

## Lancashire police commissioner reflects on first six months in office

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LANCASHIRE'S first police and crime commissioner has been reflecting on his first six months in office.

Clive Grunshaw, who was elected in November, said one of his biggest achievements so far had been the launch of his police and crime plan, which was drawn up following consultation with residents.

It sets out his key priorities to defend frontline policing, protect vulnerable people, promote targeted initiatives to tackle crime and re-offending, and champion the rights of the victim.

Mr Grunshaw said: "The first six months have been a real challenge.

"After the election, when there was such a low turn-out, we were not sure what reaction we would have.

"I was on the police authority before, so I had an understanding of the issues we faced.

"But since coming in as the commissioner, there has been a culture change and there are ways of working that we have to adhere to now.

"There are expectations from the public, community engagement and finding out what people's views, issues, concerns and expectations are from the police and then being able to deliver that."

Over the coming months Mr Grunshaw said he aimed to hold more roadshows to gauge public opinion on what more needed to be done.

He said: "In some places we have had people queueing up telling us how much they value their bobby on the beat and, in some cases, expressing concerns about things going on such as drugs issues in Nelson.

"So now we want to continue to build on the police and crime plan.

"Priorities change over time and we want to make sure we are doing the right things.

"Moving forward I am keen to continue to work with partners and the county's residents to put my plan into action, and over the coming months I will be spending time out and about in the community to ensure I am taking on board local people's views and representing them."

The police and crime commissioner's office has already had to make savings of £40million and has to cut another £25million over the next three years.

An investigation is ongoing into Mr Grunshaw's expenses after allegations were made over discrepancies in his claims.

He said: "I am not sure when the investigation will come to its conclusion, but I look forward to it and moving on from it."

[Back](#)

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