Commissioner visited several schools at primary and secondary levels and young people's projects included some funded through his Youth Fund to better engage with young people. His engagement also led to a 12-week project with 2nd year students at Anglia Ruskin University on a new brand for his office. Face-to-face conversations rather than online surveys have proven to be a more effective way of engaging young people. With that in mind, the Commissioner has several school visits scheduled in his diary over the coming weeks.

Ethnicity

Figure 3 provides a breakdown of the ethnicity of survey respondents. Of the 1,363 people that responded to this question (one person declined to answer), the majority (89% or 1,213 respondents) identified as being White. 20 respondents (1.5%) identified as being from mixed or multiple ethnic

groups, 19 (1.4%) identified as being Asian, 15 (1.1%) identified as being from mixed or multiple ethnic groups, and 10 (0.7%) identified as being of Black ethnicity. 86 people (6%) selected 'prefer not to say'.

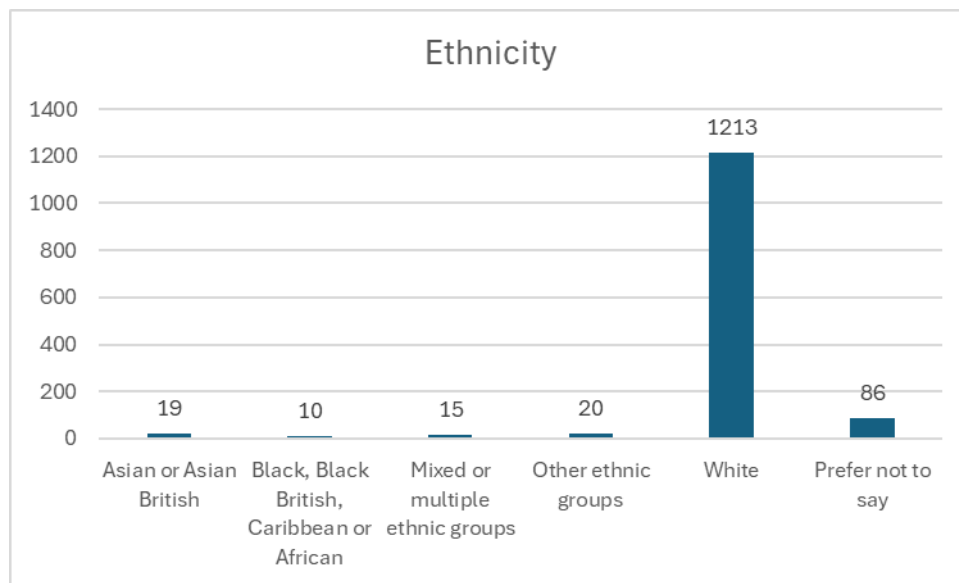


Figure 3: Ethnicity of survey respondents

Although minority ethnic groups are underrepresented in the survey data, Table 1 provides an overview of the ethnicity of survey respondents (excluding those that selected 'prefer not to say') relative to the ethnicity profile for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Ethnicity	Police and Crime Plan Survey Responses		2021 Census Data - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Asian or Asian British	19	1.5%	70,490	7.9%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	10	0.8%	18,496	2.1%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	15	1.2%	26,971	3.0%
Other ethnic groups	20	1.6%	14,815	1.7%
White	1,213	95.0%	763,747	85.4%
Total	1,277	100%	894,519	100%

Table 1: Ethnicity of survey respondents relative to the demographic profile of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (based on the 2021 Census)

Table 1 shows that relative to the demographic profile of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, persons of both Asian (1.5% compared to 7.9%) and Black ethnicities (0.8% compared to 2.1%) are significantly under-represented in the survey. Persons of mixed or multiple ethnic groups were also notably

under-represented in the survey (1.2%) compared to the local population demographic (3%). Survey respondents from other ethnic groups (1.6%) were, however, almost representative of the local population demographic (1.7%). Persons of White ethnicity are over-represented in the survey (95%) compared to the ethnic profile of the county (85.4%)

In an effort to be more representative and to obtain responses from a range of groups across the county, the survey was shared with seldom heard from communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This was done through targeted emails to local community leaders and faith-based organisations such as Cambridge Central Mosque, Cambridge Buddhist Centre, and Cambridge Jewish Society. Further regular, face-to-face engagement opportunities are being set up to address this imbalance.

Disability

Figure 4 provides a breakdown of the disability status of the survey respondents. Of the 1,358 people that responded to this question (six declined to answer), 933 (69%) stated that they did not have a long-standing illness, disability, or infirmity. While 329 (24%) stated they did. 96 people (7%) selected 'prefer not to say'.

