



Cllr. Gill Mercer
Chairman of Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

1st August 2019

Dear Gill,

Following the publication of your response to my Annual Report, I am pleased to respond to the Panel in accordance with Section 28 (4) of Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

As you recall following the presentation of the Annual Report, the Chief Constable and I presented an update on the Force's Futures Project 2020 (FP20) programme. I have been very clear that the force is still not where I wish it to be, however I am confident that under the leadership of Nick Adderley it is now in a better position than at any other recent time.

With the refreshed Police and Crime Plan and the FP20 programme, we now have a new strategic and operational framework which will help deliver my priorities and improve the performance of the Force. This will help to inform both my performance updates to the panel and future Annual Reports as I will be able to provide a more outcome-based approach to demonstrate progress against my key priorities.

Also, as I have already agreed, I will be bringing more detailed performance information to the panel. However should the panel members want any further data or information, I am more than happy to provide it.

I am supportive of the Panel's suggestion that should give more prominence to neighbourhood policing as this was an approach that was widely understood by members of the public. My commitment to neighbourhood policing is underlined by the fact that I am giving the Chief Constable every support he needs - within our existing financial constraints - to improve the Force.

Since I came into office the police budget has increased for the third year in a row, giving an operational policing budget in 2019/20 of £130 million – up £11.6million since 2018/19 and

almost £20m since 2017. This is enabling us to recruit 200 new officers so that there will be 100 extra warranted police officers on the streets within the next two years.

This will help to strengthen neighbourhood policing and already we have delivered a new focus on burglary with a commitment to visit all victims and undertaken a major operation to crack down on serious and organised crime and drug dealing in our county.

This is already yielding great results and the Force have also introduced a new investigation team based at Wootton Hall to improve the service to people who report lower risk crimes. Victims are now contacted in a more timely way by an investigator, who provides one point of contact and deals quickly and efficiently with their crime report, discusses, identifies and actions any investigative opportunities that arise from it and gives professional advice.

The extra investment will also help to increase the Force's ability to better provide a service to the most vulnerable members of our communities, including additional resources for domestic abuse victim support and investigation, missing persons investigations and sexual offence investigations. This is a key priority for me and I can reassure panel members that it will be given more prominence in future Annual Reports. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the legacy of Cllr. Butcher's tireless work on this important issue. She was a tireless and valuable advocate for those who had been affected by domestic abuse and it is beholden on us all to continue her great work.

I would also like to put on record my thanks to members of Northamptonshire's Police, Fire and Crime Panel who have been supportive and understanding of the work we have been undertaken over the last year. I am grateful for the Panel's support for my work in lobbying the Government to ensure that Northamptonshire receives a more equal funding settlement.

I know that there a number of challenges ahead of us, but I am confident that a programme is underway to take the Force forward and that we are already seeing a change for the better in the areas that matter to people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Mold', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Mold
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

C.C. James Edmunds