

Foreword

“The Police are the Public and the Public are the Police,” wrote Sir Robert Peel when he founded our modern police force. He went on “the police are only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to the duties which are incumbent on every citizen.”

Peel intended that the police should have the co-operation of the public and of other public bodies. It is in that partnership that the route to safer and more prosperous communities is to be found. This Police and Crime Plan sets out how I, as your Police and Crime Commissioner, intend to bring Peel’s principles of policing to Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland in the 21st Century.

I want to see the police, councils, public bodies, charities, voluntary groups and the public working together to drive down crime, care for victims and build real community spirit.

We will need adequate resources to achieve that, and those resources need to be allocated carefully to where they will do the most good. I will lobby the national government to reform the outdated Police Funding Formula which massively disadvantages our area compared to others. I will bid for additional funds to help deal with issues in our specific area. I will ruthlessly pursue value for money and cost effectiveness in all the services that my Office commissions. I will look to commission the most effective services from those best placed to provide them.

This holistic approach will put a renewed emphasis on prevention and on partnerships. I will seek to empower local communities to help themselves.

As you can see from the detail in this Police and Crime Plan, I aim to provide a wide range of services to support those of us unfortunate enough to fall victim to crime.

First and foremost, I will work with the Chief Constable to provide an efficient and effective police service. This will involve ensuring that the Police Estate is fit for purpose now and into the future both for the use of the police and of the public. I will work to see the Force provided with an effective and innovative range of vehicles for their work. The financial sustainability of the Force will be key, especially in these uncertain times.

Care for victims and for witnesses to crime will follow a trauma-informed path to be as effective as possible. Navigating the criminal justice system as victim or witness can be a daunting and stressful experience. I will work closely with other bodies in the criminal justice system to try to ensure a co-ordinated and cooperative approach.

Violence and vulnerability will obviously be high priorities, but I want to see the impact on our communities as well as on individuals taken into account. That is why neighbourhood policing must be a key focus alongside business crime, rural policing, road safety and violence against women and girls.

Building safer and more prosperous communities must be a co-operative effort in which we all play a positive and dynamic role, as Sir Robert Peel established all those years ago. This Police and Crime Plan is designed to carry us all forward.

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