

# Making Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safer

## A Manifesto for the 2021 PCC Elections

*Rupert Matthews,  
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2021 PCC Elections for Leicester, Leicestershires and Rutland.*



*“The Police are the Public and  
the Public are the Police”  
– Sir Robert Peel*

# *The Peelian Principles of Policing*

- 1 To prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force and severity of legal punishment.
- 2 To recognise always that the power of the police to fulfill their functions and duties is dependent on public approval of their existence, actions and behaviour, and on their ability to secure and maintain public respect.
- 3 To recognise always that to secure and maintain the respect and approval of the public means also the securing of the willing co-operation of the public in the task of securing observance of laws.
- 4 To recognise always that the extent to which the co-operation of the public can be secured diminishes proportionately the necessity of the use of physical force and compulsion for achieving police objectives.
- 5 To seek and preserve public favour, not by pandering to public opinion, but by constantly demonstrating absolutely impartial service to law, in complete independence of policy, and without regard to the justice or injustice of the substance of individual laws, by ready offering of individual service and friendship to all members of the public without regard to their wealth or social standing, by ready exercise of courtesy and friendly good humour, and by ready offering of individual sacrifice in protecting and preserving life.
- 6 To use physical force only when the exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient to obtain public co-operation to an extent necessary to secure observance of law or to restore order, and to use only the minimum degree of physical force which is necessary on any particular occasion for achieving a police objective.
- 7 To maintain at all times a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.
- 8 To recognise always the need for strict adherence to police-executive functions, and to refrain from even seeming to usurp the powers of the judiciary of avenging individuals or the State, and of authoritatively judging guilt and punishing the guilty.
- 9 To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.



# A Manifesto for Efficient, Robust and Professional Policing

**M**y vision is for efficient, robust and professional policing in Rutland, Leicester City and Leicestershire. I want more offenders caught, more crime prevented and to put policing back into all our communities. I want partners who work with the police to be inspired so we can protect those at risk. I want the police to be connected to our communities to mobilise their community spirit. I want more compassion and kindness shown to victims of crime and the most vulnerable in society.

As we build back better, it is vital that Leicestershire takes full advantage of the decision by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Home Secretary Priti Patel to put law and order back at the heart of our domestic political agenda. With 20,000 new police officers, more prison places and tough new laws for domestic abusers and those who assault police officers the police can help society to level up. To harness this great support for policing from the Government, our area needs a Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner with the ability to influence national policy and ensure that our voices are heard.

I want to see efficient, robust and professional policing provided in Rutland, Leicester City and Leicestershire. I want officers and staff to be responsive to the needs of the law-abiding public as the police keep them and their property safe and secure. I want our police to target those criminals who engage in unlawful activity and seek to endanger or disrupt the peace and safety of our communities.

## Valuing the officers and staff

I believe in truth, courage, honesty, fairness, team work, boldness, hard work and selflessness. I want to see these values deployed every day as police officers and staff go out into our wonderful mix of communities to bring us success in the fight against crime and disorder. Our most important policing resources are the brave men and women of the Leicestershire Police. Officers and staff put themselves in



harm's way on a daily basis to keep us safe. They protect the most vulnerable. They apprehend offenders and build cases so that criminals are convicted.

Officers and staff need great leadership. I want to see a creative and inspiring style of leadership that motivates the workforce and unlocks the potential across the force to create a culture of leadership at all levels. As the PCC I will ensure that the Chief Constable makes his number one priority our officers and staff. Without their morale, motivation, health and well-being, support and leadership we cannot achieve anything.

I expect the force to look continually for ways to refocus resources to where they are needed most – into the frontline. Frontline officers are motivated to go into danger every day by a sense of duty and service. I want the Chief Constable to ensure that the front line staff, including backroom experts, get the finest equipment and training to give them the skills and tools for the job.

## Peelian Principles

My role as Police and Crime Commissioner will be to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Leicestershire Police, and for the quality of her or his individual leadership. The governance framework I will put into place in order to fulfil my role will have two guiding lights taken from the Peelian Principles

*"the police are the public and that the public are the police"*  
*"the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them"*

I believe these principles apply as much today as they did nearly 200 years ago when Sir Robert Peel developed them to define the ethical requirements the police must follow to be effective. The public have a crucial role, via the Police and Crime Commissioner, in setting the local policing priorities and in supporting the police in the fight against crime. We must aim to pass the standards test set by the great Sir Robert Peel.

