

Bill Longmore
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia
P.O. Box 487
Shrewsbury
SY2 6WB

24th January 2013

Dear Bill:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your Draft Police and Crime Plan and Precept Options

As far as the Precept Options are concerned I support a 0% increase, particularly as you have been offered £800k per year for two years by the Government to reflect this. My constituents value the police service in their local area but appreciate it when their council tax bills can be held constant.

With regard to your Draft Plan, I make the following comments.

Objective 1. I fully support the alliance with the Warwickshire Police which will save £31 million over four years.

Objective 2. With regard to personnel, I note that the force has 316 Special Constables. I hope that as the Commissioner you will ensure that the opportunity to become involved as a Special Constable is widely known and well publicised, as they are an effective additional resource to achieve your police and crime plan and to reassure residents who like to see visible police resources on foot. I think Special Constables can be valuable in rural areas, where they can work effectively with parish councils and Neighbourhood Watch areas. A strategy to tackle and measure metal theft in rural areas is also needed.

Objective 3. I would also want to see a success measure which shows the reduction in the number of people drinking and driving or taking drugs and driving.

Objective 4. Drugs are a serious issue in Pershore, Upton-upon-Severn and Malvern because residents report that they see dealing and selling and that it is not often tackled. I would like to see measures that go after those who sell drugs, particularly to children. In addition,

cannabis growing is prevalent in the fertile Worcestershire countryside and I am sure there are ways of measuring electricity usage and so on to detect these sites.

Objective 5. Agree.

Objective 6. The local probation trust has a good track record of dealing with those on probation, but for those who have been released after shorter sentences, there is a gap in provision. I hope the Commissioner will work with the Ministry of Justice and local Work Programme providers to ensure that those leaving prison get more help moving into gainful employment.

Objective 8. Why not place an advertisement in each parish magazine in the three counties advertising the recruitment of Special Constables? The Commissioner may wish to see the work done at Top Barn Farm at Holt Heath, where ex-offenders are taught new skills and helped to come off drugs. It might be a good place to donate the £20,000 from his salary.

Objective 9. In addition to trying to increase the reporting of serious sexual offences, I hope the Commissioner shares my aspiration to increase the number of successful prosecutions. Furthermore, I hope he will support the local women's refuges and rape crisis centres.

Objective 10 and 11. Speeding in villages and rural areas continues to be a major concern for my constituents. I hope the Commissioner will continue to support the work done by our Safer Roads Partnership and its mobile detection unit.

Objective 7 was not included in my mailing but I received two copies of Objective 6.

I also think that the Police could communicate more using social media.

I hope these comments are helpful.

Harriett Baldwin
Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire