

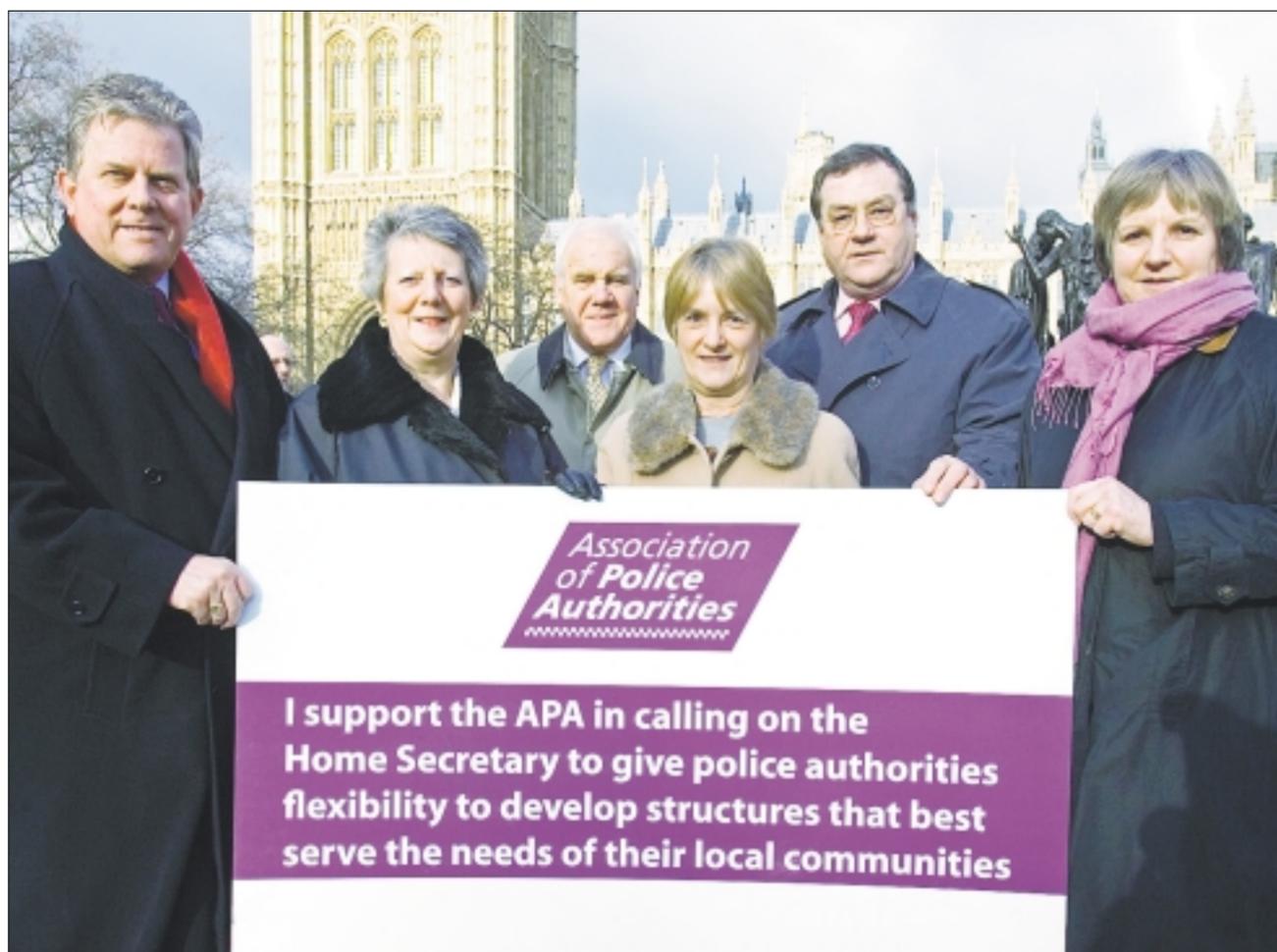


Policing Matters

Annual Report 2005/2006

Authorities question whether East Midlands 'super force' is change for better

CONCERN OVER MERGER PLANS



VOICING CONCERN: Chairman Janet Birkin is pictured (second left) with chairs and members of the four other East Midlands police authorities during a lobby at Parliament.

