

**CHOOSE
MY PCC**

Candidates for the Bedfordshire Police Force Area

On 6th May, you will be able to vote for
your police and crime commissioner.

Find out who your local candidates are
and how to vote



Contents

About Police and Crime Commissioners	02
Festus Akinbusoye Conservative Candidate – More Police, Safer Streets	04
Patrick Hamill Independent	06
David Michael Labour Party	08
Jas Parmar Liberal Democrat	10
Antonio Daniel Vitiello English Democrats – “More Police – catching criminals!”	12
Statement by the Police Area Returning Officer for Bedfordshire	14

About Police and Crime Commissioners

On 6th May, you will be able to vote for your Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. Elections will be taking place in England and Wales. In London, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, there will be elections at the same time for Mayors who exercise PCC functions.

PCCs are responsible for the totality of policing in their force area and aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service.

39 PCCs will be elected across England and Wales, of which 4 are also responsible for overseeing the fire and rescue authority for their area and are called Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) – these PFCCs are found in Essex, Staffordshire, North Yorkshire and Northamptonshire). There will also be 3 Mayors with PCC functions elected in London, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire.

PCCs are elected by you and aim to cut crime and hold the force to account on behalf of the public. PCCs bring a public voice to policing, and they do this by:

- engaging with the public and victims of crime to help set the policing priorities for the area and consulting on their Police and Crime plans;
- ensuring the police force budget is spent where it matters most; and
- appointing the Chief Constable, holding them to account for delivery of their objectives and if necessary, dismissing them.

Work with others

PCCs, PFCCs and Mayors who exercise PCC functions also work with your council and other organisations to promote and enable joined up working on community safety and criminal justice.

The PCC, PFCC or Mayor who exercises PCC functions does not 'run' the police force or fire service. Chief Constables and Chief Fire Officers are operationally independent, and they are responsible for the day to day operations of the police, but they are accountable to the public via the Police and Crime Commissioner.

PCCs, PFCCs and Mayors who exercise PCC functions are single, directly elected individuals ensuring the public are protected, providing greater opportunities for collaboration and more effective scrutiny of public services.

They ensure that there is an effective policing contribution to national partnership arrangements to protect the public from other national and cross-boundary threats.

Represent the entire community

PCCs, PFCCs and Combined Authority Mayors who exercise PCC functions are required to swear an oath of impartiality when they are elected to office.

The oath is designed so that they can publicly set out their commitment to: serve all of the people in their police force area; act with integrity and diligence; give a voice to the public; act with transparency so that they may be effectively held to account; and not interfere with the operational independence of police officers.

Find your candidate

This booklet contains information on the candidates standing for election in the Bedfordshire police force area. You can also order a copy of this booklet in the following formats: large print, braille and audio.

To place your order visit **www.choosemypcc.org.uk** or call **0808 196 2170**.

About your vote

You need to be registered to be able to vote.

If you are not registered visit **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote** or contact your local council.

If you are registered, and eligible to vote you can either vote in person at a polling station, by post, or by proxy (allowing someone you trust to vote on your behalf).

In this election you can vote for a first and second preference of who you want to win.

For more information about your vote and other elections taking place on 6th May visit **www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter**

Festus Akinbusoye

Conservative Candidate –
More Police, Safer Streets



Election statement:

On Thursday 6 May 2021, you will be able to vote for your next Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the whole of Bedfordshire.

Festus Akinbusoye is the only candidate who has frontline policing experience here in our county, has worked within the Criminal Justice System as mentor to young offenders, and has nearly 20 years business experience as a company director – leading a team of over fifty employees across the UK.

The next PCC will have the huge responsibility of overseeing Bedfordshire Police’s budget which has grown to a record

£129.5m for the 2021-22 financial year. They will also hold the Chief Constable accountable for delivering on the people’s policing priorities to cut crime, prevent harm and support victims. Furthermore, the next Commissioner will need to build on the success of the out-going Conservative PCC, who has taken our police area from being rated as inadequate to now being rated as ‘Good’ overall by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate.

Festus aims to invest in community-based policing for both our urban and rural areas with new police hubs, crack down on drug-dealing and anti-social behaviour and ensure that

law-abiding citizens and victims are at the centre of our policing priorities. Festus has a plan to help the people of Bedfordshire and the first-hand experience to achieve these goals.

Festus has the vision, passion and plan for a safer Bedfordshire. We hope he can count on your support on Thursday 6 May.

This statement was prepared by Mark Lavery on behalf of Festus Akinbusoye, both at the Luton Conservative Federation, 18a Leagrave Road, Luton, LU4 8HZ.

Patrick Hamill

Independent



Election statement:

I am standing as an independent candidate for Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner because I believe our policing should be free from party politics. As an independent, I can truly represent the views of all communities without fear or favour.

I have been a resident of Bedfordshire for 59yrs which includes leading campaigns successfully. I have also assisted freely with those unfairly treated in the work place and, with favourable outcomes.

One of my family members is a serving police officer of 21 years.

I believe my own personal commitment to public services over the last 36 years, including the Mayor of Houghton Regis and the Chairman of South Bedfordshire District Council, puts me in a great position to improve the way we are policed.

I recognise our frontline police officers do a fantastic job, but I also understand the public concerns. You have told me that police officers need to be more visible in the community, so I intend to address this issue and the need for more local police stations/hubs.

Gangs, knife and gun crimes, burglaries, people trafficking, sexual exploitation, grooming gangs, modern day slavery, rape, domestic violence and murders are serious matters but low-level crimes such as dog napping, fly-tipping and burglaries also need to be tackled.

