

Police and Crime Commissioner
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria
2nd Floor Victory House
Balliol Business Park
Benton Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 8EW

4th July 2018

Dear Vera,

Resources for speed enforcement in the Gateshead area

I am writing to you as the Chair of Gateshead Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Place.

Over the last year, my Committee has reviewed road safety on Gateshead's roads as part of its work programme. During the review, officers from Operation Dragoon attended to provide a presentation of their units work and answer questions from members.

Committee members agreed the final report of this review at their meeting on 18 June 2018 and shortly I will be presenting this to our Cabinet. In agreeing their report, members asked me to write to you expressing their concerns arising from this review. Whilst recognising and welcoming the level of co-operation that already exists between the Police and Gateshead Council, the committee was concerned about the limited resources available to undertake speed enforcement on Gateshead's roads.

Of particular concern to my committee are the number of speeding vehicles on the road in the evenings which apparently go unchallenged. We are under no illusion as to the reasons for this and whilst recognising that cuts to budgets have greatly affected the Northumbria force, as indeed they have Council services, the Scrutiny committee wondered if it would be possible going forward, to agree jointly additional locations for speed enforcement and increase the numbers of community speedwatch sites.

Such a move would be helpful in promoting road safety in Gateshead, and would be consistent with the recommendations in the recent national 'Road Safety Management Capacity Review' and I would be grateful if you would let me have your views and advise who my officers should speak to in order to arrange a greater presence of speed enforcement on Gateshead's roads.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Neil Weatherley
Chair of overview and scrutiny committee (Place)
CC: Anneliese Hutchinson, Service Director, Development, Transport and Public Protection