

**Summary of issues submitted at 'Policing the Future' Public Meeting
held at Police Headquarters, Enderby on 14 July 2011**

You asked about
The reasons why experienced Police Officers have to leave after 30 years service
Responses
This refers to the use of 'Regulation A19 of the Police Pensions Regulation Act'. The rule affects those with 30 years or more service where officers can be 'required to retire'. In Leicestershire we have not used this rule, although we have reviewed our 30+ officers.

You asked about
Police mergers and whether they are being considered
Responses
<p>The five force structures remain the basis of the policing model in the East Midlands. Local policing relies upon, and is an integral part of, a range of operational and non-operational support services which are currently provided at force level. However collaboration with other forces within the region should improve value for money and substantially reduce costs. It should help meet operational need and improve the service received by local communities. It is anticipated that it will address capacity and capability shortfalls.</p> <p>Leicestershire Constabulary wants to provide a locally-based service; some aspects may be better delivered by way of collaboration. There may be some areas of working where local partners, rather than police, are preferred. Some areas of business may benefit from being coordinated regionally whilst retaining local force ownership.</p>

You asked about
Any plans to establish a Youth Advisory Board
Responses
We believe young people are important and form part of our business. We do engage with young people through schools and via the Youth Parliament. We already embrace new technology such as using social media networks and we also have dedicated youth Initiative Officers and the Police Authority has a lead member for young people. We are happy to discuss ways to progress this idea.

Continued ... >

You asked about
The use of volunteers in policing specifically for policing the Olympics. Plans about implementing the idea of the 'Big Society'
Responses
<p>We are currently working on a strategy around the use of volunteers. The Authority has embarked on achieving the Charter Mark for volunteering. The Police Authority runs a successful Independent Custody Visitor scheme where all the visitors are volunteers - they go into Custody Suites to check on the welfare of people who are being held in police custody.</p> <p>We are lucky to have so many volunteers who work in our organisation and partner volunteers such as NHW, Street Pastors etc which are an important part of our business. The 'Big Society' will become more important in the future.</p> <p>The Blaby volunteers have recently won a national award and we are very proud of them. Volunteers and Special Constables are an important part of our business. They provide vital support to our organisation, and we value that.</p> <p>The policing of the Olympics in Leicester is still in the planning stage. We will consider using volunteers to help us however, this will be dependent on many factors.</p>

You asked about
Crime reduction in Leicestershire and any impact given there is a reduced budget
Responses
<p>We will continue to work hard to reduce crime and latest figures from the British Crime Survey show that we are reducing crime in Leicestershire compared with other places in the country. We believe this is due to a number of factors such as good policing, receiving good support from our volunteers, better systems such as CCTV and better partnership working. Product designers work with the Police to develop new ideas to make life more difficult for criminals. Innovations include better security locks and property marking devices. We have new strategies that place officers in the heart of communities and we utilise new technology. Reducing Crime and Anti Social Behaviour is our main priority and even with a reduced budget we still have to concentrate on this.</p>

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You asked about

Increasing bicycle patrols

Responses

Police officers use a variety of methods to patrol their beats including pushbikes, cars and on foot. Whilst foot patrol or pushbike patrol are both useful I am sure you appreciate it does not give officers the ability to respond as quickly to incidents. Therefore the Constabulary has tried to strike a balance between a number of different methods of patrol that keep us accessible to the community. We also rely on the back up of colleagues such as Scenes of Crime Officers for example.

There will always be a need to deploy resources to areas of greatest need, but we can tell you that the latest results from the British Crime Survey show that overall crime rates in Leicester City are falling as they are across the force. However, we want to cut crime across all our areas, whether these are rural or urban, and we are focussed on this aim.

We understand how important Neighbourhood Policing is to local people and we are seeking to preserve this as far as possible. Neighbourhood Policing is one part of policing though, we have response teams, we have specialist operational support teams, such as Scene of Crime Officers, and we have many centralised teams at HQ to support the work of those in the community.

Our response needs to be proportionate to the risk whilst recognising that there still needs to be a local service available. We need to get the balance right.

We also have to balance the desire for visible policing with the need to deliver those areas of policing that are often not visible to the public such as child protection and counter terrorism work

You asked about

Police and Crime Commissioners and the Police and Crime Panel

Responses

In the Police and Social Reform Bill the Government has set out a plan to abolish Police Authorities and introduce directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners and a Police and Crime Panel.

The Police and Crime Panel are likely to be drawn from elected Councillors. The Police and Crime Panel will scrutinise the work of the Commissioner, not the Force. Part of the scrutiny will include how the Commissioner spends the budget.

There will be a Strategic Policing requirement that will ensure that no elements of policing are ignored by a Police and Crime Commissioner. It is estimated that the cost of an election will be about £1million in Leicestershire. However, overall the Government has said that a Police Commissioner should not cost any more than a Police Authority does now. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill has not yet gained Royal Assent and there is the potential that things may change.

Continued ... >

You asked about

101, the Single Non Emergency Number

Responses

It is planned to introduce a single non emergency number that can be used nationally to contact the police. The introduction of the number is being rolled out gradually and Leicestershire is due to start using it in the Autumn. There are lots of things to consider about the launch of the number and a full communications plan will be put in place.

It should help us reduce the number of calls made inappropriately to 999.

You asked about

The level of drug use in schools

Responses

Drugs are always a priority as they are definitely a driver of crime.

Drug issues will be identified through local neighbourhood teams and where appropriate, made into local priorities. Beat teams work closely with their local school and will always support any school where issues are identified.

Resources are dedicated to drug crime as they often link to other crimes and we regularly carry out covert investigation and drug enforcement operations. We also undertake drug testing of people in police custody.

You asked about

Anti Social Behaviour

Answer

Anti social behaviour is one area we know affects people. There is a current national review taking place around the use of anti social behaviour powers which may see a more streamlined process in place. We accept that one person's acceptable behaviour may be anti social to others. Is football in the street acceptable, or is it deterring people from going outside. We take reports of anti social behaviour seriously and deal with instances accordingly.

Continued ... >

You asked about

Offences such as riding bicycles on the pavement or pavement parking and why people ignore them

Offences such as driving whilst not wearing a seatbelt or whilst using a mobile phone

Answer

Some people do not abide by the law and that is why we are here. We will respond to issues raised through your Local Neighbourhood Team. Inform us if there are specific laws not being enforced and we will respond accordingly.

We acknowledge that people parking on the pavement is a problem however it is not an offence albeit very inconsiderate. We can only operate within the boundaries of the law. If a vehicle is causing an obstruction that is something we can take action on.

Offences whilst driving have been subject to the Department of Transport 'Fatal4' initiative where roadside clinics are being conducted to educate people. The objective is to reduce road casualties, to change the attitude and behaviour of drivers and passengers regarding the dangers caused by the four most common causes of death and injury in road collisions across the country.

- Drink and Drug Driving
- Speeding
- Seat Belts (non wearing)
- Mobile Phones

The education clinics have seen Police personnel observe a driver committing one or more of the FATAL4 offences and the vehicle is directed to the roadside clinic. This comprises of a police van where the driver/passengers are given road safety advice, shown the appropriate DVD and handed literature.

You asked about

How we get rid of unsatisfactory officers

Answer

We have a process in place and we offer people the chance to improve. We also have a probationary period for new officers.

Continued ... >

You asked about

Has the Chief Constable signed the action plan with the European Human Rights Commission regarding the use of Police Stops?

Answer

We have signed an agreement with the EHRC.

THE END