

NORFOLK POLICE AUTHORITY LEGACY TIMELINE: 1995 - 2012



Norfolk Police Authority (NPA) - an independent body of 17 Members - takes over responsibility from the County Council's Police Committee for scrutinising the delivery of Norfolk's policing service.

The Members and small staff team work behind the scenes monitoring policing performance and spending, consult with communities over local crime and disorder concerns and agree policing priorities with the Chief Constable.

1995

The Authority establishes an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme whereby community volunteers visit Norfolk's custody facilities unannounced and in pairs to check on the welfare of detained persons and the conditions in which they are held.

The Members of the Authority monitor the reports filed by the Custody Visitors, ensuring any concerns or issues raised are brought to the attention of custody officers and addressed.



1998

With a strong belief that a new Police Headquarters is needed to bring together departments housed in ill-suited accommodation and scattered over 14 sites, the Authority becomes a key player in the building of the new Norfolk Police Headquarters in Wymondham in 2002. Police HQ is to be far more than an administrative building - operational teams such as firearms officers, forensic science staff and the high-tech crime unit will be based there.

Police HQ is the first of many key steps in bringing the Norfolk Constabulary estate up to the standard of other counties. In 2004, the Members of the Authority's Property & ICT Committee review and agree Norfolk Constabulary's Long Term Estates Strategy (LTES).

The Strategy proposes to address the renewal, replacement or improvement of 80% of the 50 buildings from which the Force operates. Under the Committee's scrutiny, 13 new or improved premises are delivered around the county over the next four years. The Long-Term Police Investigation Centres (PIC) Project also gets underway to provide dedicated custody facilities at six sites across Norfolk and Suffolk.



2002 - 04



NPA Members consistently hear from local people that they would like a more visible policing presence. With this in mind, the Authority commits to the roll-out of neighbourhood policing across the county.

2006

Government Spending Review highlights a significant and increasing gap in police funding during the period 2008/09 - 2010/11. The Authority recognises that organisational change is needed to ensure sustainability of policing services within available budgets. Members unanimously endorse



Chief Constable Ian McPherson's revised model of policing aimed at improving frontline services whilst removing layers of duplication, bureaucracy and waste.

2007

Neighbourhood policing is rolled out across Norfolk in the form of 52 Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs). SNTs include 280 PCSOs funded by NPA as Government support pledged is withdrawn.

NPA identifies additional resources are needed to maintain and improve the Force's capacity to tackle major crime (Protective Services). Members agree to increase Council Tax to fund this area of business often unseen by communities but vital to quality of life in Norfolk.



2008



Supported by the Authority, and with the involvement of lead Members, Norfolk Constabulary is re-engineered, with the creation of a County Delivery Unit beneath which 52 SNTs police their local communities

across 7 district areas. The Norfolk Policing Model functions with a full complement of PCSOs and, championed for by the Authority, the highest ever police officer numbers.

Later that year, Home Office crime figures show that Norfolk is the Safest County in England.

2009

Senior officers of Norfolk Constabulary and Members of the Authority lobby MPs for a fairer funding deal for the county, as the Government's Spending Review results in proposals to significantly reduce public sector funding. Despite putting forward a strong case, including evidence of the efficiency savings already achieved through moving to the Norfolk Policing Model, the Constabulary and Authority's pleas are in vain. At the end of 2010, the Home Office confirms 20% cuts to police funding, equating to a loss of £24.5 million over four years for Norfolk.

Fairer funding deal for Norfolk

2010

The 'Challenge Programme' is launched, with the full backing of the Authority's Members, to address the financial situation. The Authority approves proposals to introduce a recruitment freeze to reduce salary bills as those who leave the organisation are not replaced. The Members of Norfolk and Suffolk police authorities come together within a joint committee to scrutinise and oversee plans to combine police support functions such as HR, fleet and ICT. Chief Constable Phil Gormley commissions a review of the Norfolk Policing Model to identify changes needed to ensure its sustainability with fewer staff and tighter resources. The Authority reviews and endorses the resulting proposals.

2011



Government plans to replace police authorities with directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners are due to be implemented in May 2012.

Whilst debate of the Bill continues, it is business as usual for NPA's Members in ensuring local people receive the most efficient and effective police service possible within the available budget.

2012