



Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

Annual Report 2022/23

Chair's foreword

I am extremely pleased to present the fifth Annual Report of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) which covers its activities during 2022-23.

The aims and objectives of the Panel are to support and scrutinise the performance of Cleveland's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Steve Turner, regarding the strategic objectives contained in his Police and Crime Plan.


The Panel plays a vital role on behalf of our communities in holding the PCC to account and supporting him in the effective exercise of his duties.

Cleveland Police, under the leadership of the Chief Constable Mark Webster, and the strategic direction set by Steve Turner PCC, have steered the force on a better course to improvement and this is recognised by the panel.

However, the Panel recognising the significant progress made, know the areas where improvement is still needed and will continue to support the PCC in his strategic objectives to achieve this.

I would like to thank all Panel Members for their dedication and commitment in carrying out the Panel's statutory functions which, in turn, help to deliver an effective and efficient policing service for the people of Cleveland.

The work of the Panel would not run smoothly without the support of the democratic, and legal service staff of the Local Authorities. Redcar and Cleveland Council presently support the panel and I would like to thank the officers who have carried out their role with professionalism, candour, and dedication.



Tony Riordan
Chair, Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

Police and Crime Commissioners

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 brought in new arrangements for national policing, including the introduction of elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).

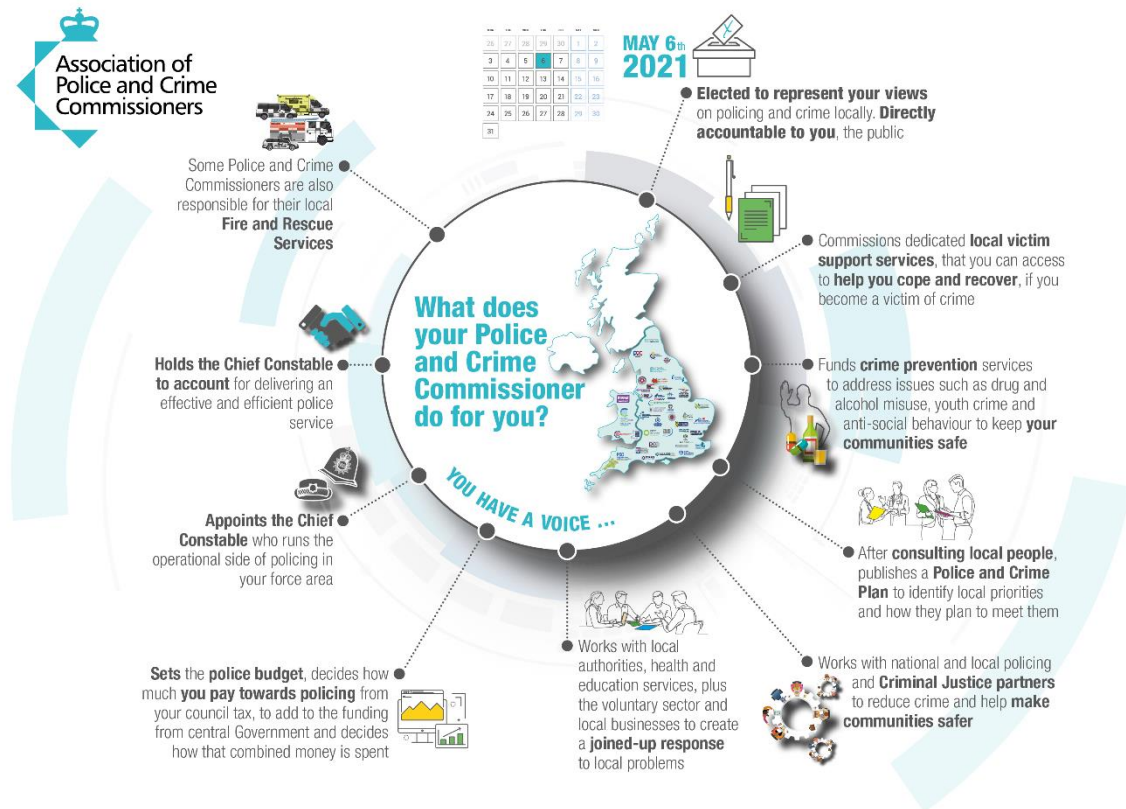
The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. They are responsible for the totality of policing.

