

PRESS RELEASE

Northamptonshire initiative fills business crime ‘policing gap’



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- **County-wide initiative demonstrates clear reduction in low-level business crime and anti-social behaviour;**
- **Reinforces police/business cooperation; closes perceived ‘policing gap’;**
- **Increases low-level crime reporting to police – while reducing police admin costs;**
- **Successful, self-funding model now extended county-wide, including rural areas;**
- **Delivers key pledge in PCC’s Police & Crime Plan;**
- **Enables effective early intervention for local offenders with chaotic lifestyles.**

A struggling town-centre crime-reduction scheme has been ‘re-booted’ to address low-level crime and anti-social behaviour across Northamptonshire.

A Case Study published today shows how the scheme is now an essential - and highly effective - part of Northamptonshire Police’s strategy to address low-level business crime and anti-social behaviour.

It tells a win-win-win story: for police under pressure from spending cuts, for the county’s Police & Crime Commissioner who has delivered on a key pledge, and for the county’s business communities which now benefit from reduced losses from shop theft and anti-social behaviour.

The Case Study shows how police support – plus modest funding from the county’s PCC – have helped ‘re-boot’ an ailing town-centre retail crime initiative to become a self-funding county-wide scheme. Today the Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP) delivers demonstrable reductions in low-level crime for its 400+ retail businesses across the county, has re-established close interworking between them and police, and represents a model which other police forces and PCCs are looking at with interest.

The Case Study identifies a number of key factors: a determined ‘vision’ on the part of a number of police officers; a realistic and costed business plan based in large part on the adoption of a new online information sharing system; support from the PCC; and leadership from Steve Lang who joined the re-vamped scheme as Business Development Manager after retiring from Northants police in 2015.

Lang’s remit was to achieve full financial self-sufficiency for the scheme and to roll it out beyond Northampton town-centre to cover the entire county within two years. The Case Study explains how he and his team achieved that goal, on budget and to schedule – and how the project is well on its way to full financial self-sufficiency.

The Case Study shows why the original scheme covering Northampton town centre suffered a substantial decline in service levels when external funding was cut in 2012. It explains why Northants police



Steve Lang; NBCP’s Business Development Manager

decided to explore ways to re-vamp the scheme, how a business plan was put together and why it succeeded in securing re-boot funding from the Northamptonshire Police & Crime Commissioner.

It goes on to describe Phase One of the project – to breathe new life into the existing scheme. This involved reviewing the existing banning scheme, re-establishing close ties with the police for information



sharing and operational support, and the implementation of the DISC online system from Littoralis. Phase Two covers the extension of the new 'model' to cover the rest of the county. This involved setting up an 'umbrella' scheme titled Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP) under which a series of new schemes were set up, all on the same model (and using the same DISC system) as the now-proven Northampton town-centre scheme.

The DISC App: part of NBCP's information-sharing system

Using data generated from NBCP's DISC system, the Case Study demonstrates how successful the schemes run by NBCP have

been in terms of attracting new members (essential in achieving financial self-sufficiency) and helping control and drive down low-level crime on behalf of its members. Banning schemes, in short, work.

The Case Study also includes a section on the importance of close interworking with the police. That has taken the form of closer operation support and sharing of intelligence but, in Lang's words: "Interworking comes in a variety of forms and the more there is the more successful you will be". The NBCP was among the first to implement DISC's direct-to-police Crime Reporting system which now plays an important part in Northampton Police's straight-to-summons policy.

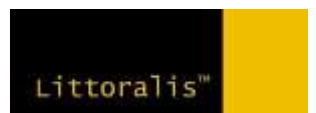
Also included is a summary break-down of costs, showing how revenue has grown fast and is shortly to cover all costs, thus delivering on a key element in the business plan on the basis of which the PCC's funding was made back in 2015.

[To read the Case Study in full click here to download \(PDF format\)](#)

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About Littoralis & DISC

Littoralis Limited supplies DISC (*Database & Intranet for Safer Communities*), a secure online information-sharing and partnership administration system designed specifically for crime reduction groups, many of which run 'Exclusion Schemes' which ban Offenders from Members' premises.



With more than 150 DISC implementations (*as at November 2017*) throughout the UK, DISC currently covers more than 350 towns and city-centres, as well as growing number of major shopping centres and rural areas. Customers include Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, smaller shopwatches and pubwatches, retail and commercial property management companies, police and community safety agencies.

As providers of the DISC systems, Littoralis is a data processor on behalf of its customers; each DISC system is configured to match individual local priorities and work-processes. Customers control their own data within DISC and is separately and independently registered on the ICO register of data controllers.

For more information about DISC:

- Email enquiries@littoralis.com or call 01273 900468 to contact Littoralis direct;
- Visit www.littoralis.com/webinars to register for a free online 'webinar';
- Visit www.littoralis.com for more information, case studies, Whitepapers, brochures etc