DERBYSHIRE Police is set to be merged with four other constabularies under Government plans to create a single East Midlands force.

Under the proposals, Derbyshire would be merged with Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. If agreed, the new force will be set up in April 2008.

The Home Office believes that joining forces will improve the fight against serious and organised crime, strengthen community policing and save money through more efficient use of resources.

The five police authorities in the East Midlands still need convincing that it is the right thing to do. We have concerns about how it will affect policing in our area.

We have until 11 August 2006 to tell the Government what we think of the idea – and we want to hear your views before we do.

The Police Authority has concerns about:

- Funding - The Government says it will cost £80m to set up the new force but has indicated that it will only give us £28m towards this figure. There will be no extra money to pay for improvements to deal with serious and organised crime at the time of the merger

- Council tax – We are still waiting to hear what the implications are for how much you pay in your council tax towards policing

- Fighting crime – We have cut crime in Derbyshire but without proper funding local police officers may need to be used to tackle

serious and organised crime elsewhere

- Accountability – We want to be sure that local points of view will be heard and taken notice of by the new force - Derbyshire will have a maximum of five representatives on the East Midlands Police Authority

- Timetable – The Government wants to go ahead very quickly. We have repeatedly asked for more time to consult, consider and prepare.

Police Authority Chairman Janet Birkin said: "The police authority is yet to be convinced that these proposals will achieve an improved level of policing.

"There are some major points of disagreement between the force and the Home Office relating to the set-up costs and we feel there hasn't yet been enough consultation with the people of Derbyshire.

"We are now seeking the views of as many of you as possible before we make a formal reply to the Government by the deadline."

For more information, please visit our website www.derbyshire.police.uk/policeauthority, the county council's website www.derbyshire.gov.uk or the Home Office website www.homeoffice.gov.uk

If you would like your views to count please fill in the FREEPOST questionnaire on the back page or write to Chairman Janet Birkin JP, Derbyshire Police Authority, Police Headquarters, Ripley, Derbyshire or David Tysoe, Clerk to the Police Authority, Derbyshire County Council, Matlock, DE4 3AG by Friday 28 July.

What does the Police Authority do?

- Is independent of Derbyshire Constabulary
- Provides an effective police service
- Consults and informs members of the public on the work of the police
- Maintains professional standards in the force
- Sets the annual budget
- Monitors spending
- Monitors, reviews and evaluates performance of the force
- Promotes racial equality
- Operates a custody visitors scheme
- Appoints the Chief, Deputy Chief and Assistant Chief Constable and Director of Administration and Finance

For more information about Derbyshire Police Authority go to www.derbyshire.police.uk

Efficiency and organisation drive ability to deliver



by Janet Birkin JP
Derbyshire Police Authority Chairman

WHEN I was appointed Chairman in June last year, little did I realise the challenges that would come before us – it has been a demanding year for the Police Authority.

Since last September much of our time has been focused on the proposed re-structure of the police service and the subsequent implications for Derbyshire. That said, we have still been able to deliver our annual objectives, some of which are detailed in this report.

Crime figures continue to show that Derbyshire is a safe place to live and getting safer. Crime was down by 4.3% meaning 3,627 fewer victims.

Within the East Midlands we had:

- The lowest overall crime per 1,000 population
- The largest reduction in burglary (18.2%)
- The largest reduction in vehicle crime (3.3%)
- The highest sanction detection rate for burglary
- The highest sanction detection rate for vehicle crime

All of this has been achieved against a backdrop of a further year of under-funding from Government. Our ability to deliver relies on the continued efficiency savings made across the force. We have a lean organisation and the force is to be congratulated on achieving our demanding targets within this challenging environment.

The Police Authority wants to continue this success and is committed to providing policing to meet your needs. Together with our partners we are developing "Safer Neighbourhoods". Our communities are seeing mixed teams of police officers, police community support officers, special constables, local authority staff and others. Consultation tells us this is what you want.