To deliver my vision for policing I have developed a plan that, once elected, can be rapidly converted into my Police and Crime Plan. My Police and Crime Plan will then be consulted upon with local residents and amended in order to ensure that it reflects local demands and wishes from the community for how policing needs to be delivered in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

## **Supporting the Most Vulnerable**

The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner goes beyond holding the Chief Constable to account. The PCC has a crucial role in commissioning other services. He must work in partnership with other agencies to make a more sustained difference in the quality of lives of all our communities. Of especial concern are those people who are the most vulnerable, the most damaged or those people with the greatest need of support. I see great opportunities in doing more for domestic abuse survivors, improving their experience with the police, obtaining greater support for them, developing perpetrator intervention programmes and much more.

I believe these wider responsibilities are more critical than ever before. I will make sure our police protect us from harm now but it is equally important to try to do all that we can to prevent vulnerable people becoming offenders of the future, ensure we create an environment where people can be rehabilitated or participate in restorative justice.

I believe the role of PCC is to be a strong advocate for justice on behalf of our local communities. I will be their voice. This is the duty of the PCC. It is a responsibility I will not shirk.

Our police wear the Queen's Uniform as they fulfil their prime duties of maintaining the Queen's Peace and enforcing the laws of England. Any who assault those wearing the Queen's Uniform must know that they will be prosecuted whenever possible. And that we will seek the most severest of penalties.

I will be a PCC who will strengthen our local policing and provide them with the political support that they need when tackling the criminals who blight our lives.

**This is a manifesto for change, a manifesto for improvement, a manifesto for the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.**



# My Six Point Plan for Policing in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

## 1. Visible Policing

I intend to make sure that police officers and staff will be more visible to actively deter criminals, prevent crime and provide more reassurance to residents.

Community policing should be the bedrock of British Policing. It reduces the fear of crime, it enhances trust and confidence and puts policing back into our local areas. I will put more police into our communities to cut crime and catch criminals and ensure that they adopt tactics to maximise their visibility. I will support the Chief Constable in targeting the criminals who are preying on vulnerable people, peddling drugs, using gratuitous violence and perpetrating cruel and abusive behaviour. I want to reinvigorate policing in our neighbourhoods, which must be more visible and consistent across all our mix of communities.

I recognise that in order to reduce the fear of crime we need to make our streets safer whether that is in rural areas or the more urban towns and city. People need to feel safe going about their personal lives and therefore I will expect the force to continue to develop plans to ensure our night time economy is as safe as it can be. People, particularly vulnerable people, must not be targeted by people who set out to harm others.

- I will ask the Chief Constable to conduct a root and branch review of policing across the force, in particular our rural areas, so that all areas have the resources that they need.
- I will ask the Chief Constable to do all he or she can to ensure the force is as streamlined as possible so that money can be reinvested back into the front line. I am committed to building a force with limited hierarchy and less bureaucracy with more frontline delivery and increased capability.
- I will reopen a police station accessible to the public in Rutland to assist with supporting greater police visibility across the county.
- I want to increase the numbers of officers within the Special Constabulary available for deployment into our city and towns as well as our rural areas.

We will capitalise upon their skills to enrich all our policing services as well as bolstering our visible presence in communities. A force of Special Constables will be recruited from our local communities to work within our local communities and be seen as being part of our communities.



- I will conduct a detailed examination and review of the police estate so that buildings and working environments are more accessible to local people, reflects a modern style of policing and most importantly supports a culture of openness, transparency and value for money.
- I will support the Chief Constable with robust policies on stop and search, use of spit hoods and the targeting of the most serious and prolific offenders to put more offenders before the courts.
- I will boost the use of bodycams to gather evidence and secure convictions of those who assault our officers.
- I will develop a Safer Communities Strategy where we see more officers and staff routinely working in and around schools, universities, youth clubs, festivals and places where groups of people gather.
- I will require the force to be outstanding at responding to and preventing domestic abuse, sexual offences, exploitation and abuse of the elderly. This will create greater confidence and trust in the force from victims and their families.

