

## Commitment to Deployment of Safer Neighbourhood Teams

This time last year amalgamation between forces was very much on the national agenda. At the time, the Government announced it would be merging Norfolk with Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Constabularies and Authorities to create one large force. However, last summer, Ministers decided to scrap these plans. Although this move was extremely disappointing and not what Norfolk Police Authority or Constabulary had wished for, we are now intending to work closely with other forces across the region to see if we can benefit from joint arrangements. Our aim is to increase service delivery and overall efficiency.

Our main themes in the coming year will be:

- Deployment of Safer Neighbourhood Teams across the whole of Norfolk by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008
- Improving public satisfaction and confidence
- Improving community engagement with the Constabulary and Authority
- Neighbourhood policing.

Despite the Government also abandoning their commitment to funding 24,000 Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs), of which 280 were allocated to Norfolk, we will honour our commitment to roll out Safer Neighbourhood Teams across the County.



However, in the absence of Government funding, the cost to you is an extra 2% (6p per week band D) on your Council Tax. These Teams will provide a dedicated, visible and accessible presence to the local community comprising Police Officers, PCSOs and Special Constabulary Officers. We would encourage residents and partners to get to know their local officers and to work with them to help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

## How we performed last year

Norfolk Constabulary is a high performing force and the County is one of the safest places to live, work and visit in the country.

Twelve months ago the public entrusted us to deliver a series of initiatives aimed at improving policing in the County. It is pleasing to report that we have made progress in a number of areas, whilst recognising that we must continue to strive to improve our service to the public.

The Police Authority set targets to reduce violent crime, burglary of homes and vehicle crime. In the nine months to December 2006, violent crime has reduced by 16% when compared with the same period in the previous year. Violent crime with injury has reduced by 12%. Burglary of homes has fallen by 5% and vehicle crime by 4%. Overall crime levels have reduced by 5%.

We continued our drive to roll out our Safer Neighbourhood scheme. This focused initially in the Eastern Area as a pilot site, but is being rolled out now over the



remainder of Norfolk. Our original intention was to have 128 PCSOs employed by the end of March 2007, but we are aiming for 189 by the end of April 2007 and 280 by April 2008. We instigated a new training scheme to give probationer police officers greater and earlier exposure to the community in which they work, which should lead to greater levels of familiarity between newly trained officers and local people. Initial indications are that this has been successful and is something that we can build on.

We continue to improve the way we manage our information. In order to maximise operational and organisational performance there is a national long term initiative intended to improve our crime and intelligence systems and to enable better liaison with other police forces.

### Taking policing forward

In the coming year, we will be looking to improve our service through a number of initiatives, including the following:

- Continuing to strengthen our Safer Neighbourhood Teams and to introduce them into all areas of Norfolk.
- Streamlining the management of police information to improve our efficiency and effectiveness and to better target offenders.
- Improving our ability to be intelligence lead, which will enable the Constabulary to better target its resources.
- Maximising opportunities for

public contact by making our buildings more accessible using new technology and entering into innovative partnership with other organisations.

- Becoming more customer focused to ensure our services best meet the needs of our diverse customers.
- Working with partners to improve public services.
- Improving call handling.

### Financial considerations

When setting the annual budget, the Police Authority must balance the need to provide an effective and efficient service with the burden on the local taxpayer. The 2007-2008 budget process has been very challenging. The Authority has had to provide for a number of ongoing commitments and new policing initiatives, many of these driven by Central Government. The increase in Government funding was below the level needed to maintain services at current levels. Furthermore, the Government withdrew anticipated grant funding of £1 million for PCSOs, equivalent to around a 2% increase in council tax. The Authority has identified savings of £3.13 million in order to offset some of the impact of spending requirements. This has enabled the Authority to approve a revenue budget of £131.34 million for 2007-08. This is equivalent to spending £156.83 per head of population. The resultant Council Tax per year for a Band D household is £164.88, an increase of 6.9 % or 21 pence per week.

## Where the money comes from

	2006/07 £m	2007/08 £m
Redistributed		
Business Rates	29.02	31.07
Other Government		
Funding	51.49	52.34
Council Tax	44.16	47.93
<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>124.67</b>	<b>131.34</b>

## How the money will be spent

	2006/07 £m	2007/08 £m
Employees	113.05	121.62
Premises	7.94	9.29
Transport	2.98	3.33
Supplies, Services & Other	19.84	18.07
Capital Financing	5.52	5.07
Contingency	4.68	3.51
<b>Gross Total</b>	<b>154.01</b>	<b>160.89</b>
Income	(29.34)	(29.55)
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>124.67</b>	<b>131.34</b>

## Capital Spending

In addition to day to day spending the Authority has approved a capital programme for 2007/2008 of £6.42 million.

This allows for the replacement and improvement of buildings and for investment in vehicles and technology-related equipment and systems. This will be funded by a combination of Government grant, reserves and borrowing. Any debt repayments are paid from the revenue budget.

## Why spending changed in 2007/2008

	£m
<b>Budget 2006/2007</b>	<b>124.67</b>
Increased pay & price levels	4.09
Ongoing commitments	3.75
External funding changes	(0.36)
Growth & development in services	2.15
Reductions due to efficiency & development	(3.13)
Change in Contributions to reserves and balances	0.17
<b>Budget 2007/2008</b>	<b>131.34</b>

## Staffing in 2007/08

<b>Operational:</b> Those whose primary role (over 50% of their time) is directly to deliver the overarching aims of the Police Service.	1,985
<b>Operational Support:</b> Those whose primary role is to support the delivery of the overarching aims of the Police Service.	547
<b>Organisational Support:</b> Those whose primary role is to provide the necessary support to ensure the organisation is fit to deliver effective policing.	506
<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>3,038</b>

