



Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
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Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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4 May 2018

Dear Home Secretary,

Invitation to Cleveland

Congratulations on your appointment to the post of Home Secretary. I wish you every success. In welcoming you to your role, I hope to encourage you to make a priority of visiting the Cleveland police area. I am proud to represent the public of Cleveland and as PCC I am passionate about making a difference for our communities, working together with local, regional and national partners to make Cleveland a safer place.

Delivering for Cleveland

During your visit, I would hope to have the opportunity to highlight the achievements delivered under my Police & Crime Plan, including

- Achieving and maintaining an overall Good rating under HMICFRS's PEEL inspection programme.
- Delivering on my commitment to invest in policing, including
 - maintaining and developing neighbourhood policing.
 - driving forward new and innovative ways of working in partnership on community safety, including joint Police, Fire and Local Authority teams in Hartlepool and the replacement of the former Police Headquarters with a flexible Community Safety Hub funded entirely from the sale of the existing site.
 - delivering on my strategic directions to develop Cleveland Police as an organisation, including:



The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is an accredited Living Wage Employer with the Living Wage Foundation.

- The Everyone Matters programme - to deliver on the Force's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights strategy, ensuring legitimacy and public confidence in service delivery whilst also helping the Force to become and remain an employer of choice for all who wish to flourish in a policing career;
 - The Transforming Professional Standards programme, to make Cleveland a national innovative centre of excellence in police ethics and standards. Cleveland Police recently became the first to appoint a non-police officer expert professional to the role of Head of Standards and Ethics and we continue to break new ground as a centre of excellence in the police standards arena
- Cleveland has a longstanding commitment to being open to collaboration in relation to all police functions other than its local neighbourhood provision. We have:
 - shared a number of senior PCC staff roles across the 3 Force/PCC Evolve regional partnership of Cleveland, Durham and North Yorkshire
 - committed to driving out efficiency and effectiveness as a 7-Force North East, Yorkshire and the Humber region, in relation to combatting the new and emerging threats from cyber crime
 - invested, in partnership with central government funding, in the North East Regional Crime Prevention Centre, bringing together the North East Regional Special Operations Unit (NERSOU) and National Crime Agency resources with the Home Office Immigration Service and HMRC amongst others, to address crimes such as child sexual exploitation, modern day slavery, drugs, cyber crime and fraud.
- Working together with the Durham PCC, I have committed to driving forward reform of the local criminal justice landscape, replacing the former LCJB with a Local Criminal Justice Partnership delivering
 - An end-to-end service for supporting Victims and Witnesses.
 - An end-to-end system for rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending.
 - The most efficient and integrated local criminal justice system in the country.
- Also in partnership with Durham, launching a free, confidential and independent service to provide the best possible personalised support service to victims of crime, as they cope and recover from their experience, and work their way through the criminal justice system.

Policing the Cleveland Area

As a Force, Cleveland Police has made huge progress over recent years. It is rightly recognised by HMICFRS as being amongst the most improved Forces in the country. Recent achievements and delivery includes

- Operation Cotton – to target Human Traffickers (17 arrests in total) - <https://www.cleveland.police.uk/news/newsall/release23005.aspx>

- Operation Padstow to target distribution and possession of drugs in Middlesbrough – 21 arrests have been made since April 2016 in the Neighbourhood-Policing-led operation.
- Upgrading 100 body-worn cameras to improve our use of this vital tool.
- Offering more flexible appointments with officers to help manage demand from our Control Room.
- Partnering with the third sector to support both ex-service people and those with mental health or learning difficulties in our custody environment (Project Nova).
- Launching an innovative Evidence Based Practice programme to bring new ways of working, which are research-led, to the policing environment.
- In the last few days, passing twelve candidates through a ground-breaking Pilot PCSO Pre-Employment Course, marked with a celebration event to mark their achievements. <https://www.cleveland.police.uk/news/newsall/release23027.aspx>

Delivering in Partnership

As I hope is clear from this letter, Cleveland has responded positively to the challenge of constrained public spending and I pay tribute to the dedication and commitment of police personnel in all that they do in such circumstances to keep our communities safe. I would also highlight to you the way in which Cleveland has responded to the need to work together locally, regionally and nationally at a time when public money is in short supply.