*This suite of pledges means the force will be better equipped to deal with crime and antisocial behaviour. This will enable the force to keep people safe, target those people who are engaged in criminal activities. Most importantly it will take our communities and staff with me.*

## 2. Rural Policing

Our rural areas in Rutland and in Leicestershire require robust policing. Hare-coursing, burglary, dangerous driving, farm robberies, and church lead thefts blight our villages and farms. I will put in place a Rural Policing Plan and provide resources to tackle the crimes that affect our countryside.

Leicestershire and Rutland have great swathes of what could be described as quintessential rural England. The City of Leicester, our towns and villages are surrounded by beautiful countryside. However sometimes this wonderful image of



tranquillity is ruined by the scourge of rural criminality that is perpetrated by some of the most sophisticated and ruthless offenders in our communities. These violent criminals are very often sophisticated, resourceful and organised gangs who know no geographic or force boundaries. They are dangerous, inhumane and lack any form of respect for the countryside, our animals and the people whose livelihoods depend on earning a living from the land.

For farmers and business owners who rely upon a vibrant and flourishing rural economy these targeted attacks on

our local countryside industries are devastating. They very often cripple a year's earnings in one fell swoop and create the fear of unemployment, business collapse or irreparable damage to the health and wellbeing of everyone affected by these acts.

- The force should be structured to provide an outstanding response to rural criminality.
- I will ensure we work in partnership with parish councils, neighbourhood watch groups, communities and volunteers to enhance and formalise our approach to prevention.
- The force will work tirelessly to support farmers and other organisations to protect their buildings, land, crops, livestock, animals and equipment. The basics need to make a difference, we need to use the police expertise, resources and partners to support landowners.
- I will reinstate the Mounted Volunteers Scheme and look at other innovative ways to mobilise our rural communities in the fight against crime.
- I will work with Rutland County Council, Leicestershire County Council and our other councils to protect rural homes and businesses.
- I want police officers, staff and volunteers to work seamlessly together. I will ensure the force builds up the number of watch schemes.
- I will make better use of an army of the Special Constabulary.

*This suite of pledges gives a strong voice to our rural communities. My commitment to all communities must not be divisive or create inequality of service delivery. Our rural areas will feel more valued and listened to and most importantly send a clear message to criminals that they should stay away from our countryside.*



### 3. More Policing

There are many ways to increase the capacity, capability and productivity of our police force. I am committed to maximising and increasing the policing in our areas so I will be encouraging more team work, collaboration and working in partnership. I want to see more co-operation between the police, local authorities and other agencies on safeguarding and protecting vulnerable children and adults, bringing domestic abusers to justice and tackling all forms of crime and antisocial behaviour.



I want to ensure that our police officers and staff feel confident, supported, trusted and empowered to make a difference. That is why I will do all that I am able to protect them in the office of PCC so they feel protected. I will do all that I am able to ensure the police are bold and courageous, being on the front foot when tackling criminality and those dangerous people who jeopardise our safety. I don't want Officers being risk averse or constrained. I want them to know that the force and the PCC are as one in offering our collective support and that we will be measured against what we do, not what we say we will do. The health and wellbeing of Officers and staff is incredibly important to me. This is really simple: A healthy and vibrant force will mean a more productive and effective force.

I believe that partnership should be at the core of developing sustainable crime reduction plans, improving people's lives and making communities safer. Joining and integrating services, building trusting partnerships with agencies, local authorities, volunteers, the police and most importantly with our communities will increase what we are able to do as well improve the quality of what we are doing.

- I will maintain oversight of all areas of conduct in the force and ensure we do all that we are able to stop the injustice of some officers and staff being unnecessarily under investigation for months and years. This is debilitating for not only the staff but complainants too.
- I will ensure the occupational health and wellbeing services are as modern, effective and high quality as possible.
- I will ensure that officers and staff are some of the best equipped, skilled and trained in the country.
- I will maintain a focus upon leadership and hold the chief constable to account for his or her own personal approach to leadership, which will include the quality of leadership of all leaders under his command.
- I want to see multiagency safeguarding as a priority for all involved. It is only through a co-ordinated response we can catch the criminals who prey on our young people and the vulnerable.