PCCs aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their police force area. They are elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and the force to account, making the police answerable to the communities they serve.

PCCs ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible and aim to improve local relationships through building confidence and restoring trust. They work in partnership across a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

Under the terms of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, PCCs must:

- secure efficient and effective police for their area.
- appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for running the force, and if necessary, dismiss them.
- set the police and crime objectives for their area through a police and crime plan;
- set the force budget and determine the precept;
- contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary; and
- bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, to make sure local priorities are joined up.



What is the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel?

Police and Crime Commissioners are held to account by Police and Crime Panels which are composed of locally elected Councillors and some lay members.

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel is the scrutiny body which exists to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Steve Turner, to promote openness in the transaction of police business and to support the PCC in the effective exercise of his functions.

The police force, however, is accountable through the Chief Constable to the Police and Crime Commissioner, not to the Panel.

Panel membership 2022/23

The Panel consists of 14 members: 12 Councillors with membership drawn from the four unitary Councils within the Cleveland Force Area and two non-political independent members.

Chair Councillor Tony Riordan (Stockton-on-Tees)		Vice Chair Councillor Barrie Cooper (Middlesbrough)	
			
Councillor Graham Cutler (Redcar and Cleveland)	Councillor Stefan Houghton (Stockton-on-Tees)	Councillor Carrie Richardson (Redcar and Cleveland)	
			
Councillor Chris Jones (Redcar and Cleveland)	Councillor Tom Mawston (Middlesbrough)	Paul McGrath (Independent Member)	
			
Councillor Shane Moore (Hartlepool)	Councillor Steve Nelson (Stockton-on-Tees)	Mayor Andy Preston (Middlesbrough)	
			
Councillor Carole Thompson (Hartlepool)	Luigi Salvati (Independent Member)	Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE (Stockton-on-Tees)	
			

The composition of the Panel is in accordance with legislative provisions and is politically proportionate with the total number of Councillors in the Force area.

CLEVELAND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL ATTENDANCE - 2022-23

First Name	Last Name	Representing	05.07.22	13.09.22	15.11.22	07.02.23	Total Meetings Attended
Amy	Prince	Councillor - HBC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shane	Moore	Councillor - HBC	Apols	Apols	Apols	Apols	0/4
Kevin	Tiplady	Councillor - HBC	Apols	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Carole	Thompson	Councillor - HBC	n/a	n/a	Apols	✓	1/2
Graham	Cutler	Councillor - R&CBC	✓	✓	✓	✓	4/4
Chris	Jones	Councillor R&CBC	Apols	✓	✓	Apols	2/4
Carrie	Richardson	Councillor R&CBC	Apols	Apols	Apols	✓	1/4
Andy	Preston	Councillor MBC	Apols	Apols	Apols	Apols	0/4
Barrie	Cooper	Councillor MBC	✓	✓	✓	✓	4/4
Tom	Mawston	Councillor - MBC	✓	✓	✓	Apols	3/4
Norma	Stephenson	Councillor - SBC	✓	RA	✓	✓	3/4
Steve	Nelson	Councillor - SBC	✓	✓	✓	✓	4/4
Tony	Riordan	Councillor - SBC	✓	✓	✓	✓	4/4
Stefan	Houghton	Councillor - SBC	✓	✓	Apols	✓	3/4
Paul	McGrath	Independent Member	✓	✓	✓	✓	4/4
Luigi	Salvati	Independent Member	✓	✓	✓	✓	4/4

Substitutes

Karen	King	Councillor - R&CBC	✓				
Pauline	Beall	Councillor - Stockton		✓			

Key	
✓	Attended
RA	Apologies Submitted (replacement attended)
Apols	Apologies Submitted (no replacement)
✗	Did Not Attend (no apologies received)
C	Cancelled Meeting
n/a	Not a Member

Panel role and responsibilities

The Police and Crime Panel's role is to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner, providing both support and challenge and acting as a critical friend.

