

# Summary of Priority and Budget Consultation for PCC Surrey January and February 2013

## Introduction

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Surrey has a duty to obtain the views of the people of Surrey (including victims of crime) about police priorities, budget and precept level annually. This paper outlines the results of the priorities consultation that took place in January and February 2013. It combines the results of several consultations. Please note that a further paper is available which contains the results of large-scale surveys.

## Public engagement events

The PCC committed to visible engagement events as soon as he entered office. He held four events in January and February 2013 in Staines, Dorking, Woking and Oxted and over 320 residents attended. The PCC used the opportunity to explain his six priorities to residents, namely:

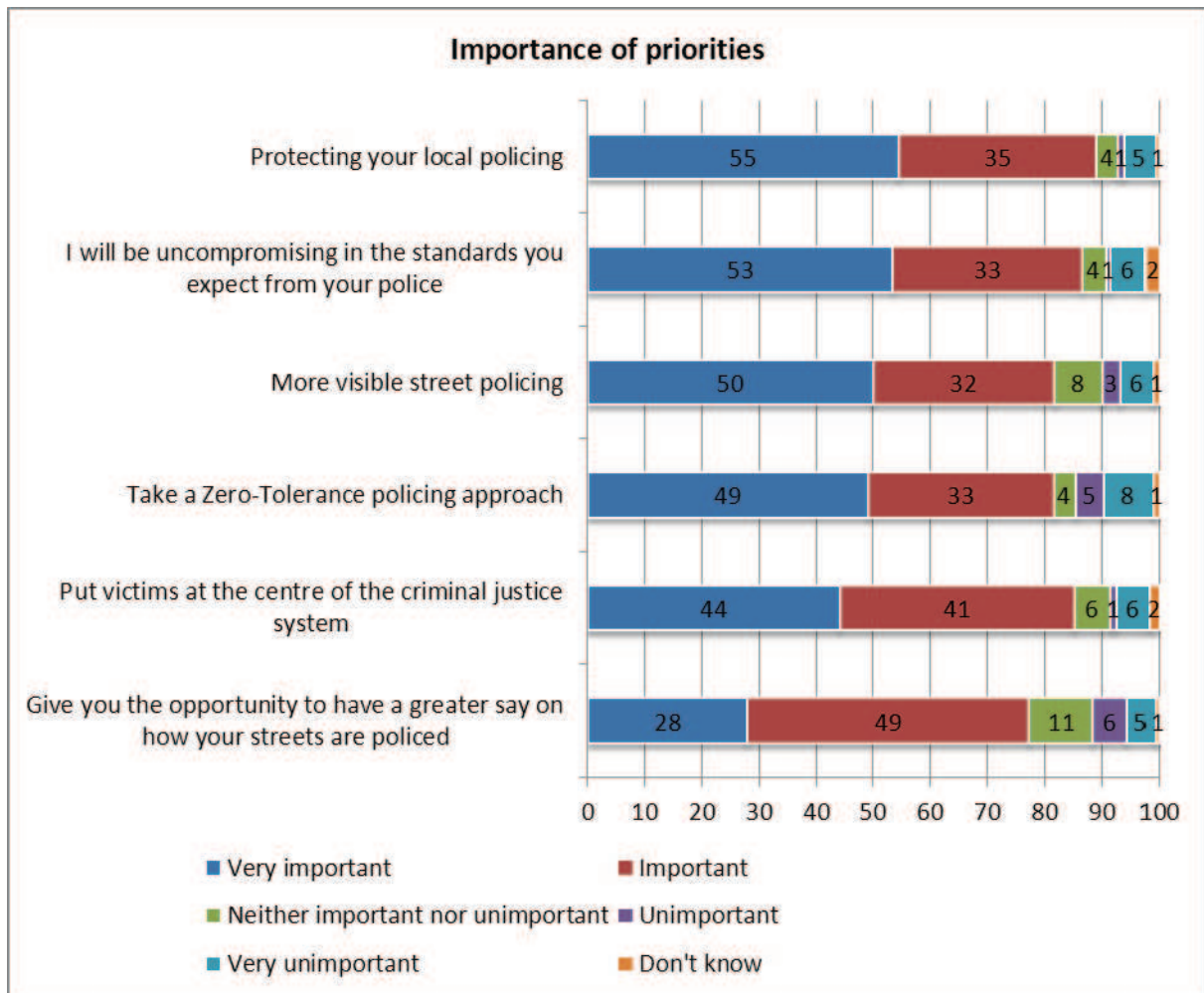
- Take a Zero Tolerance Policing Approach,
- More visible street policing,
- Put Victims at the centre of the Criminal Justice System
- Give you the opportunity to have a greater say in how your streets are policed,
- Protect your local policing, and
- I will be uncompromising in the standards you expect from your police.

Attendees discussed priorities and questioned the Commissioner on different aspects of them. Comments received highlighted the importance of restorative justice, the value placed on visible street policing, the importance of staff morale, problems surrounding anti-social driving, the importance of local engagement and the value of good customer service. All attendees were invited to complete a survey and 228 did so.

## Survey

The PCC distributed surveys at the public engagement events and published an online survey. 228 attendees of the events completed the survey as did 68 online respondents. The surveys questioned respondents on the importance of priorities. It also provided an opportunity for respondents to comment on both priorities and budget. The results of the priorities questions are illustrated in the graph overleaf.

As can be seen, all priorities were viewed as very important or important by the strong majority of respondents with between 77% (give you a greater opportunity to have your say) and 90% (protect your local policing) seeing them as important.



Respondents commented on:

- Anti-social driving.
- The importance of both effective and visible policing.
- Their general support for Surrey Police.
- The need to balance the use of CCTV and civil liberties.
- The role of PCSOs.
- The need for resources to support the priorities.

### Focus groups and interviews

The PCC has a duty to consult with victims of crime and businesses. An independent market research company conducted a range of focus groups and interviews with these groups across the county.

The focus groups found that:

- Respondents were supportive of the wider goals, proactive tone and the zero-tolerance policy.
- Respondents requested a focus on both urban and rural crime.

- They would like to see more detail in the Police and Crime Plan on each of the priorities.
- That society as a whole has to take responsibility for problems such as drug and alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour.
- Respondents were concerned that form filling is not passed on to front line officers and want good quality officers on patrol.
- The principle of seizing the proceeds of crime was welcomed if possible.
- Respondents were concerned about perceived weaknesses in the Criminal Justice System. They noted the importance of supporting victims, but wanted more crime to be successfully prosecuted.
- Many respondents already knew of local engagement opportunities and would like to ensure that best practice processes are copied in a consistent way countywide.
- Respondents widely agreed with the priority 'protect your local policing.'
- Respondents felt that being uncompromising in the standards you expect from your police was important and already widely delivered.

## **Conclusion**

The vast majority of survey respondents (attendees of the recent engagement events and people that responded online) were supportive of the six priorities with the strong majority of respondents stating that they were either important or very important. The discussions and focus groups within the consultation gave richer detail on how they can be delivered and issues to consider. These should be considered in the development of the Police and Crime Plan.

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