However, I hope you will allow me to outline concerns I have about the level of funding now available to Chief Constables as a whole, and in particular the Chief Constable of Cleveland.

Neighbourhood Policing - Fair Funding

Since my first election in 2012 to the post of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland I have made the protection of neighbourhood policing a priority.

That is because, in the course of attending more than 540 public meetings with local communities, the public has made it clear how much they value the reassuring presence of a uniformed officer on regular foot patrol in their area.

Such a presence deters crime and also the fear of crime - ensuring local people, in particular the most vulnerable in our society, are able to feel safe in their homes and to walk the streets without the constant shadow of the fear of crime blighting their lives.

Senior police chiefs have also made clear to me the vital role that neighbourhood officers play in tackling the most serious of crime. Such "beat bobbies", trusted in their community, are often the first to pick up vital intelligence that can give insight into drugs gangs, human traffickers and other major crime organisations.

The contribution made by neighbourhood policing to our local communities and to managing our regional and national strategic risks, should never be underestimated or undervalued.

Ever since I was elected I have promised the public that I would deliver the greatest possible investment in keeping communities safe. On behalf of the communities I represent it is therefore of great concern that in the past seven years Cleveland Police has seen its funding from central Government fall by 36% ; that's £39m in real terms and has resulted in the loss of 500 police posts.

In March it was necessary for me to ask local taxpayers to increase the local precept, in order to try to counterbalance the latest real-term funding cut by central Government and so avoid further cuts to police numbers.

In addition to the cuts, there has been top slicing of the budget to fund national initiatives. This is important work but again reduces the number of officers available to the Chief Constable to deploy in neighbourhood teams. Police workload has also increased due to the strain caused by cutbacks in other public sector budgets.

Officers and staff at all levels have responded magnificently to meet the extra burden this has resulted in and their performance has been recognised in recent inspections by the police watchdog HMICFRS where our neighbourhood police work has been flagged up as an example of best practice.

However, there can be no doubt Government funding cuts have significantly reduced the ability of Cleveland Police to provide proactive visible patrol activity across all communities. The fall in police numbers has coincided with a rise in violent crime in Cleveland and across the country. Three years ago there were 4150 crimes recorded by the force involving violence against a person resulting in injury, in the last year that figure has risen to 5557.

Sadly it also appears that those police forces facing the greatest challenges are the ones that have had to bear the greater financial cutbacks. I attach the results of research by my office which shows that eight of the ten Police Force areas with the highest crimes per head of population, also feature in the 10 with the highest cash reductions in total funding since 2010-11.

As you will see, Cleveland features in both 'top 10s'.

Whilst I recognise that every area faces its own challenges and will fight hard for funding, it's important that I draw meaningful comparisons to illustrate the mismatch between demand and funding. For example, in terms of overall funding Surrey have been the least impacted and has actually seen their overall funding increase by 1% (in cash terms) since 2010-11. If Cleveland had experienced a similar 1% increase we would now have £15m extra to spend on policing the Cleveland area, which has a Police

Recorded Crime level per head of Population that is nearly 60% higher than that experienced by Surrey.

I urge you as a matter of priority to indicate your support for neighbourhood policing and to reverse the cuts to policing at the earliest opportunity.

In support of this, I invite you to visit Cleveland, to meet with myself and Chief Constable Mike Veale, and to see first-hand the invaluable work that our neighbourhood officers do – work that needs to be protected and developed further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Copping', written in a cursive style.

Barry Copping
Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

cc. John Cairncross – Home Office Force Insight