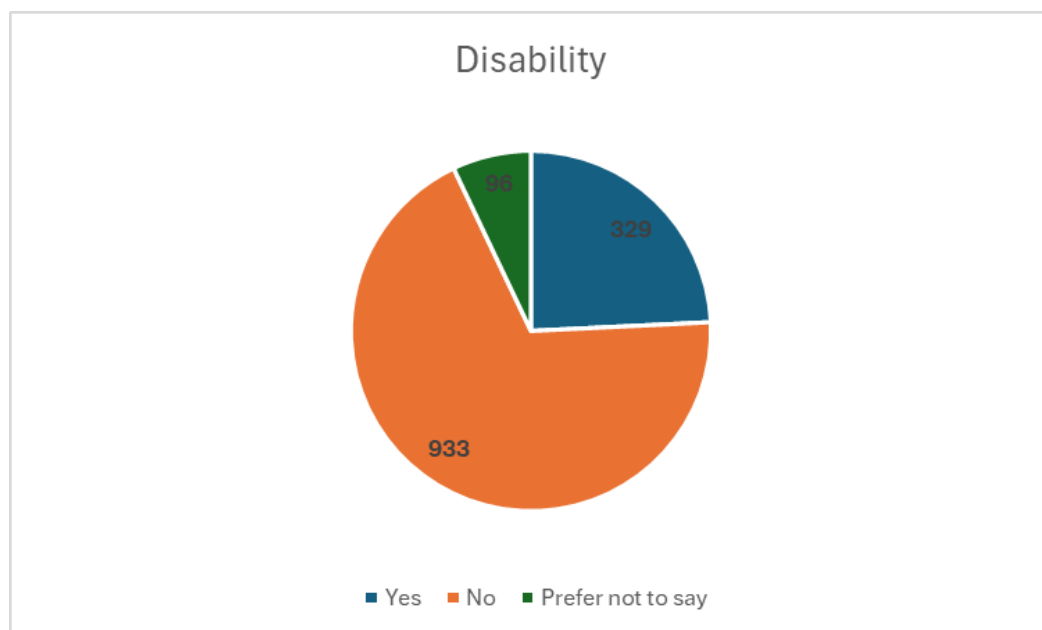


Figure 4: Disability status of survey respondents

Locality

Figure 5 provides a breakdown of where survey respondents live in the county; 1,363 respondents provided their locality information, while one declined to answer.

Huntingdonshire provided the greatest number of responses with 333 (24%), followed by South Cambridgeshire with 291 (21%), and then Peterborough with 264 (19%). East Cambridgeshire recorded the fourth highest number of responses with 166 (12%), followed by Fenland with 146 (11%). Cambridge City recorded the fewest responses with 129 (10%). 33 respondents (2%) live outside the county, while one respondent did not have a permanent residence.

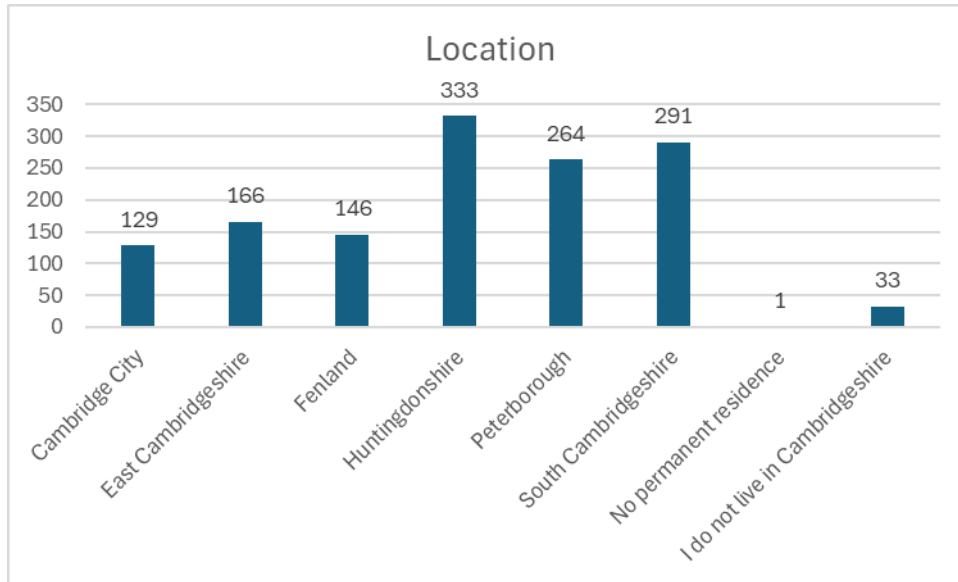


Figure 5: Residency of survey respondents

8. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

8. In total, 1,364 people completed the survey. In response to question 1:
1 'Having looked at the list of emerging priorities, would you agree that these are what you would like to see in the Police and Crime Plan?', almost 90% (1,213 people) either 'agreed' (45% or 611 people) or 'strongly agreed' (44% or 602 people) that these were the right priorities.

