



Staffordshire POLICE

NEWS RELEASE

STRICTLY EMBARGOED
Until 11.30am Thurs 7 Feb

Issued by: Ian Fegan

FLANAGAN REVIEW: FORCE MAKES MAJOR CONTRIBUTION

Staffordshire Police has made a significant contribution to a key national report on policing which has been published today (Thurs 7 February).

Sir Ronnie Flanagan's 'Review of Policing' sets out a series of recommendations to improve policing in the UK in four key areas:

- reducing bureaucracy
- neighbourhood policing
- making most effective use of resources
- enhancing local accountability.

Staffordshire has been a key contributor, alongside Leicestershire, Surrey and West Midlands forces, to the section of the report that focuses on tackling bureaucracy.

Commenting on the force's involvement, chief constable Chris Sims said: "I'm really pleased that the force was given the opportunity to make what I feel is a significant contribution to Sir Ronnie Flanagan's report.

"Bureaucracy wastes time, de-motivates staff and often leads to an inflexible, 'one-size-fits-all' service.

"Based on research and evaluation within our own force we're recommending a fresh approach to crime recording to help tackle this. It's going to be proportionate, based on the discretion and professional judgement of our officers and will properly reflect public needs and expectations.

"The new system will alleviate the reporting burden officer's face when dealing with minor incidents and crimes. Currently these make up around 80 per cent of all the reports we deal with in Staffordshire, and they're recorded in the same way we'd record much more serious crimes such as robbery or murder.

"By using a much simpler, slim-line report for this 80 per cent of lower-level crime and incidents, we will generate significant time savings - an estimated 41,000 hours a year - which can be reinvested into local policing. (p1 of 2)

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



p2 of 2/Flanagan report

“We also estimate that there’ll be significant time savings - as yet unquantified - in other areas of our business such as call handling.

“Frontline officers really support the changes. Feedback from the public is also extremely positive. I think people can see the real benefits of a more flexible service, responsive to customer needs, and we hope this will ultimately contribute to increased confidence in Staffordshire Police.”

The publication of the report follows last Friday’s visit by Prime Minister Gordon Brown to Staffordshire Police HQ.

Mr Brown took the opportunity to talk to officers about neighbourhood policing, on-the-job bureaucracy and the force’s contribution to Sir Ronnie’s review.

Added Mr Sims: “The Prime Minister listened very attentively to the force’s views that neighbourhood policing and bureaucracy are intrinsically linked.

“By tackling the culture of form-filling we want to free up extra time and space for our officers and staff to deliver a better service, engage with communities and improve public confidence.

“Our mission is to put our citizens at the very heart of our work so that we become the force that inspires the greatest levels of trust and confidence from its communities.”

The force is expecting to pilot many of the bureaucracy-busting recommendations set out in the report which will benefit both officers and the public of Staffordshire.

Ends

Media note:

Please contact the force press office on 01785 234864 to:

- arrange interviews this afternoon with either the chief constable or ACC Douglas Paxton
- request e-images or video footage of the Prime Minister’s visit
- discuss filming opportunities.

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