

LOCAL COUNCILLORS: SCRUTINISING POLICING ON HIGH STREETS IN YOUR AREA

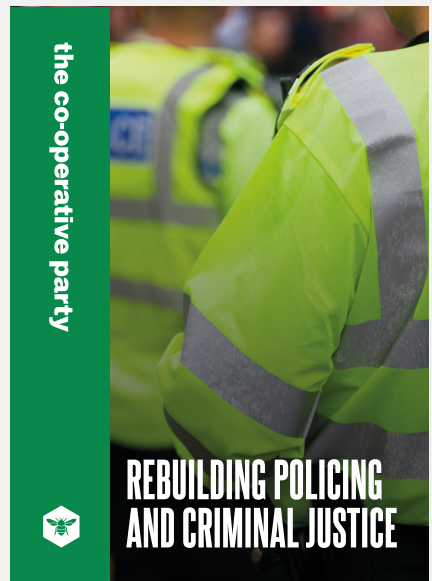
Through police and crime panels in England and Wales, the London Police and Crime Committee, and Local Scrutiny Committees in Scotland, there is the opportunity for local Councillors to raise awareness of issues in their local area and scrutinise the police response to them.

In England and Wales, the Police, Fire and Crime Panel's role is to scrutinise the actions and decisions of their Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), providing both support and challenge. This gives them powers to make formal recommendations on the police and crime plan which the PCC must respond to, as well as votes on budgets and senior appointments.

On the reverse are suggested questions to ask your local force, about some of the key issues raised in our *Rebuilding Policing and Criminal Justice* report. Feel free to share your responses with us at policy@party.coop



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To download a copy of the full report, scan this QR code or visit party.coop/rpcj





SCRUTINISING AN ISSUE

Effective scrutiny will follow a structured approach, normally including the following steps¹:

1. Finding out how the PCC has engaged with the public on a particular issue. You can also carry out your own engagement to understand the problem
2. Request information and data on this issue
3. Ask what resources are allocated to respond to this issue
4. Ask about the leadership role and actions taken by a PCC to drive both the chief constable and broader criminal justice partners to deliver improvements
5. Ask what measures are in place to monitor outcomes against the police and crime plan's priorities
6. Compare with how other police forces deal with this problem; consider the similarities and differences between them and any good practice

HIGH STREETS AND RETAIL CRIME

- What does local data say about the scale of retail crime in your areas?
 - How many reports of crime have there been in retail stores?
 - How many times have the police attended these instances?
 - How many charges have there been as a result?
- Are there particular hotspots?
- What partnerships do your local police have with retailers and local authorities in tackling crime?
- Is tackling prolific and persistent offenders a priority in your local police and crime plan? If not, why not?
- What measures are in place to prevent re-offending?

¹ "Good practice for police and crime panels", Local Government Association (<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/good-practice-police-and-50a.pdf>)