

Notice of Motion – Council 19 October 2017

Crisis in front line Policing in Torbay

Torbay Council is extremely alarmed that under the watch of the current Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez, there has been a drastic reduction in the number of PCSOs, the eyes and ears of the force in Torbay.

Torquay town centre has just come through a summer season that was marred by anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse and intimidation of the public. The cuts to our PCSOs have exacerbated these problems.

An overwhelming majority of respondents to a crime survey conducted by the Torbay Liberal Democrats said that they did not think there was enough police on patrol in Torquay.

Additionally there is a general concern that the Police and Crime Commissioner is unfit and unsuitable for her job after making tactless comments about being “really interested” in licensed firearm owners being allowed to act during terrorist incidents. We endorse Deputy Chief Constable Paul Netherton’s view that “Under no circumstances would we want members of the public to arm themselves with firearms”.

In October 2016 the Police and Crime Commissioner was heavily criticised for taking ‘selfies’ whilst a huge fire ripped through one of Britain’s oldest buildings.

This Council believes that the Police and Crime Commissioner is wrong to propose reductions in Neighbourhood Policing, that proposals to utilise domestically owned firearms is a crass and inadequate response to mounting concerns about police cuts and that her proposal to appoint a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner is an appointment that is just not needed in these cash-strapped times.

We therefore request the Chief Executive to contact the Home Secretary requesting she use whatever powers may be available to remove Ms Hernandez from office allowing Devon and Cornwall Police to continue the fight against crime at all levels and that Members of Torbay Council show their lack of support for the Police and Crime Commissioner by voting “No Confidence” in her office.

Proposer: Councillor Pentney

Seconder: Councillor Stocks