Do you want Derbyshire to be part of a new East Midlands force? We have to accept that the policing landscape has changed and we do need a structure that is fit for the 21st century and better able to deliver protective services – cross-border crime that includes major, serious and organised crime and counter terrorism.

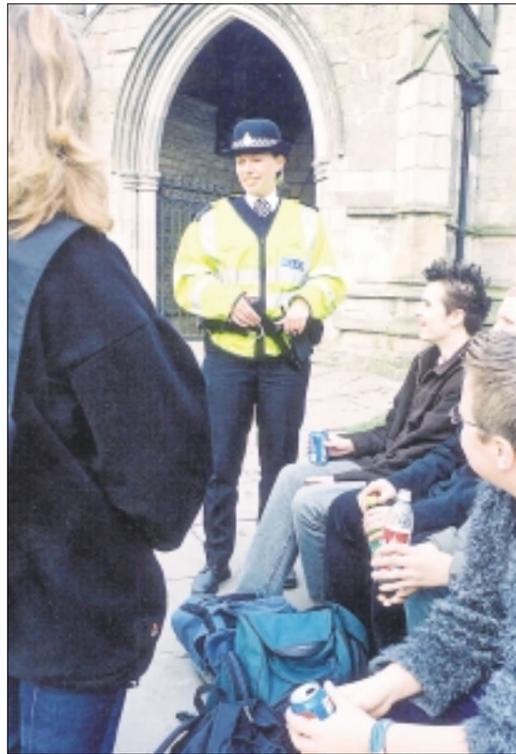
However, we believe any change must leave our community with an improved, more effective force that is able to provide a better service. To date, we have been unable to support the current offer from the Home Office as we are not convinced it will deliver these improvements.

It is now your turn – tell us what you think. There is additional information in this report and on our website.

Please complete a questionnaire or write to us. Your views are very important to us. We want to give you the policing you deserve.

CRIME FIGHTERS

- House burglary and vehicle crime at lowest for 20 years
- Fall in violent crime
- More officers on the streets



CRIME in Derbyshire has fallen for the third year running which means there were 3,627 fewer victims in 2005/2006.

And we have bucked the national trend with a drop in violent crime – the first reduction since 2002/2003 – while house burglary and vehicle crime are at their lowest for almost 20 years.

Overall crime during the year dropped from 84,712 to 81,085 while at the same time detections rose from 23.5 per cent to 25.8 per cent.

Violent crime – which includes assaults, sexual offences and robbery – went down by 3.8 per cent, meaning there were 697 fewer victims.

We have listened to you and we now have the highest number of officers on the beat with more than 180 patrolling Derbyshire's streets.

They are being joined by police community support officers who provide a visible presence around the county – and valuable reassurance to local communities.

We are making it easier for you to access police services and as well as the new low-cost non-emergency phone number – 0845 123 33 33 – we answered 96.5 per cent of 999 calls within 15 seconds.

Our annual policing plan for 2005/2006 set challenging targets for the police to address and concentrated on priority areas of reducing burglary, vehicle crime, violent offences and reducing the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on Derbyshire's roads.

Stiffing the availability of illegal drugs within our communities remains a priority and our commitment is demonstrated by the introduction of a drugs co-ordinator and the merger of the Force Surveillance Unit and Drugs Squad to allow for greater flexibility to conduct pro-active operations.

We also have an excellent track record in removing assets from criminals under the new Proceeds of Crime Act. We have a dedicated Financial Investigation Team which has confiscated £2.3m in cash and property suspected to have come from criminal activity – putting us fourth out of 51 forces in the United Kingdom.

Our achievements in reducing vehicle crime have put us

TARGET

To reduce the level of house burglary
Target 4,800 Actual 4,133

TARGET

To reduce the level of vehicle crime
Target 9,700 Actual 9,866

TARGET

To reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on Derbyshire's roads
Target 618 Actual 586

TARGET

To reduce the number of robberies
Target 802 Actual 772

TARGET

To increase the number of crimes detected
Target 24 per cent Actual 25.8 per cent

in fourth place nationally while the introduction of forensic vehicle examiners means that 90 per cent of vehicles are examined enabling us to identify offenders early.

