

FACE THE PUBLIC BRIEFING NOTE: PENDLE

Please note, this is not to be used as a verbatim document, but rather as a resource document for questions to the panel from the public.

HOW OUR ORGANISATION FITS INTO THE PARTNERSHIP

WHAT IS THE POLICE AUTHORITY?

The Police Authority scrutinises the work of the Constabulary in terms of managing resources, monitoring performance and challenging established perceptions with a view to bringing improvements. It provides an appropriate balance between support and challenge in the form of a critical friend.

It is important that local people know that there is a proper, and independent, system in place to scrutinise policing and that there is a structured way in which the police are monitored. The Authority is not a faceless bureaucratic club but a visible, vital link between the police and the public.

ROLE OF MEMBERS

The Authority is made up of 17 Members. Members of the Authority come from a whole range of backgrounds, each with their individual portfolio of experiences, bringing knowledge and understanding of public concerns to the table to help the Constabulary develop the most appropriate policies and working practices.

Members get involved in target setting and monitoring performance to make sure that the Police take account of local issues and concerns. Setting targets and monitoring performance against those targets is not about extra paperwork – it is about making sure that we measure success against things that are important to people – such as the length of time that their Police Officers and Police Staff are available and visible within communities.

Core bullets:

1. is independent and represents local people
2. consults with the people of Lancashire about policing, anti-social behaviour and the prevention of crime
3. sets local policing priorities and challenging targets
4. monitors and scrutinises police performance to secure continuous improvement
5. sets the budget and council tax for policing
6. publishes annual plans and reports which tell people about their local police service
7. appoints the Chief, Deputy and Assistant Chief Constables
8. oversees complaints made against the police
9. promotes equality for all
10. ensures an efficient and effective police service for Lancashire

OUR PERFORMANCE IN THE LAST 3 YEARS

We provide an essential bridge between the constabulary and local communities.

We do that by:

- Playing a key role in CSP in Pendle ensuring that residents feel safe, assured and confident.
- Helping residents understand there is real accountability for the decisions and actions that the police take as part of the Pendle CSP

The need for strong relationships with local authorities and the public we represent is imperative.

We play an important part in:

- the successful delivery of Local Area Agreements;
- the meeting of national policing targets;
- the delivery of quality responsive policing services.

We deliver this by:

- Consulting with local people
- Setting targets for the police
- Monitoring performance against targets
- Setting the police's budget and monitoring spend.

Demonstrating success

Budget:

We set the budget for policing. This year due to the current economic situation, the Police Authority has tried to ensure that the right balance between investment in the policing service and an acceptable increase in the Council Tax.

Residents in Lancashire pay towards policing through the payment of council tax and the average cost is £142.08 (£6.12 a year, £2.73 per week., just under 12p a week).

We consult with residents via Opinion our 4000 strong residents' panel, through road shows in the community, using focus groups and via online surveys. We listen to and value what residents tell us and that process has enabled the Authority to increase council tax above the cap set by government as residents are willing to invest more in policing.

The last 5 years have seen significant investment in policing and residents' investment has resulted in:

- More dedicated neighbourhood police officers through the recruitment of extra community beat managers and police community support officers
- An additional 84 police officers and 9 police staff to Combat terrorism and tackle serious and organised crime such as drug dealing.

That investment in action=

Taking criminals off the streets stats:

A countywide operation – ‘Operation Protecting People’ - in a single week resulted in:

- 198 people arrested
- £130,000 worth of drugs seized
- £31,880 cash seized
- 60 illegal cars taken off the streets
- The discovery of 8 cannabis farms

Crime stats:

- Vehicle crime at its lowest for 28 years
- Burglary at its lowest for 35 years
- Overall crime down by 9% compared to last year
- Violent crime reduced by 6.4% compared to last year
- Criminal damage down 14.6% compared to last year.
- 1 in 3 crimes solved, one of the highest rates in England & Wales

LOCAL STATS

Crime:

- 493 fewer victims of vehicle crime
- £1,300,000 worth of stolen property recovered
- 11,393 offenders arrested

PRIORITIES OVER THAT TIME AND THE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS THAT WE HAVE SUPPORTED .

- Police authorities have a key role in demonstrating accountability for the decisions and actions that the police are taking at a county and local level.
- We hold the chief constable to account for the performance of the Constabulary.
- Ensure ties with local accountability for the Divisional Commander
- Make sure that there are clear linkages between CSP local planning and delivery and our Strategic Planning process.
- Police Authority members can help bring a corporate view e.g. sharing a ‘Force-wide’ perspective or explaining resourcing issues to local partners and local communities

Lancashire Constabulary has maintained its position as a top performing police force in the latest round of assessments carried out by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) and the Home Office. The Constabulary has been ranked joint first out of 43 forces and has consistently been in the top three as far as the assessments are concerned since their introduction in 2004.

Current priorities

The Authority and the Constabulary agreed the priorities for policing in 2009-2010 year based on the public’s main concerns.

These priorities are:

1. To reassure the public, particularly protecting those who are vulnerable with emphasis on public safety; anti-social behaviour; and service delivery.
2. To reduce and investigate crime, with particular emphasis on acquisitive crime; violent crime; substance misuse; offending and re-offending; counter terrorism; serious and organised crime.

Priorities moving forward

Quality policing, police accountability and active local management of policing is not about hitting targets.

Connecting with communities to drive local accountability, targeting local crime more effectively, understanding local concerns and having a police force that is truly part of the local community it serves, is our goal.

That means our priorities have to be:

- A firm commitment to joint problem-solving
- Ensuring that police are adequately resourced.
- Active involvement in agreeing local targets.
- Involvement in local scrutiny and accountability

Consultation/engagement we carry out.

- Opinion – 4000 strong residents panel
- Supermarket road shows across the county
- Focus groups
- On street surveys
- Telephone surveys
- Public meetings
- Online surveys

BCU divisional meeting:

Pennine –

Thursday 3rd December – Turf Moor, Burnley Football Club
Buffet 5pm
6pm start.