

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

10th September 2013 at 10.00am

Greenwell Room, Wootton Hall, Northampton, NN4 0JQ

If you should have any queries in respect of this agenda, please contact Stuart McCartney on 03000 111 222 Ext 346665

AGENDA

1. Apologies for non-attendance.
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2013
3. Declaration of personal and prejudicial interests in respect of items on the agenda.
4. Force Performance
5. OPCC Risk Management
6. External Audit
 - o Draft ISA 260 Report *[to follow]*
 - o Management Representations letters:
 - o Police and Crime Commissioner
 - o Chief Constable
7. Internal Audit - Progress Report 2013-14
8. Appointments to Independent Audit Committee (oral update)
9. Urgent Business

Such other business by reason of the special circumstances to be specified, the Chairman is of the opinion is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration. (Members who wish to raise urgent business are requested to inform the Chairman beforehand).

10. Items for which the public be excluded from the meeting:

In respect of the following items the Chair may move the resolution set out below on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information (information regarded as private for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972) would be disclosed to them:

“That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act of the descriptions against each item would be disclosed to them”.

1. Force Risk Register and Monthly Summary Report

PARAGRAPH 1 OF
PART 1 OF SCHEDULE
12A OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT
1972

IAIN BRITTON

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (JUSTICE) & MONITORING OFFICER

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSION

INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda No: 2

30th July 2013

(Excluding Exempt Items)

PRESENT: Mr S Schanschieff JP OBE DL (Chairman)
Mrs J Haynes
Ms G Newton CBE
Mr R Wootton

Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission attendees:

Mr. I Britton - Assistant Commissioner - Justice
Mr. J Raisin - Interim Assistant Commissioner – Resources
Ms R Yule - Treasurer
Mr S McCartney - Strategy Adviser

Northamptonshire Police attendees:

Mrs F Davies - Head of Corporate Services
Mr G Jones - Head of Finance and Asset Management

Other attendees:

Mr P Green - RSM Tenon
Ms S Lane - RSM Tenon
Mr J Gorrie - KPMG
Mr S Stanyer - KPMG

APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Mr M Jelley - Deputy Chief Constable

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27th June 2013

Ms Newton suggested a number of amendments, after which the minutes were approved.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

DRAFT INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2013/14

Ms Lane presented the plan to the Committee and explained that meetings had taken place with both the Force and with the OPCC. She outlined the background to the report and the key considerations for Members to consider. Mr Wootton enquired about treasury management; in response Ms. Lane explained it was a key area of work. Fiona Davies then briefed the Committee on the current situation regarding treasury management and explained the strong controls that govern it.

Ms. Lane asked Members whether or not the strategy covers the key risks. In response Ms. Newton felt that the plan covered the risks, but she asked for comments from both the Force and OPCC. Ms Davies responded on behalf of the force and briefed members on the work being undertaken on the medium term financial plan and the need to deliver savings. Mr Britton then responded on behalf of the OPCC and highlighted the work being undertaken on the transformation programme. Mr Britton then noted the importance of ensuring good corporate governance arrangements are in place including commissioning and procurement.

Mr Wootton then asked for clarification regarding the transition period. Mr Britton responded and briefed members on the work going forward. Ms Yule noted the need to monitor the financial plan and performance. Mr Green explained the planning process involved and the meetings that had taken place; He explained the importance of all obtaining agreement on the work being undertaken. Mr Gorrie explained the importance of being clear at the planning stage about the work being covered. The Chairman asked if these discussions had taken place, in response Ms. Lane explained that these discussions would be undertaken once the plan had been agreed.

Ms Newton asked for further information on the work to recruit more volunteers and its impact on the performance of the force. Ms. Davies responded and noted the importance of thorough preparation to ensure such policies are sustainable. Mr Britton then set out the work currently being undertaken to deliver this policy. Ms Davies concluded by explaining that such as policy will push boundaries; therefore it was important to get it right.

