

To: Councillor Mike Ross
Group Leader – Hull City Council Liberal Democrat Group

Re: Response to questions sent to PCC and Chief Constable 20 March following PCC and t/ACC Scott Young's attendance at Full Council 22 February

Ref: SP5430

1. What can be done to inform the public of the names and contact details of the local policing team in their area?

Force Response:

This information is available on our website (which is the most up to date version). We do also use posters in key areas, however these often become out of date, so the best method is from logging onto our webpage, entering your postcode in the Contact Us tab and your team, plus different contact methods will appear. For those not on line, you can call 101

2. Would the PCC like to see an increase in the number of local monthly police drop-in surgeries?

PCC Response:

Asking for more of everything isn't realistic or necessarily appropriate. What I want to see is a means by which individuals and communities can raise and discuss issues that are affecting them in their locality or when going about their lives. In some instances this may mean more surgeries and in others it may mean other ways of making contact. What matters is that the means of contact is what suits the public. Sometimes surgeries are very poorly attended and such methods, if not embraced by locals, can be a waste of time.

3. There is a perception that the police have moved from a preventive policing model to a mainly reactionary approach. Does the PCC understand this concern?

PCC Response:

I understand and agree with that presumption. It is a key part of my Police and Crime Plan to reverse this trend of the past 8 years or so. The move to reactive policing was forced on policing to a great extent with the significant cuts the service underwent but this was emphasised by the policies of a generation of senior police officers who, in my opinion, didn't properly argue the case with government or, in some cases, didn't properly value the preventive aspects of policing. The additional officers being recruited now will allow the force to start reversing this and the new Chief Constable is also committed to this approach.

4. When can we expect to see a reduction in the crime rate in Hull?

PCC Response:

It is not possible to use police recorded crime figures to properly track the true extent of crime as the government change recording practices so regularly. The government would say that the truest indicator of crime is the British Crime Survey and they say that indicates crime is still falling. I don't believe that and even if it was true it would be meaningless at a time when so many people are obviously feeling the effects of anti-social behaviour and street crime. I think with the increased numbers of officers now filling the force and a changed emphasis on re-connecting policing to communities we can have an effect on

the types of crime and ASB that make people think crime is rising, regardless of what the government would claim. Having been through this crime cycle before in my professional life I understand that the police alone rarely have any long-term impact on crime and that a partnership approach is required. This takes time to build and then for the effects to be felt. I am working on this now and I would hope to see a real general impact within the next two years with some real changes in specific localities sooner.

5. Does the PCC believe the PCC approach makes a difference to the performance of policing and what effect does he feel he has had in his time in office? What does your average day entail?

PCC Response:

I do believe the approach of the PCC makes a real difference to policing and I would ask people to compare what I am doing with the previous PCC to see the difference. I have insisted on a force that understands how it uses its resources and that maximises the effect of those resources. I have instituted a completely different financial planning regime that allows unused reserves to be used to increase the effect on communities. The public will see just under 500 more officers than I inherited, on the streets within the year, delivered through better planning. We now have a chief officer team that believes the force can improve and that has vastly improved morale. That chief officer team is in place because I removed the previous chief constable who did not display the ambition or understanding required to improve the force at the rate I considered necessary. I have required the force and partners to plan differently so that the outcomes for communities are what drives action now and the results of that changed approach will be felt in enhanced community safety over coming years. The force is committed to community policing again because that was a priority I insisted upon. Getting people to understand the changed approach I have championed and develop it within a wide variety of organisations is a tough challenge but one that I am working hard to deliver against. I have been in office less than two years and Humberside Police is a different organisation now. The Inspectorate of Constabulary have said to me they have never seen a turnaround in the morale and attitude of officers in such a short space of time. The force is now planning how to be outstanding rather than avoid how to be inadequate. As for my average day, there really is no such thing. There is inevitably a lot of paperwork, communication with organisations and the public and lots of meetings to push forward the Police and Crime plan agenda. Trying to bring a focus to the work of the police and all the partner agencies they must work with is a big job but there are aspects to this role that the vast majority of the public simply don't understand because there is so little publicity about it.

