

Hampshire Police Authority – ensuring efficient and effective policing for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

During this time of unprecedented economic change organisations and public services are facing very challenging times ahead, and the police service is no exception. This year brings the challenge of working within a reduced budget to provide a more efficient and effective police service for the future, which will continue to deliver an excellent service for the people of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

We have been working for some time to see how policing can adapt to the reduction in budget by making the most of our resources and providing best value for money for the taxpayer.

Your Police Authority

Hampshire Police Authority is the independent body responsible for overseeing the work of Hampshire Constabulary and ensuring effective and efficient policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This includes setting the policing budget, local policing priorities and representing the voice of the public.

The 17 members of Hampshire Police Authority, nine local councillors and eight independent members, work hard to ensure Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

are even safer places to live, work and visit.

Policing priorities

The policing priorities are developed after consultation with the people of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, together with local authorities and other agencies, along with the latest crime statistics. Hampshire Police Authority has agreed the strategic direction for Hampshire Constabulary up to 2015. We will protect the funding of as many frontline services as possible, including targeted patrol teams, safer neighbourhood teams and local crime management, until at least April 2012 and with the objective of protecting them right through to April 2015.

Hampshire Police Authority and the Chief Constable jointly agree on

three-year policing priorities, and these are published in the Policing Plan. The priorities are informed by results of consultation exercises with the public, local authorities and other agencies, along with the latest crime statistics.

A full copy of the Policing Plan is available by visiting www.hampshirepoliceauthority.org



The priorities are underpinned by a set of values which aims to secure the trust and confidence of our communities.

In everything we do, we **CARE**:

Common sense and sound judgement

Act with integrity, courage and compassion

Respect people and keep our promises

Experiences used to learn and improve



Police funding

The majority of funding for policing comes through Government grants, with around a third coming from Council Tax. The funding announcement in December 2010 meant that the Government general grant paid to Hampshire Police Authority has been reduced by 5.1 per cent for 2011/12 and 6.7 per cent for 2012/13 as a part of a 20 per cent cut in real terms over the next four years. The specific grants we receive from the Government for Neighbourhood Policing and Counter Terrorism will be at similar levels to last year so the reduction in total Government funding is 3.8% in 2011/12 and 6.3% in 2012/13. In Hampshire and the Isle of Wight this means the Police Authority grant has been reduced by £9million for 2011/12 and a further £14million for 2012/13.

We have decided to freeze the Police Authority council tax precept

for 2011/12 in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, meaning that properties in bands A to H will not have any increase in the police element of their council tax. By freezing the council tax Hampshire Police Authority will receive a government grant equivalent to 2.5% of council tax.

BAND	ANNUAL COST £
A	97.50
B	113.75
C	130.00
D	146.25
E	178.75
F	211.25
G	243.75
H	292.50



Making the savings

The scale of the financial challenge we face is no surprise to Hampshire Police Authority or Hampshire Constabulary, and we have been working together for a number of years taking steps to prepare for it.

Although the reduction of Government grant for 2011/12 is £9m, inflation and other budget pressures mean that £20million of savings need to be found to balance the budget. The majority of these savings will be delivered by making efficiency improvements that allow us to reduce the number of employees needed to deliver excellent services. No reductions will be made to frontline personnel. The Authority has planned under-spends totalling £16million in the last two financial years to build reserves to smooth the funding loss and provide for the cost of change. £4million of reserves will be used as a one-off to balance the 2011/12 budget whilst transformational change is delivered during 2011/12 to put

Hampshire Police Authority budget

£'000

Budget for 2011/12	314,096
Police grant	137,968
Revenue support grant	17,540
National business rates	56,748
Total general government grants	212,256
Surplus on Council Tax collection funds	1,042
Council Tax precept	100,798

the Authority in a sustainable budget position from April 2012.

We have a successful history of collaboration with other forces to deliver services more efficiently and make savings. Through these close relationships we intend to identify even more opportunities to do this and continue to respond to your needs.



Providing better value for money

Hampshire Police Authority has been praised for the way its finances have been managed. The Audit Commission independently assesses public sector bodies in the way money is spent, and has concluded that “the authority has built on a good performance management framework to ensure

it continues to have strong arrangements for securing value for money in its service delivery”.

By 2015 we intend to be a top quartile force in key performance areas and in the bottom quartile for cost. A combination of low cost and high achievement will make the constabulary one of the best value for money forces in the country.

The majority of budget will again be spent on employees in order to continue to deliver excellent service. Budget pressures and growth for new spending have been limited to £1.3million, of which £0.6million relates to essential IT expenditure to meet statutory and security requirements. Officer posts have been removed from support roles and the officers returned to the frontline. Despite the funding reductions, there will be more officers, PCSOs and staff in frontline posts in 2011/12 than when the emergency budget funding reductions were first announced in June 2010.