Mr Wotton asked both the internal and external auditors on how they work together to ensure that important issues are not overlooked. Mr Stanyer responded and explained how the work of RSM Tenon supports the work undertaken by KPMG and Mr Green reassured Mr Wootton that regular meetings occur and information is shared. The Chairman asked if there would be any draft reports available before the next meeting, Ms Lane responded and promised to update Members.

Ms. Lane then presented the Internal Audit Charter and explained it was now a requirement. The Chairman then signed the Charter on behalf of the Committee.

RESOLVED:-

- **That the Draft Internal Audit Plan be approved and implemented**
- **That updates are given to Members on the progress and development of the plan**

MATTERS OF URGENCY

The Chairman noted that John Raisin had proposed a number of changes to the Committee's Statement of Purpose and Terms of Reference, in response to the discussions at the Committee meeting of 29th November 2012. and then invited Mr Raisin to explain his proposals to the Committee. Ms Newton felt the changes were straightforward and agreed with them. Ms Newton then asked about the timescale for the proposed advertisement for a new Chairman of the committee. Mr. Britton briefed members on the proposed appointment process and asked the Committee for a decision on who should be involved to enable the process to proceed. The Chairman suggested a small panel should be formed to drive the process but reminded the Committee of ensuring that it is not unduly influenced by those being audited. Rosemary Yule explained that Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire had undertaken a similar process and suggested she would investigate further. Ms Newton felt comfortable with attendees but it was important that they did not have a vote as it needs to be an independent decision. Mr Wootton suggested an independent chairman to oversee the process and the Chairman suggested looking at what others had done. The Committee would brief Mr Britton on their discussions.

RESOLVED:-

- **That the proposed changes to the Statement of Purpose be accepted**
- **The Independent Members examine best practice to select a new Chairman and work with the Chief Executive to agree and implement the recruitment process.**

10/12 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

“That under Section 100(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public will be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that, if the public were present it would be likely that such information under part 1 of Schedule 12a if the Act of the description against each item would be disclosed.”

ITEM

DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPTION

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27th June 2013 Paragraph 1

RESUME OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

The private minutes were approved and signed.

The Meeting concluded at 9.34am



Report to the Audit Committee

10 September 2013

Report by the Deputy Chief Constable

FORCE PERFORMANCE

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to note this report.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1** This report provides an update on the Force's performance since the beginning of the financial year. Performance statistics are as of 31 August 2013 unless stated otherwise.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Chief Constable regularly discussed the Force's performance against a range of indicators with HMIC. In order to provide the Audit Committee with an overview of the Force's performance since the beginning of the financial year the same indicators have been used. These place the force's performance in a national context (England and Wales) rather than the more restricted comparison with those of the MSF.

3 OVERVIEW

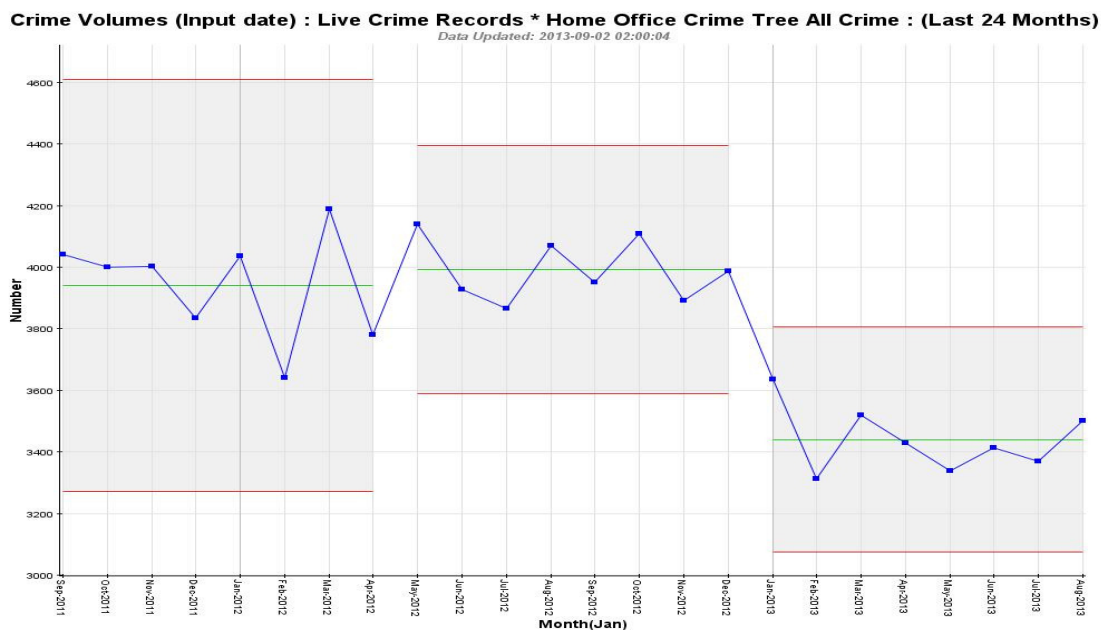
- 3.1** All Crime has reduced by 13.4% in the year until the end of August and by 8.1% over the previous 12 months. Victim Based Crime is showing good reductions over both time periods as are the four main groups within this type. Non victim based crime is up but this is the result of increased proactivity within the Force.
- 3.2** Reports on performance within each of the four Force priority areas (All Crime, Violence Against the Person, Serious Acquisitive Crime, Resolved Crime) are provided below.