6. What level of funding does the PCC feel is required to have a fully effective force and what is he doing about getting that much needed funding?

PCC Response:

I can't put an absolute figure on the funds required because all sorts of inflationary factors have an impact over time. I do think that if the force returned to somewhere close to its previous high point of staffing it would be capable of providing a really good effective service. Around the 2100 to 2200 level of officers with over 300 PCSOs allowed the force to contribute to a massive reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour. I cannot envisage this happening

in the short to medium term. I have recently increased the police precept part of council tax to give additional funding and will do so again next year. This movement to local taxation funding an ever greater proportion of the force budget is not something I support in principle but it is something I am doing to ensure the communities of this area can receive something like a reasonable policing service. If the police grant from central government was to increase by 10 to 15% then I believe the force could be extremely effective even with the ever increasing demand on policing which has been widely publicised. I, together with all other PCCs and the National Police Chiefs Council, lobbied government hard in the lead up to the latest government spending announcement, providing a very detailed case for additional resources. The government accepted the case for more funding and but merely allowed PCCs to increase the amount they raised from local taxation. Central government gave this force the same amount they gave last year, not even taking into account inflation. I continue to lobby whenever appropriate.

7. What are the main focus and goals of policing at the moment?

Force Response:

Neighbourhood Policing teams have been working to the following 'pillars' over the past year

- Engagement – providing engagement opportunities to all parts of our community, through different methods and platforms, identifying vulnerable and hard to reach communities and making ourselves identifiable and accessible to everyone
 - Early Intervention – changing our methods to identify those likely to become involved in crime and ASB, working collaboratively with partners to support individuals and families, preventing them at an early stage from becoming involved in criminality and supporting them to make good choices.
 - Community Resilience – helping communities to help themselves through the development of Neighbourhood watch schemes or similar, diversionary activities, responsibility
 - Crime Prevention – working with partners to stop crime from occurring, through designing out crime, advice, Community Alerts etc.
- Underpinning all these areas is the requirement to identify and support those who are the most vulnerable in our communities.

8. Given the issues of youth crime, does the PCC think it would be beneficial to see more police going into schools and trying to engage the younger generation in voluntary and community groups, with the aim of reducing the crime rates?

PCC Response:

A very short answer is 'yes'. Of course the police need more officers to give more time for this kind of community based action and thanks to the much better resource planning the force is on its biggest ever recruitment campaign. With the additional resources there will be more of this kind of interaction.

9. When will the force see more Police officers/PCSOs on the streets of Hull?

Force Response:

The force are currently undertaking a large recruitment drive, with new police officers commencing their careers every month. A proportion of these are

allocated to Hull. There are also two intakes of PCSO's in 2018, and again a proportion of them will be posted to Hull stations.

10. What can be done to tackle the problems associated with beggars on Princes Avenue and more people from Westbourne House drinking in the street?

Force Response:

Following many complaints from residents regarding the begging problem, a lot of work was done initially around engaging with the individual beggars, to signpost them to the relevant agencies to address the root causes of their problems. As a result of this initial work, we identified that many of the beggars were not actually homeless and most had somewhere to live, whether that be a house or living in Local Authority provided hostels.

As Westbourne House is the provision for intervention and rehabilitation work within Hull, the team began working with staff from Westbourne House, taking them on Patrol and engaging with individuals to provide support and housing if required. This worked really well and was well received by the majority of the beggars.

Some of the beggars were reluctant to engage. Those prolific offenders stated they earned such good money they would never stop begging and so it was these individuals we targeted for enforcement action. The most prolific, eventually received a Criminal Behaviour Order at Court and subsequent breaches resulted in them serving 10 weeks in prison.

Staff from Westbourne House are willing to work with the police and the community to prevent their residents causing issues, especially around street drinking, There is also a PSPO in place which, although doesn't provide a blanket ban on street drinking it offers the caveat that if it is a contributing factor in ASB, alcohol can be (and is) seized.

