

Hull Liberal Democrats

Crime Survey Report



March 2018

Crime Survey Report - March 2018

Dear friend,

Liberal Democrat councillors and campaigners knock on doors and speak to residents across Hull about a whole range of issues all year round.

But one thing comes up time and again - crime.

That is why, back in October 2017, we launched a city-wide Crime Survey.

We wanted to find out – in depth – what local residents thought about crime in their community. We also asked how residents would prioritise efforts to tackle crime.

Crucially, we wanted to share this information with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Humberside Police and other councillors.

We also lobbied for a Council Q&A session with the PCC, to put the views of residents to him directly. To make sure that we ask the questions that really matter, we also asked residents to submit their suggested questions.

Nationally, the Conservative government is failing to support local police forces by refusing to provide them with the funds they urgently need.

It is so important that we share information and cooperate to help make Hull a safer city.

Everyone in Hull deserves to feel safe in their neighbourhood.

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey and submitted a suggestion to the PCC.

With best wishes,



Cllr Mike Ross

Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Hull City Council



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What we asked:

We asked residents 6 questions about crime and antisocial behaviour in their community. We wanted to find out:

1. If people thought that crime and antisocial behaviour had got worse, stayed the same or got better in the last 12 months;
2. If people had witnessed any crime or antisocial behaviour in their area in the last 3 months;
3. The one suggestion that people would make to help tackle crime and antisocial in their local area;
4. If people have had cause to contact the police to report a problem in the last 12 months and how they would rate the response;
5. What measure people thought should be the top priority for the policing in their local area out of:
 - an increase in community support officers;
 - action to tackle speeding traffic;
 - more community sentencing for non-violent crimes;
 - increased support for victims of crime;
 - more physical crime prevention measures (such as a gating schemes or security lighting);
6. Finally, we asked people to note down any other ideas or comments that they thought it would be helpful to share.

The response to the survey was huge, with residents submitting 640 paper responses and a further 430 online submissions: a total of 1,070 responses from across the city.

What Hull said about crime - the headlines:

59%

59% of people said that they thought crime and antisocial behaviour had got worse in the last 12 months.

52%

52% of people responded to say that they have had cause to contact the police in the last year, of those residents 64% said the response from the police had been average or good.

66%

66% said that they thought the top priority for policing in their local area should be an increase in the number of police community support officers

From second highest to lowest priority, residents listed the other suggested measures in the following order:

- more physical crime preventions measures;
- more community service sentencing for no-violent crimes;
- action to tackle speeding traffic;
- increased support for the victims of crime.

What Hull said about crime - suggestions to tackle it:

Hundreds of people provided really detailed and insightful responses about crime and antisocial behaviour they had witnessed, and their suggestions for ways to tackle problems in their area.

Overwhelmingly, people said that they want to see more police officers in their local areas. But some other common themes also emerged. Large numbers of residents also wanted to see:

- More CCTV in their local area;
- Stronger responses and more deterrents to tackle problems like fly-tipping;
- Stronger action to tackle people cycling on pavements;
- More local community engagement so that residents have a better awareness of what their local police team is doing to help their area;
- Work to support and help people with more chaotic lives, who may be more at risk of becoming involved with crime, or at risk of being a victim of crime;
- Work with partners - for example schools - to encourage young people to engage more in community safety within their local communities.

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Conclusion:

Over a thousand Hull residents completed our Crime Survey. It is clear that crime and antisocial behaviour are real concerns for people living in Hull.

Sadly, a number of respondents had witnessed or been the victim of a very serious crime.

But it is positive that the majority of people who have had contact with Humberside Police reported that their experience had been either average or good. Many of the comments received also reflect how valued local policing teams are by the residents they interact with.

For many in Hull, lower-level yet persistent crime and antisocial behaviour is the main concern. Residents have told us that fly-tipping, noise disturbances, hazardous driving and feeling intimidated when out and about can all add up and have a serious impact.

Our survey results suggest that people in Hull feel that crime and antisocial behaviour are getting worse, not better. Although the perception of crime might not always follow actual crime rates, it is very concerning that so many people feel that this is the case.

In response to this feeling, a huge number of people have said that they would like to see more officers on the streets. But we know that Humberside Police are under enormous strain due to government funding and that resources are therefore tight.

It is our hope that this report will help the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, by sharing the information and suggestions provided by residents. They can rest assured of our support in lobbying Government to increase funding for high visibility Policing in our area.

We all want crime and antisocial behaviour rates to improve in Hull. We're committed to working with residents, and with all the Council's partners, to do all we can to make this a safer city.