- I want those at risk of a life of crime to be identified so that intervention and rehabilitation services can be commissioned and be effective. This will be a continuing focus during my tenure.
- I will revitalise the spirit of volunteering and unleash the power of communities through more neighbourhood watches, community speed watch, rural crime watches as well working more coherently and productively with other community groups to tackle quality of life issues.
- I want victims of crime to be better supported through specialist services.
- I will work with the police and our partners to create a seamless and coordinated approach to divert as many people as possible away from harmful lifestyles.
- A sustainable reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour can only be achieved through problem solving. Problem solving without partnership is not problem solving so we will develop improved inter agency intelligence sharing, evidenced based interventions and a more joined up approach with communities.
- I will ensure the Force develops a more sophisticated approach to problem solving, developing a greater understanding of how to develop plans in with all our partners, communities and volunteers.

*This suite of pledges will improve the capacity and capability of the Leicestershire Police to help them deal with the insatiable demands they are facing. Greater partnership, collaboration and interagency working will help create solutions for wicked problems of today but will make our streets and homes safer in the future.*



## 4. Hi-Tech Policing

I want our police to have the best equipment, the most up to date technology and the most modern tools so they remain on the front foot when catching criminals and the most sophisticated offenders, to increase their ability to keep themselves safe, to maximise their access and availability to communities and to be world class at communicating.

I will ensure that officers and staff have access to the best IT they need to carry out their duties. I want the force to upgrade technology and equipment to support officers and the environment. I will nurture and encourage innovation,

creativity and imagination so we can operate in an environment of continuous improvement.

I will not constrain our thinking about how we will protect our communities in a more sustainable way. We will do all that we are able to ensure our policing is delivered in a way which brings more economic benefits and lowering costs to save money and reinvest into local policing. As the PCC I will do all that I can to cut pollution, reduce the police carbon footprint, maximise the opportunity to use renewable energy and make sure we use our police land to help care for our wildlife. Caring for

the environment does not have to be grand gestures or projects with large capital outlays or indeed reducing the force capability. But what I am sure is Leicestershire Police can make a difference.



- I will undertake an urgent review of the police vehicle procurement policy to see if it is possible to purchase replacements that are greener than the current vehicles.

- I want to deploy electric police vehicles – “Green Pandas” – as soon as I am realistically able.
- I will review the police estate to ascertain the potential to install solar panels on police buildings to reduce the police carbon footprint and ensure we minimise waste and increase recycling.
- I will encourage the force to reduce unnecessary travelling by changing the culture of how we do our business, take the learning of the global pandemic to communicate and meet through technology



- I will enhance performance by ensuring technology enabled information, data and intelligence is at the fingertips of all the police officers and staff.
- I will work with our partners to explore opportunities for better communication for the benefit of our local communities. Information sharing is often a barrier in fighting crime and keeping people safe but I will do as much as possible to improve this position.
- I will develop stronger business relationships to work more effectively together with the police to tackle online cyber and more traditional crimes
- I will ensure the force has the most modern technology to prevent cyber-crime, on line child abuse and to support the reduction of online bullying and antisocial behaviour.

- Tasers will not be rationed – I will encourage and facilitate every officer who wants to carry one to be able to do so.
- I will conduct a review of the technology being used in the force so that I am able to ensure the force is equipped with tools that is as hi-tech and innovative as possible. We will plan for the next generation technology to future proof our services.
- I will ensure improvement in the use of mobile technology, the use of data and digital solutions.

*This suite of pledges will unlock the potential of the force through technology; it will improve the force response to crime and antisocial behaviour and enable them to target the most serious and prolific offenders. Communities will be safer and the environment will be cleaner.*



## 5. Local Policing

I want local officers to be able to make decisions that reflect the needs of their local communities. I want residents, schools, local councils and community groups like Neighbourhood Watch to work with our police to tackle crime, clamp down on antisocial behaviour, tackle speeding and promote road safety.