4 ALL CRIME

- 4.1** All Crime shows a very positive reduction of 13.4% (2,700 fewer victims of crime) since April. The 12 month reduction is 8.1%, which places the Force 34th nationally in terms of the rate per 1,000 population. The Force is committed to sustained improvement in performance which will further improve the rate per 1,000 population.

- 4.2 The chart below shows the sustained step change in crime levels with the average for the last 7 months being 560 crimes lower than it was 12 months ago. The Force is working to achieve a further step change during this calendar year.

Chart 1 – All crime



- 4.3 Victim Based Crime has reduced by 12.8% in the year to date and by 6.9% over a 52 week period.

- 4.4 Non victim based crime has increased by 2.6% reflecting an increase in crimes disrupted and drug offences. This is the result of proactive work across the county linked to SAC and organised crime.

5 VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

- 5.1 Violence against the person is down 15.0% (551 less victims of crime) in the year to date. Over the same period violence with injury is down 14.8% and without injury down 15.2%. Violence levels remain much lower than they have been and within normal levels (i.e. no exceptions).

- 5.2 Local reductions continue to reflect improved national performance both in the first quarter of 2013-14 and the last 12 months. Violence against the Person continues to reduce. The Force is currently 4th nationally for rate of change.

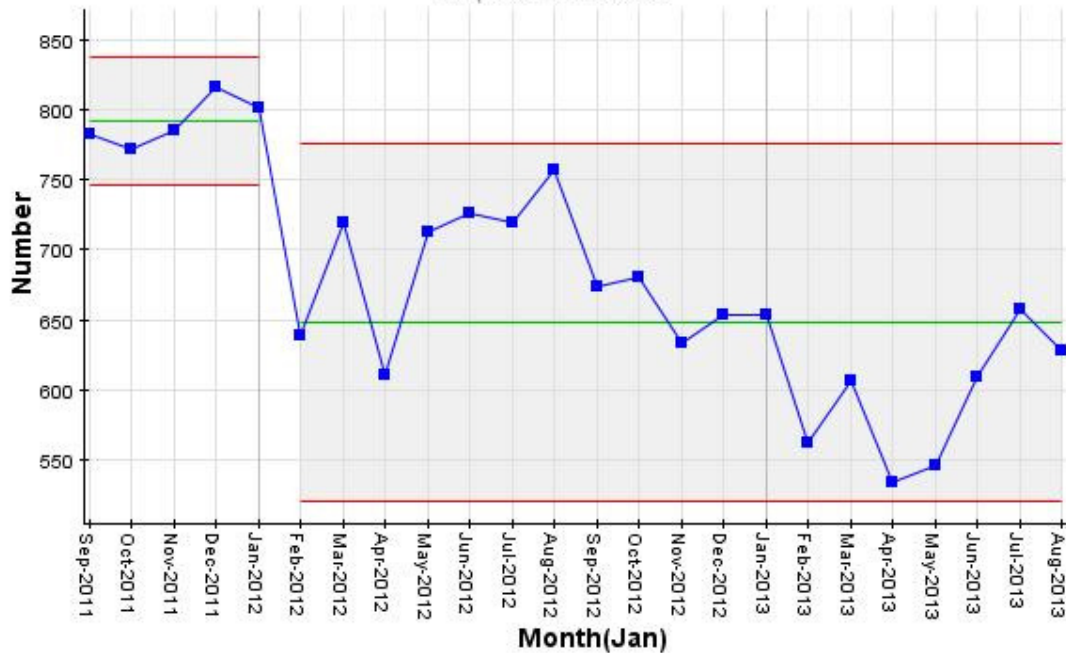
- 5.3 Despite this exceptional level of change over the last 12 months and 3 months, the Force remains in the bottom quartile for rates per 1,000 population. It is currently 33rd nationally for overall violence (12 months), although its position has improved to 29th for violence with injury.