The Panel has statutory duties or special functions which form the core elements of its work. It is responsible for:

- Holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account
- Reviewing the Commissioner's proposed appointments and holding confirmation hearings
- Reviewing the proposed annual police precept
- Contributing to the development of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan
- Reviewing the Commissioner's Annual Report
- Reviewing and scrutinising decisions made by the Commissioner.
- Making reports and recommendations on matters relating to the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Handling complaints against the Commissioner

Panels meet publicly, wherever possible, to ensure transparency and that information is available to the electorate, enabling the public to hold their PCC to account.

Key Activities and Achievements

The Panel's Core Programme

During 2022/23, the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel met four times as a full Panel.

The Panel meeting on 5 July 2022 was the first of the municipal year and, following a vote, Councillor Tony Riordan was reappointed as the Panel's Chair. A further vote saw Councillor Barrie Cooper appointed as the Panel's new Vice Chair.

Core business for each ordinary meeting of the Panel includes:

- Members' questions to the Commissioner
- Updates on relevant matters from the Commissioner including his own scrutiny programme of the Force's work.
- Reports on progress and performance against the Police and Crime Plan
- Updates on the Commissioners Consultation and Engagement programme
- Review of decisions of the Commissioner

- Public questions
- The Panel's forward plan

Review of the Annual Report of the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner

The Commissioner presented his draft Annual Report 2021/22 to the Panel at its meeting on 15 November 2022. The report was a key document to inform residents and stakeholders of the achievements of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the preceding financial year. The report covered:

- Key milestones since the Commissioner's election in May 2021, including the introduction of Resolution, a PCC led complaints system, and the development of a new smartphone reporting app.
- Notable achievements throughout the year including,
 - ✓ Cleveland DIVERT winning a national award and securing future funding.
 - ✓ Funding for a Crimestoppers project to help young people report gang behaviour.
 - ✓ £30,000 investment in community groups to prevent and reduce levels of antisocial behaviour.
 - ✓ Appointment of new Chief Constable
 - ✓ £3.5m investment to establish CURV, Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence
 - ✓ Increasing the number of police officers in Cleveland to its highest level in 9 years.
 - ✓ Securing £381,771 investment to increase safety for women and girls
 - ✓ £500,000 investment to fund twelve additional domestic abuse and sexual violence experts.
- Performance delivery against the strategic objectives of the Police and Crime Plan
 - ✓ Build confidence and put the pride back into Cleveland Police
 - ✓ Work collectively with partners to reduce crime, specifically serious violence.
 - ✓ Make greater use of technology that creates efficiencies and supports productivity.
 - ✓ Provide high quality services to victims and the most vulnerable that effectively meets their needs.

In presenting his report, the Commissioner expressed his pride at the work that had been undertaken and progress made during the year.

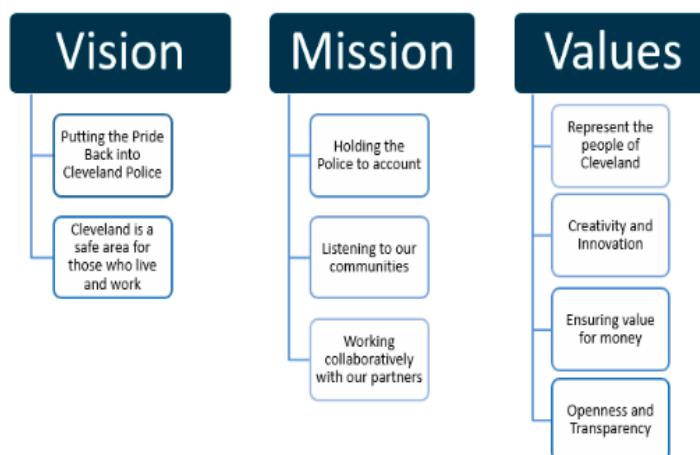
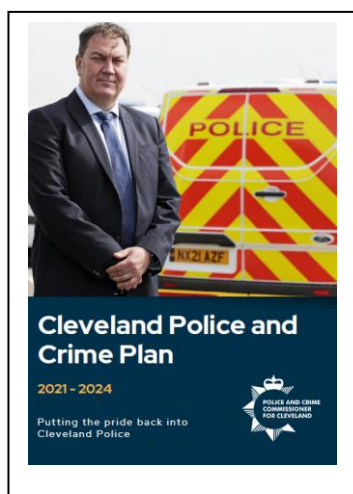
The Commissioner gave credit to his team, in particular the Chief Executive, and how positively they had responded to a different direction and focus since his election.

