

**CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY  
Policing Plan and Best Value Committee  
16 May 2006**

**Agenda Item No 7**

**LOCAL PRIORITY SETTING**

**A report by the Clerk**

**SUMMARY**

This report updates members on the process for validating Cumbria's priorities for assessment in the Policing Performance Assessment Framework's local domain 'local priorities' for 2006/07.

The external process of quality assuring local priority setting for each authority and force in the country has not been completed yet. Indications from HMIC show that following deletion of anti-social behaviour Proposal 2, the priority setting process in Cumbria should pass its assessment.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Members note the removal the 'perceptions of anti-social behaviour' as a local priority.

That members continue to monitor developments in the local priority setting process.

**DETAIL**

The Authority and Constabulary submitted proposals for local priorities (as set out in Appendix 1) to the HMIC at the end of March. HMIC has employed the consultants Symbia to carry out a desktop assessment of each force and authority's local priority setting process.

Initial feedback from Symbia at the beginning of April stated there was approval of Cumbria's level of consultation and partner engagement which fed into the priority setting and approval of the proposals relating to criminal damage and youth disorder.

However, clarification was sought and provided (Appendix 2) on the targets for driving offences and driver improvement course referrals. Additionally, the priority on perceptions of anti-social behaviour were deemed to be 'double-counting', in other words, the priority was too similar to one of the Policing Performance Assessment Framework Statutory Performance Indicators.

Further communication between Symbia, the Authority and the Constabulary resulted in agreement that the perceptions of anti-social behaviour survey still be carried out; but that the findings would not form a specific local priority. Driving offences and education will remain a local priority as Symbia are now satisfied with the definition and reasoning behind this priority.

Symbia confirmed on 27 April, that as a result of the previously explained deletion and clarification, they would recommend to the HMIC moderation panel that the measures proposed by Cumbria are suitable and meet the requirements of the APA guidance.

Final confirmation of the HMIC's view of our work in this regard will be received in due course and notified to members.

**Clerk and Chief Executive**  
**Clive Alcock**

## **Appendix 1 Priorities for the Local Domain**

### **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

#### **Proposal 1**

Use 2006/7 as a 'baseline year' in order to develop a baseline (for anti-social behaviour) that is inclusive of the change to the National Standards for Incident Recording

#### **Proposal 2**

Public perception of ASB collated through the Constabulary's annual survey. In the last survey, 60% of respondents were worried about anti-social behaviour. The target should be to reduce this to 55%. This represents a 5% reduction. The benefit of this proposal is that it triangulates with the British Crime Survey.

#### **Proposal 3**

Criminal damage - a 5% reduction target for 2006/7.

### **Youth Disorder**

#### **Proposal 1**

Establish a baseline level of worry about Youth Disorder via the annual survey.

#### **Proposal 2**

The number of youth offenders brought to justice for crimes that are symptomatic of Youth Disorder, namely: Section 4/5 offences, criminal damage and shoplifting.

The proposal is to increase by 5% across each BCU the youth offenders brought to justice for the offences shown above.

### **Anti-social use of Motor Vehicles**

#### **Proposal 1 - Increasing driver education**

Increase the numbers of driver referrals to the Driver Improvement Scheme across the Constabulary by 10%.

#### **Proposal 2 - Increase the number of offenders caught for driving offences**

The estimated figure for the end of this financial year is approximately 614 offences in total. A proposed 5% increase in offences to 645 is appropriate.



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Dear Stephen

### **HMIC Local Domain Scoring Report 2005/06**

I write in follow up to your email and our telephone conversation on 10 April regarding the above. I hope this letter will clarify our local policing domain measures and explain our position and rationale.

I have had the opportunity to speak to Cumbria Constabulary's lead on this matter, Inspector Gordon Rutherford, and we are keen to give further detail on the two measures relating to anti-social behaviour and anti-social use of a motor vehicle.

Firstly, 'public perception of anti-social behaviour', we agree that this our priority is worded identically to the statutory performance indicator – SPI 10b. However, the reasoning for including it in the local policing domain was as follows:

- SPI 10b is measured using the British Crime Survey – Cumbria's intention in this measure - is to use our **annual public consultation survey**, which we believe will attract about 2,500 responses, which is considerably more than the BCS
  - The BCS survey is approximately 50,000 interviews for the whole of England and Wales (pro-rata that would only cover about 500 people in Cumbria)
- Anti-social behaviour is a clear concern for local people as highlighted through our consultation work and we are keen to make sure that everyone sees this as a priority for us- we presently feel that increasing the number of people surveyed should be a priority

Turning now to 'anti-social use of a motor vehicle. We wish to make clear the reasoning behind this measure. Cumbria intends to take a twin approach to tackle motoring offences utilising both education and enforcement.



- Referring to 'Targets for anti-social use of motor vehicles – Proposal 1': to increase the numbers of driver referrals to the Driver Improvement Schemes across the constabulary by 10%
  - This is for the offences of **dangerous driving** and **careless driving**
  - It is not intended that the increase in Driver Improvement Scheme referrals be seen as a proxy measure as such; because the number of offences is not reduced by referring people to the scheme – this measure is seen as a way of improving driver behaviour whilst at the same time not being counter-productive to the number of offences or constabulary enforcement processes.
  
- In tandem – Proposal 2 'The estimated figure for the end of this financial year is approximately 614 offences in total. A proposed 5% increase in offences to 645 is appropriate.'
  - The aim here is to increase enforcement on motoring offences which are related to anti-social use of motor-vehicles
  - Members of the constabulary and police authority have worked closely to discuss the list of motoring offences and we believe that there is a strong link between the offences in the table and the dissatisfaction expressed by the public through consultation

We are committed to achieving the best possible result for Cumbria as regards local priorities and are pleased to work with you further to iron out any problems in this new area of work.

Cumbria Constabulary and Police Authority are keen to have priorities which we believe to be truly local and we very much look forward to your views in response to this letter.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

**Moira Saunders**  
**Performance Management and Policy Adviser**  
(by email)