

## **Briefing Note: Visit of Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody Exmoor Local Community Network (LCN)**

**Meeting:** January 2025

**Speaker:** Clare Moody, Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

### **Overview**

Clare Moody attended the Exmoor LCN to provide her annual update as the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset. She outlined her role, current priorities and opportunities for closer engagement between local communities, councils and neighbourhood policing teams.

### **Key Priorities Highlighted**

The PCC advised that the emerging Police and Crime Plan focuses on five key areas:

- Strengthening neighbourhood policing.
- Addressing serious violence, including youth violence and domestic abuse.
- Preventing crime.
- Supporting victims.
- Maintaining standards in policing.

She emphasised the importance of community engagement, local intelligence and partnership working to help shape policing priorities and improve outcomes for residents.

### **Issues Raised by LCN Members**

#### **County Lines and Rural Crime**

Questions were raised regarding the extent of County Lines activity in rural Somerset and the capacity of Avon and Somerset Police to respond. The PCC and police representatives highlighted the importance of public awareness and community intelligence in identifying and tackling organised criminal activity.

### **Reducing Reoffending**

Discussion covered the role of education and wider support services in preventing reoffending. The PCC stressed the value of a coordinated approach involving education, housing support and services addressing drug and alcohol dependency.

### **Police Funding and Resources**

Concerns were raised about financial pressures, officer recruitment and the impact of budget constraints. The PCC outlined the challenges facing police funding and the need for careful financial planning to maintain services and make the case for additional resources where required.

### **Rural Policing**

Members discussed resources for rural policing and the importance of responding to issues such as farm thefts and other forms of rural crime. The PCC highlighted the work of specialist rural crime teams and encouraged continued reporting of incidents to ensure resources are allocated appropriately.

**Key Messages for Exmoor**

- Stronger neighbourhood policing remains a core priority.
- Community intelligence and crime reporting are essential in tackling both County Lines activity and rural crime.
- Partnership working between police, councils and communities is critical to effective policing.
- Addressing the causes of offending requires coordinated support across multiple agencies.
- Ongoing financial pressures mean that effective prioritisation and evidence of local need remain important.

**Relevance to Exmoor LCN**

The discussion reflected several issues of particular relevance to rural communities, including rural crime, community safety, policing visibility and partnership working. The PCC encouraged continued engagement between local councils, residents and neighbourhood policing teams to help inform future policing priorities.