victims of crime police car police station Police patrols police force
 greater police police officers **police** crime police don't
 Police on the beat police presence visible police social behaviour
 Police service police on the street local police times and more police reports a crime

Out of those responses, a number of recurring themes were identified. The most common responses provided included:

- Police visibility
- Reporting a crime
- Anti-social behaviour, e.g. electric e-scooters
- Speeding

Below is a selection of the responses received:

“To cut down on anti-social behaviour and drug use is high on my list. Along with more of a police presence in the village.”

“A visible police force - particularly in areas where young people gather. Engagement with young people's groups to encourage them to seek the right paths away from crime and anti-social behaviour.”

“These are all great, but communication should be key. So often a crime is reported, and you get an automated message saying this won't be dealt with. I have a lot of ASB in my parish and it is a struggle to get residents to report crime. This doesn't help.”

8. The question about being a victim of crime was completed by 211
 2 respondents.

Respondents highlighted the importance of not being asked to repeat their story numerous times to police officers and having access to victim support from the same person throughout their criminal justice journey. This was highlighted as particularly important for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence. There were a wide range of different experiences

	<p>of reporting crime, the investigation and support offered shared through the survey. The importance of being able to easily report crimes, the police keeping them up to date and honestly managing their expectations of the response they would get were recurrent themes.</p>
9.	PRESS AND MEDIA
9.	<p>The survey was issued via press release to 45 journalists on Monday 15th July at 10am. The survey was covered by two media outlets based in Peterborough and the BBC which covers all of Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Related articles:</p> <p><u>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough police plans surveyed by more than 1,300 residents - BBC News</u></p> <p><u>https://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/crime/peterborough-residents-urged-to-have-their-say-on-policing-and-crime-in-city-4706119</u></p> <p>Interviews:</p> <p>The Commissioner was interviewed on 15th July on BBC Cambridgeshire, with a reminder about the survey in hourly news bulletins and then invited to talk about the results on Tuesday 27th August.</p> <p>Social media coverage:</p> <p>A total of four posts per platform were posted on the Commissioner’s social media accounts, namely Facebook, X and Instagram to promote the survey. Below the total of accounts reached, shares and likes across each platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook – across all posts, a total of 9,082 accounts were reached and 39 people shared the post on their personal accounts. • X – across all posts, a reach of 2,123 accounts and 10 re-posts to personal accounts. • Instagram – across all posts and stories, 227 accounts were reached, 2 likes and 1 share to a personal account.
10	CONCLUSIONS

<p>10 .1</p>	<p>The strongest message from the public was around police officer visibility.</p> <p>Residents want to see more police officers in their communities particularly in towns and villages and more rural locations responding to issues and addressing concerns.</p> <p>The public also want to Constabulary to be more accessible, particularly when a crime has been reported. There were several comments regarding communication from the Constabulary, both in response to issues raised and by means of updates. People want to know if action has been taken once they have raised concerns.</p> <p>Other issues included in the responses included those which cannot be tackled by policing alone – issues such as anti-social behaviour, drug misuse, knife crime and serious violence. The Plan will need to explain how the police and other partners will listen to the public to support them to act on their concerns.</p> <p>Many of these issues, for example, crime in rural areas or business crime, anti-social behaviour and dangerous driving require partnership working. Reference to progress made to date can be found in the Commissioner’s recently published Annual Report 2023-2024 which tracked progress against priorities in the previous Police and Crime Plan.</p> <p>While the online survey is now closed, the Commissioner continues to speak to stakeholders, partners and providers to ensure countywide commitment to progressing those priorities the public would like to see in the new Plan. This ongoing consultation will be taking place throughout September and October for example through the countywide Criminal Justice Board and the High Harms Board, through visits to schools and colleges and more bespoke engagement with communities.</p>
	<p>BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</p>
	<p>Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents</p>