Like you, I want a police force that is respected throughout Bedfordshire, a police force whose resources are fairly distributed across the county and a police force that puts the public at the heart of everything it does.

If elected as your PCC, I will do my utmost to bring about a different approach to policing, from Bedford to Luton, from Leighton Buzzard to Biggleswade and everywhere in between.

This statement was prepared by Patrick Shaun Christopher Hamill, 1 Park Avenue, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5EA as the Agent and Candidate.

David Michael

Labour Party



Election statement:

I am delighted to be Labour's candidate to be the next Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire, the County I grew up in.

As a Police Officer for 30 years and former Detective Chief Inspector, I know what it takes to keep our communities safe. Bedfordshire is a great place to live, but we all know that antisocial behaviour, vandalism and violent crime is out of hand. I want to use my lifetime of experience to keep Bedfordshire safe.

If elected, I will use my knowledge of frontline policing to implement a 5 point plan for Bedfordshire. I will get to grips with the violent crime that is gripping our towns, the anti-social behaviour that is costing local businesses, and the county lines crisis inflicting so much suffering on our communities. My priorities for our county are:

1. Bearing down on county lines and violent crime.
2. Enhanced care, concern and support for victims of crime
3. Visible community policing
4. Community police engagement and partnerships
5. Establishing an anti-racism policy for Bedfordshire Police

By working with local charities, schools and residents, I will build a Police and Crime Plan that is people-centred and gets to the root of tackling crime in Bedfordshire. As a candidate with 30 years of professional experience in policing, I will put your and your families' safety first.

Prepared by Robert Walker on behalf of David Michael, both of 24 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DB.

Jas Parmar

Liberal Democrat



Election statement:

Jas Parmar – community champion, former Police Officer, former Councillor – is standing to be our Police and Crime Commissioner.

Local experience:

Jas has lived and worked in Bedfordshire for 33 years. A popular local postmaster, he worked hard throughout the pandemic to support residents.

Jas sits on the Police's Independent Advisory Group and until last year was on the board of a local NHS Trust; he chairs a Bedfordshire business forum with 150+ members and raised thousands of pounds for charities including Bedford Foodbank and Macmillan Cancer Support.

The right policing priorities:

1. Community Policing: Expand visible Community Policing in local neighbourhoods, town centres and villages to tackle anti-social behaviour and speeding.
2. Serious crime needs more than just the Police: Take a multi-agency approach to tackle violent crime, support victims of domestic abuse and support younger people and tackle the causes of crime.

3. Support victims: Provide proper support to victims of crime and support the Police in delivering safer neighbourhoods for all our communities.
4. Fair funding for our Police: Did you know Bedfordshire Police is still funded like a rural police service despite having big towns and an airport! Jas will fight for fair funding from the Government.

A personal message:

This is your opportunity to deliver real change for Bedfordshire Police.

After years in power, the Conservative leadership is failing.

My vision is for a Police service which works with and alongside local communities to tackle the serious crime that we see on a day-to-day basis, one that is properly funded, and tackles problems from the ground up, not waiting until things are out of control before acting.

That is what I will deliver.

Jas Parmar

Published and Promoted by H Vann on behalf of J Parmar (Liberal Democrats) all at 280 Goldington Road, Bedford MK40 3EF.

Contact details

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Antonio Daniel Vitiello

English Democrats – “More Police – catching criminals!”



Election statement:

Antonio is the Chairman of the Bedfordshire English Democrats. He studied law at the University of Westminster and is the son of a retired police inspector, he actively campaigned for Brexit.

The English Democrats are opposed to the British Establishment’s attempts to break England up into so-called “Regions”.

Due to the Barnett formula, the British Government sends excessive amounts of English taxes to Scotland and Wales, thereby abusing England as a cash-cow.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own Governments who control their own health regulations, as we have seen with regards to Covid-19. England is the only country in the UK to have prescription charges, we believe an English Parliament is needed to reverse this and other injustices.

Additionally, the disgraceful way the police have behaved, especially during the past year, is evidence that **we MUST end Politically Correct policing**. Now is the time to stop

Boris Johnson and the Westminster establishment from using the police to co-erase us into giving up our ancient civil liberties and Human Rights.

The English Constitution specifically allows us to defend ourselves and our property. We should make sure that constables honour their oaths and support victims of crime in defending their homes and families against criminals, in accordance with the English Bill of Rights.

We will grant licences for carrying of pepper sprays to allow people to protect themselves from attack.

If you want to see our police refocused on protecting our people from criminals, re-trained on English law, and enforcing actual law rather than political correctness, vote English Democrats on 6th May!

Prepared by the candidate of the English Democrats, Quires Green, Willingale, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0QP

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Statement by the Police Area Returning Officer for Bedfordshire

This booklet contains more information about those candidates (where provided) and other information useful to voters. The information provided by a candidate is their responsibility, and may not reflect the opinions of myself or my council.

As Police Area Returning Officer I am responsible for coordinating the election and announcing the result in Bedfordshire.

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections will be held in Bedfordshire on 6th May 2021; the candidates standing in that election, alphabetically by surname (as they will appear on the ballot paper), are:

- AKINBUSOYE, Festus – Conservative Candidate – More Police, Safer Streets
- HAMILL, Patrick – Independent
- MICHAEL, David – Labour Party
- PARMAR, Jas – Liberal Democrat
- VITIELLO, Antonio Daniel – English Democrats – “More Police – catching criminals!”

I can be contacted at:

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