



## **HAVERHILL PUBLIC MEETING**

A public meeting was held at the Samuel Ward Academy, Chalkstone Way, Haverhill on Monday 10 October 2016 at 18:30 hrs.

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner**

Sandra Graffham (Communications Manager), Tim Passmore (Police & Crime Commissioner) and Melissa Turner (PA to the PCC).

#### **Suffolk Constabulary**

Inspector Danny Cooper (Locality Inspector – Sudbury/Haverhill) and Gareth Wilson (Chief Constable).

### **1. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW**

1.1 The PCC welcomed around 34 members of the public to the meeting and made introductions. The PCC gave a presentation on the key elements of his role and action taken over the past year. A copy of the presentation slides will be attached to these notes for the record.

### **2. POLICING UPDATE**

2.1 Following an overview of the position across the county from the Chief Constable, Inspector Danny Cooper gave a presentation on policing in the Haverhill area; a copy of their slides will also be attached for the record.

### **3. KEY AREAS OF DISCUSSION**

- **FUNDING FORMULA** – Question relating to the how members of the public could participate in the Funding Formula Consultation.
- **COMMUNICATION WITH LOCAL MPS** – The PCC advised that he met with local MPs around two or three times per year and they were generally very supportive and recognised the importance of policing.

- IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY ON MARKET DAYS – Inspector Cooper advised that he was working with the County Council on proposed changes.
- WILLOW CLOSE – Discussion regarding growing problems in this area where there were a large number of houses with multiple occupants (HMOs) and reports of drug dealing, vandalism and anti-social behaviour which had resulted in residents feeling vulnerable in their own homes. Inspector Cooper was aware of these problems and was working with other agencies to try and resolve them. For example, the SNT had executed 22 drug warrants in the month of February which had resulted in 6 arrests. Inspector Cooper encouraged residents to phone 999 to report any live drug dealing activity so that it could be addressed. The Chief Constable advised that they were proactively working with the Eastern Regions and Serious Organised Crime Unit (ERSOU) to tackle drug dealing. **Action:** The PCC also stressed the need for stronger sentencing and would raise this with the Local Criminal Justice Board. **Action:** The PCC would also raise the issue of the social problems associated with HMOs at the next Suffolk Public Sector Leaders meeting.
- POLICE VISIBILITY/POLICE STATION FRONT COUNTER CLOSURE – Recent closures owing to little demand which had resulted in cost savings of c. £0.75 m allowing the recruitment of 15 additional police officers. The Chief Constable reminded residents that although the front counter had closed, the Haverhill Police Station was still being used and there was a telephone outside the station to contact the Control Room. The Suffolk Local Policing Review had recognised the need to adapt the Organisation to deal with new and different issues such as hidden harm and cyber-crime. (Regarding the latter issue, the Constabulary was recruiting volunteers to work in the Cyber Crime Unit.) Residents were encouraged to report any issues of dissatisfaction to the Chief Constable and/PCC.
- CAR PARKING – The PCC confirmed that Suffolk Constabulary forms part of a working group which had been set-up to consider the transition of on-street parking enforcement in Suffolk from the police to local authorities. If agreed, the timescale for the implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement across the whole of Suffolk was expected to be two years. The Chief Constable advised that in the short-term, crimes would be prioritised according to threat, harm and risk. That said, parking in a dangerous position would be dealt with as a priority and remained the responsibility of the Police.
- CONTACTING THE POLICE – The Chief Constable advised that a comprehensive review of call-handling was currently taking place. In addition, a number of new staff had been appointed to join the Contact and Control Room (CCR) which would have a significant impact on performance. A new queuing system was also in place to enable callers to know where they are in the queue. The Switchboard was also able to divert calls to 999 if necessary and a Triage system was able to prioritise calls. The new Constabulary website also provided more interactive features in order to manage demand such as reporting a crime on-line and applying for a firearms license. The Website was continually being developed and apps such as tracking a crime report and Virtual 101 were being reviewed.

- EASTERN REGION COLLABORATION – The PCC recognised the need to take account of the demographic changes in Haverhill. The Chief Constable advised that Forces in the Eastern Region worked collaboratively and communicated well with each other.

*The PCC thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:05 hrs.*