In 2005/2006 a new unit to tackle serious and organised crime both within Derbyshire and across its borders provided a more focused approach to the problem with a number of pro-active operations resulting in significant successes against these criminals.

We continue to target persistent offenders through the recruitment of a burglary co-ordinator and building on the recruitment of intelligence analysts to target prolific criminals. We are bringing them to justice sooner using



Derbyshire has the highest number of officers on the beat with more than 180 patrolling county streets.

fast-tracking by improved scientific means.

Our citizen-focused style of policing, aimed at increasing community reassurance, has continued to reap rewards and we have always strongly advocated the Government's focus on consultation with more than 1,000 of you attending our Have Your Say roadshows in the past year.

We have also run live website discussions for the first time this year and have obtained valuable insight in to your attitudes during these events.

Even as we approach a time of great change we are striving to ensure that we provide the citizens of Derbyshire with the best possible police service.

Communities supported despite budget pressures

RURAL and neighbourhood policing remained at the top of our priority list as we set our budget for 2005/2006.

An extra £770,000 was ploughed in to tackle issues important to you, such as anti-social behaviour, which have a real impact on your quality of life.

Despite pressures on the budget, we were able to support 14 police officers recruited to police our rural communities, while almost £750,000 was spent on the forensic support services, which saw an increase in the numbers of examinations requested over the last two years.

All this was made possible after the police authority agreed a five per cent rise in the council tax precept to add to Government grants.

This provided a police funding level of £145.9m – a 4.3 per cent increase on the previous year's budget.

Other activities we have been able to fund include:

- 24 additional police officers in post by the beginning of 2005/2006
- Maintaining and enhancing policing by releasing more officers for frontline duties
- Employing police community support officers to strengthen neighbourhood policing

All of this has been achieved despite being forced to manage our budget very tightly to accommodate spending pressures in the current year.

The resulting police precept – the amount you pay for policing as part of your council tax bill – is a compromise between what the Chief Constable requires to operate an effective and progressive force, public requests for more high-profile policing and Government guidance on what is an acceptable increase.

WHERE YOUR MONEY WENT

The expenditure for Derbyshire Police Authority in 2005/2006 was **£145.9m**. This is where your money went:

	£m
Employee costs	111.7
Pensions	21.9
Premises	7.1
Transport costs	4.0
Supplies and services	12.9
Agency services	2.7
Capital financing	0.4
Debt charges	0.9
Contribution to reserves	5.4
Police Authority costs	0.6
Total expenditure	167.6
<i>Less</i>	
General income	- 5.1
PFI Grant	- 2.7
CFF Grant - additional officers	- 4.5
Other grant income	- 7.6
Interest receipts	- 1.8
Net budget requirement	145.9

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE

● Derbyshire Police Authority is required to publish a full audited statement of accounts for 2005/2006. They are available on request by writing to: Peter Swaby, Treasurer to the Police Authority, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG

● Each year the Chief Constable prepares a detailed report on the policing activities in the county, which along with the Derbyshire Policing Plan, is available in your local library.

● If you would like to know more about your local police services contact:
David Coleman, Chief Constable, Police Headquarters, Butterley Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3RS; or David Tysoe, Clerk to the Police Authority, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG; or go to www.derbyshire.police.uk

How you are helping to shape our priorities

YOUR views are helping us to prioritise the way we spend money on policing in Derbyshire.

Together with the constabulary we organised a series of Have Your Say roadshows across the county between October 2005 and January 2006.

We hoped to give you an insight into how the police service works in Derbyshire as well as asking for your policing priorities.

And more than 1,000 of you told us how well you think we are doing – with 68 per cent saying the police service matched or exceeded your expectations.

Tackling burglary was at the top of your priority list – 69 per cent of you highlighted it as a concern – while 63 per cent were worried about anti-social behaviour.

More than half of you were concerned about the misuse of drugs within your communities

with 47 per cent highlighting criminal damage as a concern.

The roadshows also gave us a chance to ask you what you thought about plans to merge Derbyshire Police with the four other East Midlands forces.

