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TITLE: PRECEPT LEAFLET QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS 2008

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 During March 2008 the precept leaflet was distributed to all council tax paying households across Cleveland.
- 1.2 The back page of the leaflet was a freepost questionnaire which asked people to identify their three most important policing priorities and their three most important anti-social behaviour concerns.

2 RESULTS

Demographics

- 2.1 The precept leaflet is distributed to 236,200 households across the entire Cleveland area. 427 completed questionnaires were returned which equates to a 0.2% response rate. The response was slightly lower than in previous years when roughly 500 responses have been received.
- 2.2 Although a 0.2% response rate may seem low, the sample size achieved can be considered statistically significant at Force level, although not at BCU level.
- 2.3 Response rates across the four BCUs differed considerably. Of the 427 completed questionnaires, 46 (11%) were from Hartlepool, 91 (21%) from Middlesbrough, 120 (28%) from Stockton and 149 (35%) from Redcar and Cleveland. 21 (5%) respondents did not state their ward or postcode.
- 2.4 Hartlepool's response rate was considerably lower than the other 3 BCUs. This has traditionally been the case in recent Force wide consultations undertaken by the Police Authority, and is perhaps attributable to a feeling of 'consultation overload' following the large amount of consultation which took place as part of Hartlepool's pilot status for neighbourhood policing.

- 2.5 There were considerably more male respondents than females, with 48.5% males and 40% females. 11.5% of respondents did not state their gender.
- 2.6 The respondents were primarily from the older age categories, with 66.5% aged 55 and over, and only 0.5% in the 16-24 age category. Table 2.1 below shows the full distribution of ages of respondents.

Table 2.1 Respondent's Age

| Age | No Respondents (%) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 16 – 24 years | 2 (0.5%) |
| 25 – 34 years | 17 (4%) |
| 35 – 44 years | 47 (11%) |
| 45 – 54 years | 67 (15.7%) |
| 55 – 64 years | 93 (21.8%) |
| 65 – 74 years | 117 (27.4%) |
| 75+ years | 74 (17.3%) |
| Age not stated | 10 (2.3%) |

Policing Priorities

- 2.7 Respondents were asked to identify their top three policing priorities from the following list:
- House burglary
 - Other burglary
 - Car crime
 - Vandalism and criminal damage
 - Robbery/mugging
 - Violent crime/assaults
 - Protecting against terrorist attacks
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Traffic legislation/road safety
 - Hate crime
 - Drugs
 - Other
- 2.8 The options given were slightly different to the previous year's survey, focusing on actual crimes rather than on a combination of crimes and methods to achieve crime reductions. As such, 'providing high visibility patrols', 'bringing offenders to justice' and 'responding to emergency incidents' were removed as options. Burglary was split into house burglary and other burglary to better align with partnership surveys.
- 2.9 Across the whole Cleveland area the top four priorities were anti-social behaviour (21.6%), vandalism and criminal damage (19%) and jointly violent crime/assaults and drugs (14.7%). The top four priorities remained the same across all four BCUs, with variations in the order of the third and fourth priorities. Anti-social behaviour was the top choice in the previous year's

survey, demonstrating that this is consistently the principal public concern regarding crime. Table 2.2 below shows the full results of this question:

Table 2.2 Policing priorities

| | Percentage (%) | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| | All | H | M | R&C | S |
| Anti-social behaviour | 21.6 | 24.1 | 18.3 | 22.5 | 21.1 |
| Vandalism and criminal damage | 19.0 | 19.0 | 16.0 | 20.4 | 19.7 |
| Violent crime/assaults | 14.7 | 13.1 | 15.6 | 13.0 | 15.4 |
| Drugs | 14.7 | 16.1 | 14.9 | 13.7 | 15.1 |
| House burglary | 10.5 | 9.5 | 13.0 | 10.7 | 9.1 |
| Robbery/mugging | 8.1 | 6.6 | 9.5 | 7.9 | 8.6 |
| Traffic legislation/road safety | 3.2 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 3.9 | 2.9 |
| Protecting against terrorism | 2.8 | 2.2 | 4.6 | 1.9 | 2.9 |
| Car crime | 2.6 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 2.1 | 2.6 |
| Other burglary | 1.4 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 2.6 | 0.9 |
| Hate crime | 0.9 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| Other | 0.6 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.9 |

1st priority
 2nd priority
 3rd priority

2.10 Other concerns raised within the open category were under-age drinking, general public drunkenness, levels of police bureaucracy, lack of police follow up following incidents and concern at the level of precept increase.