11. Is it the case that people who report drug dealing offences will be asked to keep a diary of events?

Force Response:

The Police should not and would not advise people keep a diary of events around specific drug dealing activity. There are guidelines and regulations around the Police actually tasking people to record drug taking activities and so such practices should not exist. The member of the public would have their information recorded and this would add to any intelligence picture and work that may be going on which the Police would not divulge to the public for obvious reasons. This should not be confused with a request to keep a diary about Anti-Social Behaviour of which drug dealing may be an element, but not the sole objective of the diary as this assists the Local Authority Anti-Social Behaviour Teams and the Community Policing teams with evidence building to support victims.

12. What can the police do to tackle off road motorbikes, with no tax insurance, riding up and down the streets?

Force Response:

Officers can attend with a view to speaking with the offenders. However they need to be compliant. Providing they stop for officers then we have the power to seize the vehicle and process individuals for tax offences. However should a rider choose not to stop the force has no ability to pursue off-road motorcycles and due to the risks involved are unlikely to pursue vehicles on-road either. We would in those circumstances request the regional helicopter (NPAS).

In addition Humberside Police have recently introduced Operation Yellowfin which is being run in partnership with members of the motorcycle community. Currently this is being operated in Hull and is aimed to improve the sharing of information to allow the police to take a targeted response to offenders. This not only looks at theft of motorcycles but also the associated anti-social behaviour and moped enabled crime that is committed. Op Yellowfin is having a planned event on the 15th April to raise awareness of the operation that will continue with the #Opyellowfin hashtag to enable followers on twitter to feed information, inform the police on 101 or crime stoppers creating actionable intelligence for future enforcement. The police can also utilise section 59 of the police reform act to address anti-social behaviour not all bikes being ridden on the road in an anti-social manner will be illegal. If individuals are identified as persistent offenders the police can also consider using powers under anti-social behaviour legislation to impose conditions upon them that can curb the behaviour.

13. Are the police able to address the issue of pavement parking?

Force Response:

It depends on the circumstances. Generally speaking parking is not a police responsibility. It was taken over by the local authorities some time ago. The only time we would get involved is if a vehicle was parked/abandoned in a dangerous place or so as to cause danger to pedestrians and roads users.

14. A support and advocacy worker in trafficking has questioned why Hull continues to be the sex offender capital of UK and why many of the offences committed by this group are not made public?

Force Response:

Sex Offenders who commit an offence become Registered Sex Offenders. Once they are released into the community they are managed by the Humberside Police MOSOVO team. Registered Sex Offenders are graded according to the risk they pose, which determines the level of intrusive management they are subject to.

All sex offenders are managed with the following aims;

- 1/ To minimise the risk of reoffending
- 2/ To safeguard the public

The reoffending rates of registered sex offenders remains low.

The percentage of sex offenders, compared to the total population of Hull is similar to the percentage of sex offenders on the population of other cities and

large urban areas. Historically the percentage of sex offenders in urban areas is higher than in the more rural areas of the country.

Hull is by no means an outlier or 'sex offender capital' when compared with other urban areas.

As previously stated the reoffending rate of convicted sex offenders is relatively low.

All sexual offences reported to Humberside Police are recorded and investigated.

In line with other offences, there are a number of considerations before details of offences are made public. Generally on charge offences are made public, however consideration has to be given to any effect this may have on the victim and protecting the identity of the victim before this decision is made.

15. What more can be done to address the problems around travellers arriving in the city?

Force Response:

I think it is worthy of note that to imply that the arrival of travellers creates problems could be misinterpreted as insinuating they all cause problems which is clearly not the intent of the question. PC Fleming has spoken to his contacts from the traveller community and they have come up with some of the issues that the travelling community members face when they arrive, in that there are NO designated safe and secure sites in HULL for the communities to pitch up in.

They then tend to pitch up where they have done so historically or where they consider convenient.