The Panel sought reassurances on the approach to recruitment and whether there was a focus on permanent officers rather than special constables. The Commissioner confirmed that recruiting special constables was a challenge, but that the ones currently recruited brought a variety of skills and experience with them. There was a pledge to double the number of special constables and work was ongoing to achieve this.

Assurances were also sought on the recruitment and vetting processes for police officers following recent national high-profile incidents and press coverage. The Commissioner confirmed that the Force had stringent processes in place, and he was confident the process was as robust as it could be.

Delivering the Police and Crime Plan

Throughout the year, the Commissioner provided quarterly updates against his Police and Plan 2021-24. The plan set out a 10-point plan covering the Commissioner's term of office, developed around clear outcomes and objectives which reflected his manifesto commitments.



The Police and Crime Commissioner's 10-point plan:

- Bringing offenders to justice
- Getting tough on drugs and gangs
- Tackling anti-social behaviour head-on
- Helping to provide an effective police and criminal justice system
- Preventing, reducing and tackling serious violence
- Putting more police on the streets
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- Building confidence in Cleveland's communities
- Providing effective, quality support for victims and witnesses
- Using technology to combat crime.

The Panel provided robust scrutiny and challenge to the Commissioner, requesting furthermore detailed data at times to understand the issues and progress being made. The performance reporting framework has continued to evolve throughout the year.

Particular areas of focus and challenge from the Panel related to:

- Concerns about off-road motorcycles and public safety.
- Restoring confidence in the police, particularly when there appeared to be increase in complaint allegations.
- Control room response time and feedback to residents and elected Members on reports of crimes.

The Panel welcomed the regular updates on how the commissioner undertook his own scrutiny role in relation to holding the Chief Constable and the Force to account and the topics this covered, and were appreciative of the Chief Constable's attendance at a Panel meeting to share more operational detail on the approach to dealing with off-road motorcycles.

Scrutiny of the Policing Precept

One of the key roles of the Panel is to consider the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed policing budget and precept. As in previous years, a Task and Finish Panel was appointed to undertake more detailed work and make a recommendation to the Panel. The Panel comprised the following Councillors:

Councillor Barrie Cooper (Chair)	Middlesbrough Borough Council
Councillor Graham Cutler	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor Steve Nelson	Stockton Borough Council
Councillor Shane Moore	Hartlepool Borough Council
Luigi Salvati	Non-Political Independent Member

The Group met on 18 January 2023 to receive information about the Police and Crime Commissioner's overall budget strategy for Cleveland Police and in particular proposals for the precept.

The Group prepared a report for consideration by the full Panel at its meeting on 7 February 2023 which set out in detail their deliberations, key findings and conclusions. These are summarised below:

- The police funding settlement for 2023/24 set out that overall funding for policing would rise by up to £287 million compared to the 2022/23 funding settlement, bringing the total up to £17.2 billion for the policing system.