Almost half of you expressed fears or concerns over the proposed reorganisation while 61 per cent felt there would be no benefit in merging forces in England and Wales.

Meanwhile, over the last 12 months, more than a third of you noticed an increase in uniformed officers in your neighbourhood.

Using the information we have gained at these roadshows we can plan the way we deliver policing in Derbyshire as it is our job to make sure that the police service is being run effectively and efficiently and that your money is being spent correctly.

£2.3m proof that crime doesn't pay

CASH and property worth more than £2.3m has been successfully confiscated from criminals.

Using the new Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Derbyshire Police has seized items suspected as having been purchased from criminal activity.

We are now one of the top five performing law enforcement agencies in the UK for removing assets as the new law gives us greater powers to tackle crime by investigating people's finances.

The act makes it easier for police to prosecute those involved in dealing with criminal

property and simplifies the holding of assets before being confiscated by the courts.

It also gives police the power to seize cash totalling more than £5,000 where they suspect it comes from criminal activity.

We are training our officers so they can use the powers to tackle drug and criminal assets every day.

Investment in this area will result in the return of significant funding to Derbyshire Police from the Government's Recovered Assets Fund. This money will be redirected to the fight against serious and organised crime.

New look for station



STAFF and visitors are benefiting from a £390,000 refurbishment of Swadlincote Police Station.

Following four months of work, the station has a re-vamped reception, been rewired, had new windows, doors and ceiling put in and been redecorated and carpeted throughout.

The work has also seen the creation of five parking spaces – including one for disabled people

– at the front of the building to make it easier for visitors.

Police Authority member Brenda Hanks, who has since retired, and Assistant Chief Constable Mick Creedon are pictured officially opening the station.

The building is home to 91 staff made up of police officers, detectives, special constables, community support officers and support staff.

Working for victims and witnesses

PUTTING the needs of victims and witnesses first is the aim of a new unit launched by Derbyshire Police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Staff from both organisations work jointly in the new offices officially opened at Chesterfield Divisional Police Headquarters earlier this year.

It is part of our commitment to provide a better service to victims and witnesses of crime by improving communication between the two organisations and cutting delays in the legal process.

Police and CPS staff also work in a new victim and witness care unit which aims to provide reassurance and guidance to people who are due to appear in court.

Here they receive updated information about the progress of their case as well as information on what will happen during the court proceedings.

Staff are also able to determine if any special equipment is needed in court, for instance screens or video links, and provide support to vulnerable victims or witnesses.

Derbyshire Police Authority Chairman Janet Birkin, who was at the official opening, said: "By working more closely together we are helping to put the needs of victims and witnesses first."

"It can be a traumatic experience giving evidence in court so we hope to speed up the process and offer as much support and guidance as we can to allay the public's fears and boost confidence in the legal system."

Approximately 40 police and 25 CPS staff work in the office, which was refurbished to house the new unit. Previously, officers in Chesterfield had to liaise with CPS staff in Derby.



Pictured at the launch are (front) Tina Tanner, Amanda Jeffery, (back) Margaret Miles, Rachel Chalk, Nicola Jarman, Chief Constable David Coleman, Ken Macdonald, Claire Jenkinson, Caroline Bullen, Brian Gunn and Police Authority Chairman Janet Birkin.

From ill-gotten gains to good causes

CHARITIES and community groups have shared £7,092 raised from an auction of items seized in police raids or unclaimed stolen property.

Every year, Derbyshire Police Authority invites organisations to apply for a grant from the proceeds.

Last time the fund was open to groups in the county's A and D police divisions, covering Derby, Amber Valley and Erewash.

Groups such as youth clubs, community groups and community safety projects shared £5,319 with a further £1,773 going to Victim Support Derbyshire.