Anti-Social Behaviour Concerns

2.11 Respondents were next asked to identify their top three anti-social behaviour concerns from the following list:

- Inappropriate vehicle use (e.g. off road motorbikes)
- Litter/dog fouling
- Begging
- Homophobic/racial harassment
- Drug use/dealing
- Abandoned or burnt out cars
- Nuisance behaviour (e.g. rowdy and inconsiderate)
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties
- People being drunk or rowdy in public
- Vandalism and criminal damage
- Other


2.12 The options given were slightly different to the previous year's survey. 'Noise' was changed to 'noisy neighbours or loud parties' to align with the

British Crime Survey, and 'hoax calls' and 'prostitution' were removed as they were not judged to be significant problems across all four BCUs.

- 2.13 Traditionally 'teenagers hanging around the streets' has been included within the choices for anti-social behaviour questions, and this choice has always ranked highly, being the third priority in last year's survey. It has been noted that by including this option young people are being grouped together in a list of which all the other options are low level crime. As such it has been decided to remove 'teenagers hanging around the streets' in favour of allowing participants who feel that teenagers are a problem to choose an option indicating in what way they are a problem, i.e. nuisance behaviour, drunken/rowdy behaviour etc.
- 2.14 Across the whole Cleveland area the top three priorities were vandalism and criminal damage (23.1%), drug use/dealing (19.6%) and nuisance behaviour (18.1%). The top three priorities remained the same across all four BCUs, with Middlesbrough rating nuisance behaviour as more of a problem than drugs and Hartlepool rating drugs joint highest concern.
- 2.15 The top three concerns in last year's survey were roughly the same, the only difference being that the third highest concern was 'teenagers hanging around on the streets' which was replaced by 'nuisance behaviour' in this year's survey. Table 2.3 below shows the full results of this question:

Table 2.3 Anti-social behaviour concerns

| | Percentage (%) | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| | All | H | M | R&C | S |
| Vandalism and criminal damage | 23.1 | 21.6 | 22.1 | 23.6 | 23.9 |
| Drug use/dealing | 19.6 | 21.6 | 18.7 | 19.2 | 19.6 |
| Nuisance behaviour | 18.1 | 20.1 | 21.0 | 16.4 | 18.2 |
| Litter/dog fouling | 11.5 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 14.7 | 9.5 |
| People being drunk or rowdy | 10.8 | 11.9 | 10.5 | 9.8 | 11.5 |
| Inappropriate vehicle use | 6.9 | 6.7 | 8.6 | 7.5 | 5.8 |
| Noisy neighbours/loud parties | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 6.1 |
| Homophobic/racial harassment | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.0 |
| Other | 1.3 | 2.2 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 1.7 |
| Begging | 1.2 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 0.6 |
| Abandoned or burnt out cars | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 1.2 |



 1st priority
 2nd priority
 3rd priority

- 2.16 Other concerns raised within the open category were gangs, under-age drinking, street football, bullying, lack of parental control and speeding.
- 2.17 Some respondents entered additional comments. The key points raised are summarised below:
- More police presence needed on the streets

- Police officers are more effective than PCSOs
- Concern at high level of precept rise

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Across the whole Cleveland area the top four policing priorities were anti-social behaviour, vandalism and criminal damage and jointly violent crime/assaults and drugs. These remained the same across all four BCUs, with variations in the order of the third and fourth priorities.
- 3.2 Anti-social behaviour was the top policing priority in last year's survey, demonstrating that this is consistently the principal public concern rather than more serious crimes.
- 3.3 Across the whole Cleveland area the top three anti-social behaviour concerns were vandalism and criminal damage, drug use/dealing and nuisance behaviour. Again these remained the same across all four BCUs with slight variations in order.
- 3.4 The top anti-social behaviour concerns remained the same as in last year's survey, with 'nuisance behaviour' replacing last year's choice of 'teenagers hanging around on the streets'.
- 3.5 Vandalism and criminal damage was highlighted as a concern in both questions.
- 3.6 Other concerns raised were under-age drinking, gangs, and lack of parental control. There were also calls for greater levels of police presence, less police bureaucracy and better follow up when incidents are reported. Several respondents raised concerns at the level of precept rise.