



Derbyshire Police Authority

February 2011

Welcome to the latest edition of the Derbyshire Police Authority's e-newsletter designed to keep you informed about policing developments in Derbyshire.

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As you will be aware, the weeks ahead represent some of the most challenging that we have ever faced and we intend to keep you updated as matters progress. The outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) presents a significant challenge to the Force and the Derbyshire Police Authority as we concentrate on the continued delivery of providing an efficient and effective police service to our communities whilst identifying the savings required to meet the cuts in our funding. If you have any questions about any of the issues in this newsletter or any other matter that is within Derbyshire Police Authority's area of responsibility then please do contact us.

1. Funding cuts.

In December 2010, the Government announced details of police funding for the two financial years from April 2011 and indicative figures for the following two years.

In total, the reductions equate to approximately £20m over the next four years, with £6.3m of this needing to be found in 2011-12 and £7.8m in 2012 – 13.

This means that two-thirds of our savings will have to be found in the next two years, as the cuts have been front loaded by the Government. However, we have been bracing ourselves for this for some time and a great deal of groundwork has already been undertaken so that we can minimise the impact on operational policing. For example in 2010 the Force restructured from four policing divisions to three which helped to deliver some early savings equating to approximately £6m. This has helped to reduce our funding 'gap' to £5.25m and without the pre-emptive changes the situation would have been significantly worse.

However, there is no getting away from the fact that the Police Authority and the Force are now facing some difficult decisions in order to protect local policing services as far as possible.

We will meet to set the final budget for the coming year on February 24th, at a meeting which is open to the public and partners should you wish to observe the proceedings.

2. Strategic policing priorities.

We have now identified and agreed our strategic priorities for 2011/12, which will see us focus on:

- Protecting vulnerable people
- Attacking criminality.
- Reducing crime.
- Providing reassurance.
- Delivering VfM

These overarching priorities were established following extensive consultation with local communities, as part of the annual 'Have Your Say' programme, the outcomes of which were balanced alongside the known risks and threats we face and discussions with our partners.

We are now developing our policing plan which will be designed to enable us to meet these priorities while balancing the budgets and available resources.

3. Policing Numbers

In order to meet the required reductions in funding we will be changing the way that some services are delivered. As a result it is anticipated that there will be reductions in both police officers and police staff numbers.

The Force predicts that we will have to reduce police officer numbers by 123 officers and by 23 PCSOs and by 112 police staff by 31 March 2012.

In addition, the Authority and the Force have to look beyond 2012/13 but as yet there are still many variables as, for example, dividends will be found from regional and national collaboration and changes may occur in the terms and conditions of service for police officers affecting how they can be employed.

4. Improving services, reducing expenditure.

The funding cuts have meant that we have to look at new ways of working – ways that focus on the provision of a quality policing service whilst still meeting the local needs of our communities. Proposals that are being considered include: the reduction of our internal and external forensic costs; further streamlining within the criminal justice process; some partnership funding reductions; reductions in police officer overtime; reductions in our use of hire vehicles and reductions in travel costs. Further work is also being undertaken reviewing our back office administrative costs and reducing the number of our police buildings.

5. Collaboration and partnerships.

We are significantly strengthening our collaborative working with our other regional police forces and police authorities as we continue to drive for savings and dividends through partnership. Current collaborative projects include the collaboration of: scientific support; professional standards; information and communication technologies; procurement and contract management; learning and development; specialist crime; legal services and specialist operations.

6. Elected Police and Crime Commissioners.

The up and coming Police Reform Bill sets the way for police authorities to be replaced by Police and Crime Commissioners. There will be one Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire who will be elected in local elections due to take place in May 2012. Despite our real concerns which have been raised with the Government, which relate to the cost and the difficulty of one person representing and being accountable for the policing needs of everyone in Derbyshire, this proposal now looks certain to go ahead and further details on transition and accountability arrangements will follow when these are known. In the meantime the Derbyshire Police Authority will continue to represent you in holding the Chief Constable and the Force to account.

7. Consultation.

Over recent weeks a number of public consultation events have taken place, involving the Chair of the Derbyshire Police Authority and the Chief Constable, at which local residents' questions and concerns were raised. These meetings took place across the county, in Chesterfield, Buxton, Derby and at Police HQ.

The meetings were well attended – possibly you saw coverage of the Derby event on the BBC – and proved a very constructive two way dialogue and exchange of information.

8. Ways to contact us.

You can contact us by writing to us at:

Derbyshire Police Authority
Butterley Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire
DE5 3RS

Or by telephone: 01773 733771

Email: police.authority@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

Web: www.derbyshire.police.uk/policeauthority