

Appendix 1

TASK GROUP INITIAL LINES OF ENQUIRY – DEFENDING FRONTLINE POLICING

1. Definition:

In terms of 'Defending Front Line Policing' what does this actually mean? And what roles and duties come under this definition? Have they altered or changed significantly during the PCC's tenure and are any new ones on the horizon?

2. Frontline Policing in rural areas

I am a member of Ribble Valley Borough Council. I have policed this area myself (some time ago) and I live in the area. This is one of the largest geographical boroughs in the country, however we have seen all the rural police houses / stations close, leaving only Clitheroe and Longridge (which is very seldom open). Clitheroe used to host a CID, Community Safety department, a Child Protection Unit as well as our local response officers. It now houses just 14 neighbourhood officers - a mixture of PCSO's and police officers. Our response policing comes from Colne and our nearest Detectives are in Blackburn. This situation is replicated across the county.

So I would like to know - what is 'frontline policing'?

- Does it include CID?
- Does it include response officers?

Could you supply some typical response times for 999 calls in both residential and rural areas. In serious cases in the rural areas where it may take some time to arrive do the police / call centre try to maintain contact with the caller to give info / reassurance?

3. Resources

Frontline policing needs to be visible and this includes maintaining a network of police stations and front desks. So what are the plans for the police estate moving forward?

What measures are taken to check and scrutinise that the numbers of police officers and PCSO's etc are adequate and sufficient to meet the needs and requirements of each division and how the personnel is divided out between response and neighbourhood policing. If there have been occasions when you have challenged the Chief Constable on these numbers how has this been resolved?

The principle of maintaining a visible policing presence would appear to be becoming difficult to maintain and in many areas will be met by personnel in police cars / vans. How do you scrutinise (a) where there must be foot patrols and (b) the adequacy of

visible policing in rural areas and areas where there is a night time economy open until 3 or 4am. Do you think there are sufficient and adequate resources to maintain a police presence on the streets until 3 or 4am to deal with the night time economy on a regular basis.

Have the difficulties with equipment and staffing at the call centre been resolved. Is there a pool of prospective employees for the call centre security cleared and trained to meet any shortages.

Could you give an indication of the numbers of cadets / specials available for each of the divisions. If you have shortages in any one division have you planned to have this rectified.

Could you supply further information as to the numbers and duties carried out by the PSV's. Are they used in all divisions - is there a shortage in any of the areas or divisions. Do you feel there is any merit in having neighbourhood watch as a separate entity.

4. Costs

I am interested to know the costs involved in supporting the Regional Crime Unit (Titan), particularly as the country is now served by a National Crime Agency. How is the Lancashire contribution to the budget calculated and what is the knock on effect to 'frontline policing'?

How much money has been transferred from financial reserves to maintain or increase officer / PCSO numbers?

5. Measures and Evidence

What specific measures have been undertaken to build confidence in our communities and tackle the fear of crime. What evidence can you show to indicate success? What are the satisfaction and response rates (can this information be provided for several years for comparison)? Looking forward how will these be monitored under the new model?