I am conscious that over many years there has been a general erosion of the importance of local policing, very

often evidenced by reduced numbers of neighbourhood officers and staff, resources moving out of neighbourhood roles too frequently and a lack of training and accreditation for neighbourhood officers.

I want our local neighbourhood officers to be even more proud of their contribution to policing in their local areas. I would like them to be the best officers and staff who are equipped and trained to a high level so they have the same status as other officers and staff in other departments.

The most influential, proactive, effective and visible officers and staff are exemplary at communicating and consulting with the community, inspire and motivate local people and partners, are dedicated and accessible to communities, know who the local criminals are, help to develop and build up the local intelligence picture as well as providing reassurance to local vulnerable people.

- I will work with the Chief Constable to increase the status of these officers who are very often doing an incredibly difficult role, ensure they have a strong local identity and proud of it, are trained and equipped and most importantly stay in their local communities to be able to capitalise on their local knowledge and reliable relationship with stakeholders and the public.
- I will work with the Chief Constable to ascertain how the police will improve the training of local officers and staff, ensure they have the correct skills and personal qualities, are technology-competent and have a sense of

belonging to the local communities as well as be identifiable by their local communities.

- I will ask the Chief Constable to develop a strategy and delivery plan for neighbourhood policing so that the community not only has the best trained and equipped officers and staff in our communities but there is an operational plan for each of the areas across the force.



- I want to see areas with a distinctive identity – including Rutland, the Vale of Belvoir, The Coalfields, and Bosworth rural villages – with dedicated local policing units with a clearly visible local identity and autonomy.
- All residents will be treated professionally and fairly in line with their needs, with sensitivity and respect regardless of their background.
- I will support the rollout of Community Speedwatch in every parish and village who require one in the counties.

*This suite of pledges will bring our local policing to life, energise relationships and create community spirit and community value by working together, which will in turn improve trust and confidence in our police.*

## 6. Community Policing

I know that communication between the police and the public is vital. I will ensure that residents are listened to, know more about their local police and how the force is keeping people safe. The public have a huge part to play in policing and I will create an approach of continuous improvement so that the Police can communicate better.

I am committed to reaching out more effectively to all our communities wherever they work, socialise or reside. I will take my role of the PCC to the next level. I will ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible. I will improve local relationships by building confidence and restoring trust. They work in partnership across a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

I want to do all this as well as be the voice of the community so I am able to meet their needs. That means I will



continue to communicate effectively and hold the Chief Constable to account for the way the police force listens and responds to the public. We will no longer have a “we know best” attitude; we will no longer give the service we think the public wants and we will no longer engage in activities that are for organisational ease and not community needs.

I will expect our officers and staff, police buildings, vehicles and equipment to represent the image of a professional force, there to serve all our communities. The image of the force is important as it reflects the service the public will receive. I want our image to reflect the needs of today, to be polished and professional but not to lose sight of our proud history.

- I will conduct a root and branch review of communications across the force so that improvements can be made.
- I will ensure that there is regular reporting to parish councils and other community groups by local officers.
- I want to harness the support of local people through social media to support the police.
- I will develop a communication strategy and ensure technology is at the centre to enhance and develop technology-based public communication and consultation channels, while not forgetting those unable to access digital resources.
- I will be one of the most accessible PCCs so communities can hold me to





account and influence the policing approach. I will regularly host public meetings, business forums and volunteer seminars to listen, learn and respond.

- I will develop a rural communication strategy where community groups can come together and we use social media and technology to be more responsive and progressive to preventing and detecting rural crime. For instance, develop social media messaging groups for sharing information, enhance the use of crime stoppers and be more direct at reporting crime or suspicious activity.
- I will ask the Chief Constable to review the force 101 call handling capability to ensure the response and quality of service to local communities is as good as it can be.

*This suite of pledges will increase confidence and provide reassurance to our communities through effective communications and engagement with our public.*

**Working together, we will make Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland safer for everyone who lives or works here.**

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*by Rupert Matthews,*

*Conservative Candidate*

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*For more information see [www.RupertMatthews.org.uk](http://www.RupertMatthews.org.uk)  
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