Priority was given to groups which support local policing priorities by:

- Enhancing local facilities and providing community-based activities
- Targeting vandalism and anti-social behaviour
- Making communities safer

Organisations to benefit from the latest grants were:

- Mackworth Estate Community Crime Prevention Group (£200)
- Belper and District Neighbourhood Watch Support Group (£200)

- B Winning Youth Club, Hilcote (£260)
- A Division Neighbourhood Watch Association (£400)
- Derby Kids' Camp (£629)
- Derbyshire Advocacy Service (£300)
- Allestree and Darley Abbey Community Crime Prevention Group (£50)
- Mickleover Action Group (£500)
- 1st Sitwell Scout Group (£500)
- Derby and South Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch Support Group (£1,000)
- Derby Women's Centre (£300)
- Castle Greasley Youth Project (£500)
- Stockbrook Crime Prevention Group (£150)
- Asian Advisory Service (£300)
- Belper and District Road Safety Committee (£30)

Police Authority member John Allsop JP, who was involved in selecting the recipients, said: "We are delighted to award this money to such a wide range of organisations."

"Although this money is raised as a result of crime the fund gives us an excellent opportunity to ensure that some good comes out of it for local communities."

Let us know your views about plans to merge forces

PLEASE fill in this short questionnaire and send it back to us. We want your views to count when we reply to the Government.

Do you agree with the Government's plans to create an East Midlands Police Force?

Yes No Don't know

Why?

.....

.....

Do you think an East Midlands Police Force will:

● Save money?
Yes No Don't know

● Be more efficient?
Yes No Don't know

● Be better at tackling serious crime?
Yes No Don't know

● Be better at tackling local crime?
Yes No Don't know

● Do you think policing services will be reduced in Derbyshire?
Yes No Don't know

● Do you think serious and organised crime is a big problem in Derbyshire?
Yes No Don't know

● Do you think you will have a big enough say in how the East Midlands Police Force is run in Derbyshire?
Yes No Don't know

● Are you prepared to pay more for policing as a result of the proposed merger?
Yes No Don't know

Comments

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.....

About you

Gender: Female Male

Postcode

Age:
Under 16 16-25
26-35 36-45
46-55 56-65
66-75 76+

Ethnicity:
White Mixed
Chinese Other
Black/Black British
Asian/Asian British

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please return by Friday 28 July 2006 to Derbyshire Police Authority, FREEPOST DY76, Matlock, DE4 9BR
NO STAMP REQUIRED

Who's who

DERBYSHIRE Police Authority is made up of 17 members – seven county councillors, three magistrates, two city councillors and five independent members.

Magistrate members

● Carole Brister JP – Lowfield Farm, Middleton by Youlgreave. 01629 636891.

● John Allsop JP – 36 Hawthorne Avenue, Tibshelf. Tel: 01773 875576.

● Janet Birkin JP – Brampton Lodge, 220 Old Hall Road, Ashgate, Chesterfield. Tel: 01246 273938.

Independent members

● Lloyd Newby – 12 Staunton Avenue, Sunnyhill, Derby. 01332 766595

● Jo Thornton - Flat 1, 24 St John's Road, Buxton. Tel: 01298 24808.

● Jasvinder Sanghera – Police Authority Office, Derbyshire Police Headquarters, Ripley. 01773 573771

● Glenys Goucher – Spring House Farm, Buntingfield Lane, Brockhurst, Chesterfield. Tel: 01246 590504.

● Walter Dodd - Lynton Lodge, 397 Duffield Road, Allestree. Tel: 01332 551045.

Derbyshire County Council members

● Kath Trueman - 22 Dale View, Ilkeston. Tel: 0115 932 6305.

● Eric Lancashire - 31a Main Street, Horsley Woodhouse. Tel: 01332 881566.

● Alan Jones - 29 Coventry Close, Midway, Swadlincote. Tel: 01283 217140.

● William Pickford – 36 Nethermoor Road, Wingerworth, Chesterfield. Tel: 01246 274804.

● David Chapman - 26 Chapel Road, Grassmoor, Chesterfield. Tel: 01246 851789.

● Tony Rogers - 60 Heaton Street, Brampton, Chesterfield. Tel: 01246 236118.

● Trevor Southerd – 1 Old Hall Gardens, Church Gresley, Swadlincote. 01283 221628.

Derby City Council members

● Fay Winter – 227 Ladybank Road, Mickleover, Derby. Tel: 01332 517207.

● Philip Hickson - 33 West Avenue, Five Lamps, Derby. Tel: 01332 348473.