Perhaps a consultation with the community about a proper designated site that was agreed by all parties could help resolve some of these issues and when community members come into the area they would be more likely to go onto a site that was safe appropriate and secure and they were welcome, as opposed from one that was waste land, miles from civilization or public park land for example and with no consultation at all with the traveller community. This may include the provision of suitable sanitation facilities and waste disposal that would potentially prevent the cost incurred by the local authority when managing the clear up of the unauthorised encampments.

16. What could be done to improve the 101 number? Would an answerphone system be of use?

Force Response:

It is important to get the context of the 101 contact number for the Police, as it is often misunderstood. You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. For example, if:

Your car has been stolen, your property has been damaged, you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood

Or to:

Give the police information about crime in your area, speak to the police about a general enquiry

You should always call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.

You should continue to contact your local council about general issues in your area like:

Dog fouling

Abandoned vehicles

Dumping and fly tipping

For information about how to contact your local council please visit www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council

Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call, or how long you are on the phone. The 15p cost of the call goes to the telephony providers to cover the cost of carrying the calls. The police and government receive no money from calls to 101. So it is important for the public to understand that this is not an emergency number, the call may not be immediately answered and at times of high demand there may be some delays. Whilst we try our best to answer as many calls as possible expeditiously, it is important that the public consider the incident they are calling about, and if it could be serviced by another agency. Their call maybe holding up a member of the public who need the Police's service.

The staff who work answering the 101 calls have their duties rostered and aligned to predicted calls from the public by a computer system and in the last month alone the error rate for the predicted calls to actual calls received was only 1%, so some science is behind the resourcing of this function in our Command HUB.

In relation to an answerphone on 101, there is always that risk that someone will leave a message that is in fact an incident that needs some prompt action and this can then be delayed by such a process. In Humberside we have pioneered a queue buster system that allows callers to request a call back. This allows the member of the public to be able to go about their business and not be stuck on the phone waiting and to get called back to discuss their incident later. The system actually tracks the initial call place so you do not get a lesser or later service for your call.

17. What more can be done to tackle cyclists riding their bikes without any kind of lights early in the morning and late on a night and how many cyclists have been fined in the last 5 years for such an offence?

Force Response:

The riders of pedal cycles can be stopped by officers and we can issue fixed penalty notices for having no lights during the hours of darkness. The official hours of darkness are classed as 30 minutes after lighting-up time to 30 minutes before sunrise.

There have been a total of 52 offences in Hull for the calendar years 2013-2017 inclusive;

- 45 of these were for not having required lamps or reflectors.

- 5 were for lamps not being illuminated.

- 2 were for lamps or reflectors that did not comply, work or perform in accordance with regulations.

Outcomes:

- 9 Fixed penalty paid

- 6 Fine registered against offender at court due to non-payment of the fixed penalty

- 32 Put forward for prosecution at court

- 5 Cancelled

18. What is being done to curb anti-social behaviour in pre-teens and teens and associated hate crime?

Force Response:

The Force have a 'Tactical tasking and coordination group meeting' that is used to identify any trends or hotspots regarding ASB and hate crime (Hate crime is also flagged through Pacesetter every day). Policing resources can then be moved into an area if required.

Local officers are also aware of where there are issues, and a partnership response is utilised to ensure that the Force have the best opportunity to tackle it, support the community and prevent it in the future.

Locally Neighbourhood staff deliver presentations in schools to educate regarding ASB. They also run restorative schemes such as 'tea with Dawn' where offenders and their parents are invited in to discuss the impact that their behaviour is having on a community and individuals.

Humberside Police currently have officers working with the four local authorities within the youth offending services. The officers work with not only long term individuals who are repeat offending but also first time entrants into the criminal justice process to try and identify any triggers to behaviour and work to prevent further offending. This does not only cover ASB but all elements of criminality. It may be that an offender has started with low level offending and moves towards more serious offences and therefore the early intervention is key. The Youth Offending Officers also review and support the regular missing children who often are the perpetrators of ASB when absent but are placing themselves in dangerous positions where they may well become victims of child criminal exploitation or sexual exploitation.

