

## Foreword

The objective of this Scrutiny Panel was:

- To investigate, as a benchmark, Northampton's crime statistics in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify 'hotspots' in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify the impact that serious acquisitive crime and violent crime has on the residents of Northampton
- To identify the serious acquisitive crime and violent crime issues that Northampton Borough Council, in partnership with other Agencies, can have an impact upon

This has been a most interesting scrutiny Review, highlighting as it has the complex factors behind crime. The trends are worrying. The evidence from our expert witnesses shows clearly two things:

1. Information to the community from the community safety partnership is key to creating an understanding of the facts rather than the myths. It is also key in creating an understanding of how we can all take measures to reduce opportunities for crime, how to report crime, and how to work with preventative and enforcement agencies.
2. Partnership working came out from the evidence as absolutely essential to the maintenance of good community relations, for effective preventative measures and for good policing. We all have a part to play in keeping our neighbourhoods safe and pleasant to live in.

I have learned a great deal from this process and I look forward to the recommendations being taken up for debate and consideration.

The Review took place between July 2012 and April 2013.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in this piece of work.



**Councillor Danielle Stone**

Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 – Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violent Crime and Community Safety

## **Acknowledgements to all those who took part in the Review: -**

- Councillors David Palethorpe (Vice Chair); Councillors Mick Ford, Brendan Glynane, Dennis Meredith and Brian Sargeant, together with co-opted members Chief Inspector Max Williams, Northants Police, Sharon Henley, Northants Police and Neil Bartholomey, Chair, PubWatch, who sat with me on this Review
- Adam Simmonds, Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire for providing information to inform the Panel's Review
- Councillor David Mackintosh, Leader of the Council, for providing a response to the Scrutiny Panel's core questions
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- Julie Seddon, Chair, Northampton CSP, Lesley Wearing, Director of Housing, NBC, Ruth Austen, Environmental Health Manager, NBC, Laura Jones, Acting Deputy Head of Community Safety, Northants Police, Denise Meylan, Director of Offender Management, Northants Probation Service, Lucy Westley, Sunflower Centre Service Manager, Hassan Shah, Northamptonshire Pakistani Welfare Trust, Northampton Youth Forum, Olufunke Adedeji Consultant in Public Health, Health Protection NHS, Northamptonshire, Christine Thompson, Service Delivery Manager, Northampton Victim Support and John Farrell, Asset Director, Enterprise Management Services for providing comprehensive responses to the core questions of the Panel
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