- 5.4 Continued focus on violence through Operation Nightsafe and the Domestic Abuse Unit will ensure levels are robustly reviewed and resources moved accordingly to tackle emerging violence levels and to bring our crime levels in line with the Force’s peers. The chart below demonstrates the significant change in performance in this area.

Chart 2 – violence against the person

Crime Volumes (Input date) : Live Crime Records ¹ 1.1 VIOLENCE OFFENCES : (Last 24 Months)

Data Updated: 2013-09-02 02:00:04



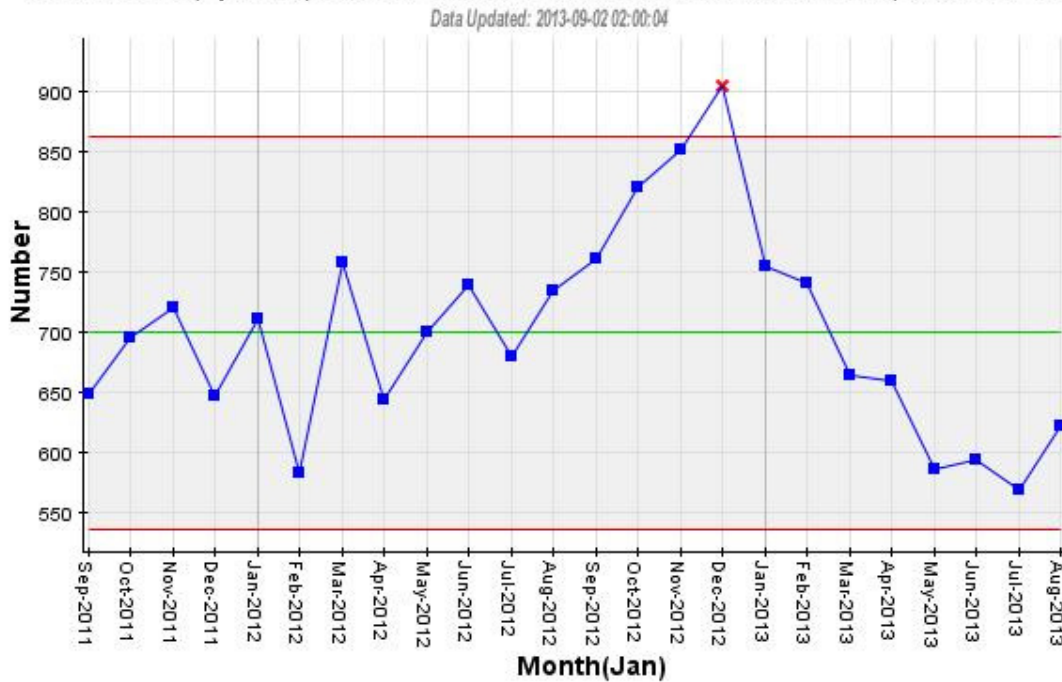
5.5 Sexual offences (all types) are showing a 2.5% reduction since April and an increase of 3.9% over the last 52 weeks. Nationally the Force is ranked 9th best improving force for direction of travel, and 35th for rate per 1,000 population.