- The settlement also confirmed that PCCs would be empowered to raise additional funding through their Band D precept flexibility by up to £15 in 2023/24 without the need to call a local referendum, returning to £10 in subsequent years.
- The future funding and planning assumptions that had been made in determining the budget strategy and LTFP for Cleveland for 2023/24 were:
 - Pay awards budgeted for a 4% increase in 2023/23 returning to 2% in subsequent years.
 - A precept increase of £15 (5.44%) in 2023/24, returning to £10 in subsequent years.
 - Tax Base Growth of 1.39% in 2023/24, returning to 1.2% in subsequent years.
 - Government Grants increases of 1.7% in 2024/25, returning to 2% in subsequent years.
 - Impact of Funding Formula review – Nil
- The plan included a specific grant of £3,298,000 to maintain the Government targets for Police Officer increases. In Cleveland, this equated to at least 1443 officers by the end of March 2024.
- There had been an accelerated recruitment programme overseen by the PCC over recent years and the force was confident this target could be achieved. Planned recruitment of just over 100 police officers in the final four months of 2022/23 would put the Force above 1500 FTE police officers for the first time in over a decade.
- The financial plan would balance based on a £15 increase in precept for 2023/24, although, this would mean a significant reduction in financing capital to make it possible.
- Around 11% of staff posts within force would need to be held vacant to work within the funding available.
- Even with £15 proposed increase this year, the final years within the LTFP were not currently projected to balance.
- Any increase less than £15 would make a very difficult position even worse.
- A consultation exercised had gathered views from 1192 people with 455 people completing the online survey and 737 people taking part in the community events 'counter method' consultation.
- There were variations in responses based on whether the consultation had been online or face to face. When different forms of consultation generated different results, it was difficult to compare or generalise.
- Notwithstanding the variations, there did appear to be support from residents for increasing the funding for the police if the money was spent on local policing with a visible street police presence and on core problem solving activity, particularly in relation to drugs, violence and antisocial use of motor vehicles.

- The level of reserves was currently set at 3.2 % of the net budget requirement in 2023/24 which was in line with good practice. General Reserves were projected to be £5 million across the life of the plan.

Having considered the information available to it and discussed the funding assumptions and associated issues in detail, and assuming there was no significant change from the currently stated position, Members of the Task and Finish Panel recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner's to set the Band D police element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2023/24 at £290.73 representing an increase of £15, or 5.44%, over the 2022/23 level should be endorsed by the Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on 7 February 2023.

The Panel gave consideration to the report that had been prepared by the Task and Finish Panel, thanking the Members for their time in looking at the budget strategy and precept proposals in greater depth and endorsed their recommendation to support the Commissioner's proposal to set the Band D police element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2023/24 at £290.73 representing an increase of £15, or 5.44%, over the 2022/23 level.

Panel Support arrangements

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council continue to provide support for the Panel having taken over the role from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council in October 2021. It is intended that the support role rotates between each of the four Local Authorities within the Cleveland Force area and be aligned to the election cycle for Police and Crime Commissioners.

Funding

The Home Office provides grant funding for the host authority to provide administrative support to the Panel to cover costs such as meeting, conference, training and printing expenses and officer time.

For the year 2022/23, the sum of £66,180 was awarded by the Home Office.

Complaints

The Panel has specific duties under the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and misconduct) Regulations 2021 relating to the recording and investigation of complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner that relate to non-criminal behaviour.

The Panel established a sub-committee to consider complaints against the Commissioner. Complaints are dealt with by an informal resolution process; there are no powers to investigate a complaint. The sub-committee can consider complaints at a meeting which the complainant, the Commissioner and/or others may be invited to attend, or by the submission of written documents.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2022/23, 6 complaints were considered under the Panel's complaints procedures.

Getting Involved

You can find more information about the work of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel by visiting [Committee details - Cleveland Police and Crime Panel | Redcar and Cleveland \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/committees/cleveland-police-and-crime-panel)

All meetings of the Panel are open to the public.

Listening to the views of local residents is an important part of the work of the Panel and anyone who lives or works in the Cleveland Force Area is welcome to submit a question to the Panel.

If you wish to submit a question, contact details are below:

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