The Community Safety Unit also have officers who are responsible for monitoring anti-social behaviour and in particular repeat victims/offenders and locations to understand the causes and identify what steps can be taken to reduce offending. This may be in the form of acceptable behaviour contracts or dispersal notices and follow up visits to parents. If behaviour continues then consideration for criminal behaviour orders in conjunction with the youth offending teams where specific conditions can be imposed, for example not to congregate with certain individuals or not to be in a group of 3 or more. The CBO can also make a positive requirement dependant on the circumstances for instance to attend at the Youth Offending Services or engage in education etc...

Humberside Police also have a monitoring process in place with cohesion officers within the Community Safety Unit to support victims of Hate incidents and crimes and seek longer term problem solving strategies.

In addition the community safety unit also manage a youth engagement programme. This has a variety of activities that are specifically aimed at children and draws them from a wide range of backgrounds. The current projects are the Rock Challenge, Lifestyle Awards, Night Challenge and Volunteer Cadet Scheme. These projects are themed to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs, live healthy lifestyles (Rock Challenge), consider the impact of CSE (Night Challenge), form into teams of between 2 to 5 friends and decide upon a project to help others over the summer period therefore reducing the likelihood of committing ASB (Lifestyle) and police cadets providing young people between the ages of 15-18 with the opportunity to develop themselves within the police, and develop positive relationships with partner agencies and the local community and become ambassadors for Humberside Police. The police cadets are generally recruited from minority groups or disadvantaged areas where traditionally opportunities may not have been available.

As alcohol can often be linked to ASB related incidents our licensing officers also conduct multi-agency visits to off-licences across the force to ensure they are compliant with the licensing act and where information is received with regards criminality or underage sales, intervention and enforcement is conducted where required.

19. Regarding youth gangs blighting areas across HULL with anti-social behaviour, what action is being taken to address it and how many arrests, prosecutions, restrictions, warnings etc. have been made/issued in past 6 months?

Force Response:

Tackling ASB at all levels is done on a multi-faceted partnership approach. Engagement work and diversionary activity is the starting point. Humberside Police Youth engagement team host various activities aimed at teaching young people about life choices and keeping them out of trouble. These include (but are not limited to) Lifestyle, Rock Challenge & Night Challenge. In addition to this there is the Safer Schools Partnership which works with schools to give key messages to young people about safety, crime, consequences etc.

For those who are involved in crime and ASB at a young age, the national steer is now to look at restorative justice rather than entering people into the criminal justice system. Restorative justice is more effective both from a point of view of preventing recidivism but also being more cost effective. There are numerous projects run by the policing teams across the city, which adopt a restorative approach such as Wise Up.

There are of course some young people who despite our best efforts end up in the criminal justice system. A decision to prosecute is not normally made by the police alone and assessments are made to ensure rehabilitation, restoration and support is in place.

Changes in the law also mean that most young people are not arrested and brought to a police station, so those figures alone would not provide the rich picture of the work done.

The request for specific figures relating to the number of 'arrests, prosecutions, restrictions, warnings etc. made/issued in past 6 months' would need to be put through to the Force as an FoI request. Further information and guidance on how to do this can be found at <https://www.humberside.police.uk/freedom-information>.

20. I would like to know what their short, medium and long term plans are for addressing the increasing anti-social crime in our area.

Force Response:

- ASB is tackled as a partnership, with colleagues from across the Community Safety partnership.
- ASB features within the tactical tasking process which identifies key locations and provides a multi-agency tracked response to the issue (e.g. Op Ambush)
- It is also picked up at 'street level' with tailored responses.
- Partnership responses are also developed to both deal with perpetrators of ASB (e.g. the CBO application process) and to prevent young people becoming involved in ASB (Wise Up programme)
- Humberside Police Crime Prevention officers work with Local Authorities to design out crime and ASB. Helping to develop locations to ensure they don't become attractive to those who would cause ASB
- The Safer Schools Partnership gives education to pupils around the impact of ASB
- Humberside Police have schemes aimed at diverting young people away from ASB – e.g. Lifestyle, Night Challenge.