

## STEVENS REPORT 'YEARS OUT OF DATE'

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon claims that the Stevens Report into policing standards is years out of date.

The report, Policing for a Better Britain, focused on the future of policing in England and Wales. It featured a number of recommendations.

Mr Salmon said: "I welcome any contribution to the debate about policing but, let's be clear, Lord Stevens' report is not independent. It was commissioned by the Labour Party and it will be for them to be judged by its contents."

"We've heard a lot about radicalism but most of it sounds years out of date.

"We all agree that local activity is the bedrock of British policing. That's why we're bringing forward the recruitment of officers in Dyfed-Powys and investing in neighbourhood policing. We will take on 90 new officers in the next 18 months – 30 of those being new posts.

"The Stevens Report provides the wrong answers to the right questions. More laws, more central diktats and clumsy legal obligations that drag police from their core mission are not the answer."

Mr Salmon said the public should be suspicious of proposals that concentrate more power in fewer hands.

He said: "That's what the Stevens proposals for force mergers, the IPCC and College of Policing mean – a massive centralisation of power.

"We should be even more suspicious when those hands are senior officers' hands, where he proposes to remove any shred of democratic control. That's what gave us the problems we have today.

"It may not be surprising that an ex-senior officer is recommending more power for his old colleagues.

"It's interesting that Stevens surveyed 32,000 police officers but only 2,000 members of the public. We must recognise the contribution of other organisations – voluntary, government and private – to the fight against crime.

"That's what PCCs do. We hold the police accountable for preventing and fighting crime. And we commission services from other experts to help them do it."

Posted on Tuesday 26th November 2013

