



PRESS INFORMATION

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A Fair Card for Bedfordshire Police Authority

The publication of the Police Report Card (PRC) has been welcomed by Bedfordshire Police Authority, the body responsible for ensuring an efficient and effective police service for Bedfordshire residents.

The assessments cover police performance over the last two years, during which time overall crime in the county, including Luton, has fallen by 17% - equating to 8,948 fewer offences – and the number of detections has risen.

The Authority was pleased to see that HMIC acknowledges these improvements in Bedfordshire Police's performance, assessing the Force as meeting most of the requirements in the three main areas covered by the report card. These are Local Crime and Policing; Protection from Serious Harm; and Confidence and Satisfaction and the Force was assessed as 'Fair' in each domain.

The Police Authority has a responsibility to ensure value for money and effective use of the available resources on behalf of Bedfordshire residents. The report endorses the Authority's achievements and HMIC states that 'the cost of policing in Bedfordshire is low to medium, and the force, one of the smallest in England and Wales, works within budgets which are limited compared to some of its peers'.

Peter Conniff, Chair of the Police Authority, said the report card was excellent news for local communities across the county. "I'm delighted to see that the Force is assessed as meeting the required standard in most areas, particularly in the delivery of the Policing Pledge and Neighbourhood Policing which really matter to our residents.

"It shows that we have listened to people and driven improvements where it matters most, which justifies the Authority's relentless focus on performance."

"We are pleased to see that police performance in Bedfordshire is comparable with a great many other forces in England and Wales. We are not at all complacent and will continue to call for further improvements, but we do feel that this is a reassuring assessment of progress to date."

The Authority has noted that in terms of comparative satisfaction rates for BME communities, the Force received a 'poor' grade. Closing the gap between satisfaction rates for white and BME communities has already been highlighted as an

urgent priority by the Authority's Performance Committee and a number of initiatives are being implemented and assessed to deliver improvements.

The Police Report Card has been introduced by HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) to provide a clear overview of police force performance, alongside the prospects for improvement. The new system also enables comparisons to be made with other forces in England and Wales.

ENDS

Media Enquiries: Sallie Blair, Better Times 01283 821012