

'Work with police' call

by Whitelaw

27 MAR 1982

From Ronald Kershaw,
Harrogate

Local authorities should give a lead to the public in working with the police and not against them, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said in Harrogate yesterday.

Some socialists in positions of local responsibility rarely seemed to reflect the opinions of ordinary people who had to live on crime-affected streets, he said.

Mr Whitelaw was replying to a debate on law and order at the annual Conservative Central Council meeting and if he was seeking support for his proposals to extend police powers, he received an overwhelming vote of confidence from those attending.

Indeed, even those opposing the motion complaining of the imbalance of consideration extended to criminals rather than their victims, did so only because they considered that the measures he proposed did not go far enough.

Mr Whitelaw gave a resume of the action taken by the Government to improve the lot of the police: increasing police efficiency, extending the prison building programme and generally fulfilling the Government's manifesto proposals.

Mr Whitelaw said: "We are working against the background of an increasingly violent world. The police, the courts and the law and order service are faced with picking up the pieces in a society where too many individuals have turned to crime.