6 SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME

6.1 Levels of Serious Acquisitive Crime within the county continue to improve month by month with 6 consecutive months below the average. The Force is currently just one month away from evidencing a step change in performance in this area.

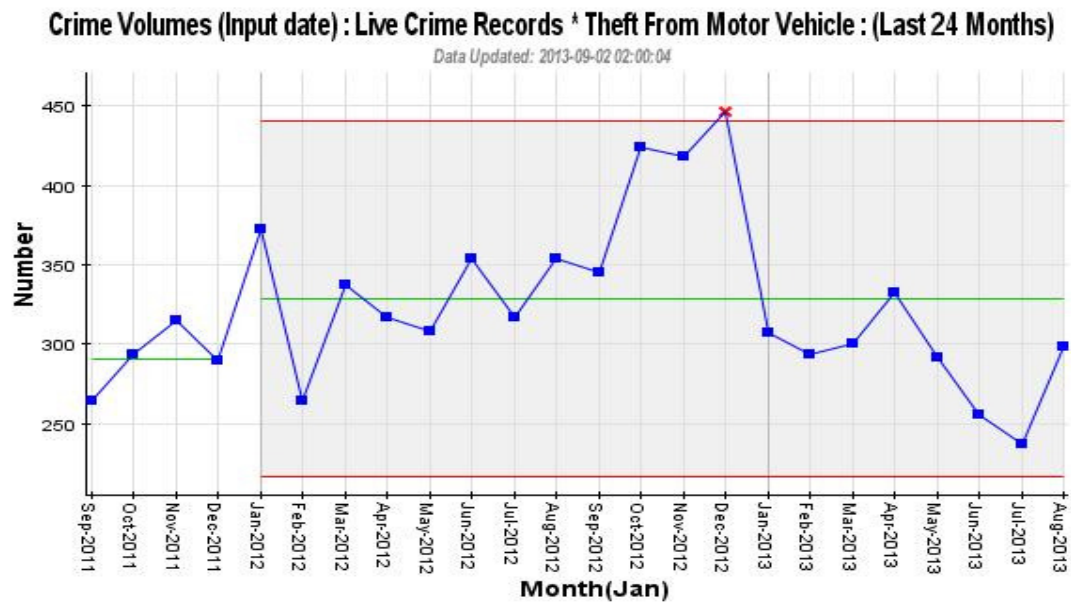
Chart 3 – Serious Acquisitive crime

Crime Volumes (Input date) : Live Crime Records ^ SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME : (Last 24 Months)



- 6.2 The Force is achieving its target reduction of 13.2% in the year to date. This represents 462 fewer victims of crime. This is a significant improvement compared to the 13.8% increase during 2012-13. The Force is 36th nationally for rate per 1,000 population for the last 12 months but 41st for rate of change, demonstrating the scale of the challenge to be in line with peer forces. Encouragingly Northamptonshire was ranked 6th for rate of change in SAC in the April to June quarter and it is anticipated that the changes made in the last 6 months will continue to bring improved crime levels throughout this year.
- 6.3 All four elements of SAC are showing reductions in the year to date. Robbery is down 19.5% and theft of vehicles down 31.1%. Both show similar reductions over the last 12 months. Theft of vehicles has the 2nd largest reduction nationally for rate of change over the last 12 months. The Force is 30th nationally for rate per 1,000 population.
- 6.4 Theft from Vehicles has increased by 4.3% over the last 12 months. There has been a reduction of 14.1% in the year to date and a 33.2% reduction in the Northampton district. The Force maintains its strong focus on this crime type in the areas outside Northampton, where crime remains high.

