

Sussex Police and Crime Panel - Public and Panel Questions to the Commissioner

29 January 2021

Report by the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

The table below provides a schedule of the questions received prior to this meeting and where possible responses have been included. Responses will be tabled at the meeting that were not available at the time of despatch. Written questions must be received 2 weeks before a meeting of the Panel and the Commissioner or Panel Chairman is invited to provide a response by noon of the day before the meeting.

Questions that relate to operational matters of Sussex Police will be passed to a relevant officer at Sussex Police for a response and a brief summary of the question will be provided below. For the current meeting, four questions have been received for a response by the Commissioner.

Question	Response
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="241 691 1240 927">1. Given the success of the Community Speedwatch initiative, which has been established as a means of empowering local communities to support the Police in monitoring and enforcing speed restrictions, what steps have been taken to develop other models for community support to address issues like parking enforcement?<li data-bbox="241 978 1240 1174">2. How does the Commissioner monitor whether the policing of parking offences in areas which remain the direct responsibility of Sussex Police is effective and, are the number of enforcement notices issued consistent per head of population with those issued in areas where parking has been decriminalised?	

Mr Karn of Heathfield/Wealden, East Sussex

3. The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2019/20 includes some aspirational statements concerning projects that you hoped to deliver during 2020/21.

Understandably, these may be more challenging amidst the COVID-19 restrictions, therefore can you please update on what progress you have been able to achieve to date with the following projects: *{page numbers refer to the relevant statements in the SPCC Annual Report 2019/20}*.

- RECRUITMENT – page 9

Extra investment to...provide an even greater policing presence particularly in towns, villages and online.

- PUBLIC CONTACT – page 9

Increase the accessibility of policing services for the public and further reduce call-waiting times.

- RURAL CRIME – page 10

To add 10 additional police officers to the six existing PCSOs to form a dedicated Rural Crime Team.

These officers can come together to deliver Targeted Days of Action. How many targeted days have been delivered and what was the outcome in reducing rural crime?

- BUSINESS CRIME: PLEDGE – page 15

Given the limitations to business and the combined COVID emergency

regulation restrictions, what progress has the Safer Sussex Business Partnership been able to make in 2020/21? How will this pledge now be progressed?

Cllr Bill Bentley
Chairman
Sussex Police & Crime Panel

4. I don't think that the surveys that the SPCC does to justify increases in the council tax precept are properly representative. (Note that council tax for policing has gone up every single year since 2013/14).

A few examples:

- Focus groups are made up predominantly of members of community safety and neighbourhood watch organisations. People who are members of these groups are highly likely to be people who are concerned about safety and crime. They are thus likely to be in favour of increasing spending.
- The Police & Crime Panel is made up mainly of people like chairs of a Safer Communities Board. People like this are also likely to approve higher spending.
- Surveys on the SPCC website don't offer the option for people to say 'I don't fear crime' and 'I want to pay LESS for policing'.
- Surveys in particular really concern me. You can't suggest

they are representative because a certain number of people responded - which is what tends to happen. If the main channels for getting people to respond involve emailing the existing SPCC database, tweeting etc to SPCC social channels. Again there's a huge risk that these respondents are already concerned about crime and safety and will thus vote for increases.

I would suggest that to conduct surveys properly, you need to define a genuinely representative group first and then ask the questions - most probably via email or outbound telemarketing. You need to make sure some of the questions suggest the opposite of what you want to achieve too. I would use a third-party agency to do this - that way no one can make suggestions of bias.

I welcome comments. I'd particularly like Katy to explain how she ensures that surveys are genuinely representative - like I say merely quoting numbers of people surveyed doesn't answer the question.

Mr Head of Lewes, East Sussex