

My position on the closures of Police Stations.

If elected on 5th May, as the Police and Crime Commissioner I cannot direct the Chief Constable how to run his Force Operationally. However I can and will prevent any further station closures and the sale of those already closed.

I will work with the Chief Constable to direct his attention away from working with and for the Government and make sure he works for the public. This will include the review of where Police are deployed, how many senior and supervisory ranks the force has and a move towards effective Community Policing, using real officers, from real stations where they can be contacted locally. This will be achieved in conjunction with the public using Neighbourhood Watch Teams and Street Net as well as other agencies and charities.

This is one of my key aims. In order for Communities to be effectively and safely Policed there has to be a heart to the structure. That heart must be a police station. The outgoing PCC Tony Hogg and the Chief Constable have missed the point. These stations are not just buildings and valuable real estate, they are the fundamental and irreplaceable part of the Community. Fewer locked front doors, more contact, part of the community.