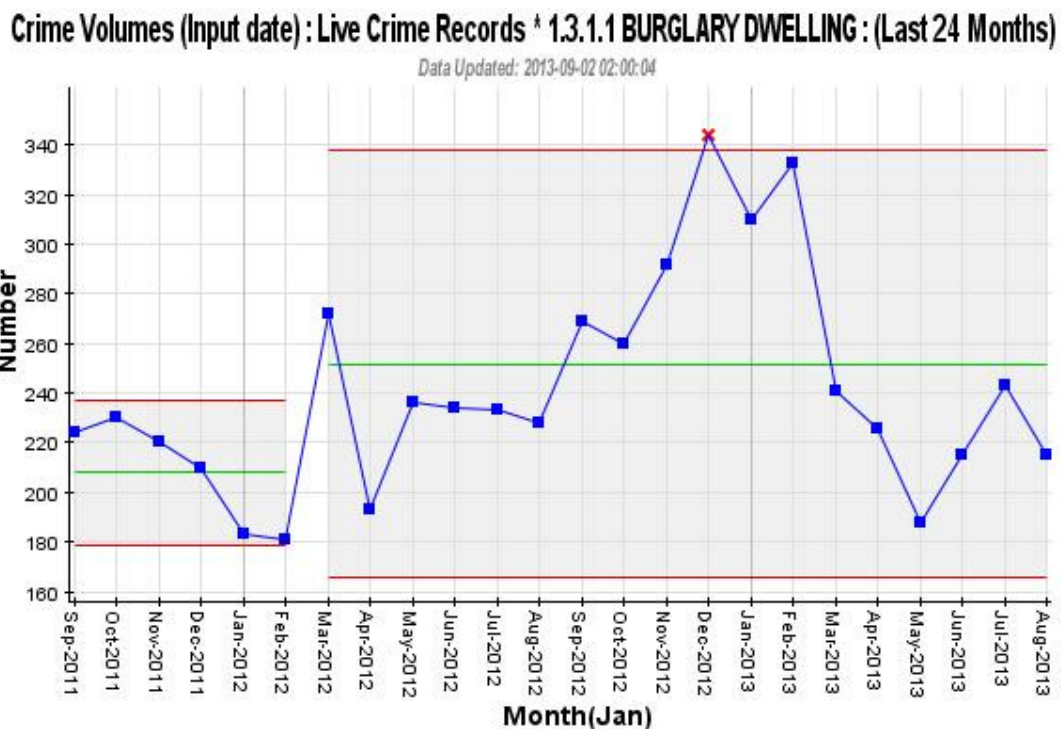
Chart 4 – Theft from vehicles



6.5 Burglary Dwelling remains the Force’s primary focus within SAC. The 2.9% reduction in the year to date is encouraging. The longer term increase of 18.7% is reducing slowly. The Force is 41st for direction of travel and 35th for the rate per 1,000 population. Encouragingly the volume of Burglary Dwelling has been below the national average for 6 consecutive months.

6.6 The Operation Guardian Predictive Policing model introduced at the end of June in Northampton is working well. Officers are patrolling in an intelligence led way based on very detailed analysis and predictive policing methodology. Early indications are positive but a step change in levels has yet to be delivered.

Chart 5 – Burglary dwelling



7 RESOLVED CRIME

- 7.1 Rates of Resolved Crime (the use of sanction detection and restorative justice) have improved this year. The Force continues to exceed last year's rate of 26.2% (currently at 27.7%). The 12 month picture is improving (currently 27.8%). All departments are focussed on achieving the best outcome for the victim.
- 7.2 Within All Crime, the year to date Sanction Detection rate is 23.5% and Non-Sanction 4.2%. Compared to its peers, the Force is well below the national average sanction detection rate of 28.3%. This remains an area of close monitoring and scrutiny at the monthly Performance and Accountability meeting chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable.
- 7.3 There has been an improvement in most categories of Victim Based Crime. 22.6% of all Victim Based Crime has been resolved compared to 19.7% over the same period last year (as at 2 August). Challenges remain with Burglary Dwelling resolved rate which is the lowest nationally and SAC overall where the Force is ranked 40th.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Performance is improving locally but challenges remain where the Force is not performing in line with the national trends. However performance statistics should be considered in the context of Northamptonshire having the fastest growing population in the UK (Office of National Statistics and HMIC) and Corby the fastest growing population in England and Wales (CIPFA).

Martin Jelley

Deputy Chief Constable

2 September 2013