



NORFOLK POLICE AUTHORITY

Ensuring an Efficient and Effective Police Service



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Maintaining Service & Protection in Norfolk

Annual Budget Consultation
19 January 2012



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Programme

- Stephen Bett, Chairman, Norfolk Police Authority
- Phil Gormley, Chief Constable, Norfolk Constabulary
- Questions
 - Pre-submitted (themed)
 - Audience



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New Territory

- 15 November 2012 - Directly Elected Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC) – voting on Supplemental Vote system
- Abolition of Police Authorities (21 November 2012)
- PCC takes up role on 22 November
- PCC Scrutinised by a Policing & Crime Panel (PCP) – being set up by County and District Councils (10 + 2)



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Tonight's Objectives

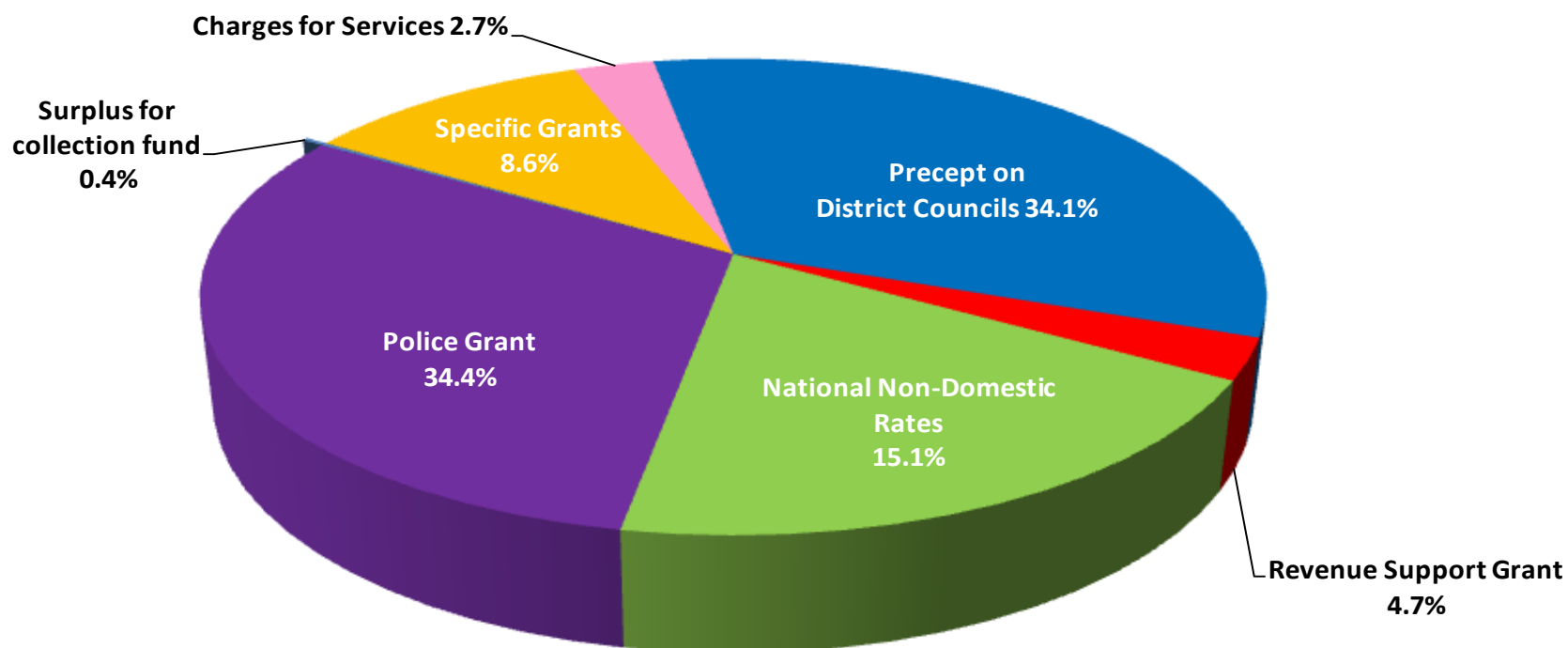
1. Demonstrate how the NPA/NC ensured the delivery of an efficient and effective police service to the people of Norfolk during 2011-2012
2. Illustrate the financial challenges ahead
3. Explain what happens next
4. Respond to concerns/issues



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Where the Authority's money comes from



1% of council tax generates £575,000 of funding



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Current Year's Budget

- Reductions of £10.7m
 - On course to achieve balanced budget outturn
- plus
- Additional one-off income which will be used to assist with bridging the funding gap in future years.



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Your money last year delivered

- Collaboration (preferred partners Suffolk Constabulary & Suffolk Police Authority) Joint Specialist Units
- Crime Reduction for 7th consecutive year.
- Improved Confidence & Satisfaction
- Remain one of England's Safest Counties
- Cashable reductions made = £10.7m



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What we have achieved - 1

- Norfolk remains one of the safest counties in the country (50 crimes per year per thousand residents)
- A further reduction of 5% of crimes that cause the most harm to our community this year
- Significantly fewer victims (414 fewer victims than last year)



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What we have achieved - 2

- Detection rates have increased from 35.38% to 37.2%
(including our approach to Restorative Justice & Extended Professional Judgement)
- Reports of anti-social behaviour have reduced by more than 23% from 40,064 to 30,784.
- Confidence has increased from 76.9% to 80.8%
- Satisfaction has increased from 75.76% to 76.94% (Nov 2011)
- Implementation of a new policing model



Future Funding 2011/12 – 2014/15

- Grant reduction of 17.2% cash and 20% real terms over 4 years
- Overall funding gap identified at around £25m
- 2012/13 FY = 6.7% reduction
- Council Tax – no increase in 2011/12 but this was supported by 4 year promise of grant equating to 2.5% CT uplift.



Recruitment Freeze

- Few options to cut significant sums of cash other than to reduce headcount
- Approx 80% of budget = staff costs
- From 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2012
 - 1,650 officers → 1,530 officers
 - 275 PCSOs → 260 PCSOs
 - 1120 other staff → 986 other staff



Potential impact over 4 years

	FTE at 31 March 2012	FTE at 31 March 2013	FTE at 31 March 2014	FTE at 31 March 2015
Police Officers Front Line:	1,349	1,344	1,328	1,335
Non Front Line:	181	176	172	165
Total:	1,530	1,520	1,500	1,500
Police Staff Front Line:	337	336	335	335
Non Front Line:	649	648	632	602
Total:	986	984	967	937
PCSOs Front Line:	260	250	240	235
Non Front Line:				
Special Cons. All Specials:	340	350	350	350



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1. Council Tax Dilemma -12/13

EITHER

- Accept offer from Central Government for additional one-off grant – equates to lump sum of £1.7M

OR

- Increase CT to sustain budget in future years by up to 3.9%



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1. Chief Constable's Challenge

- Next CSR likely to be tougher
- “Police forces should look beyond the CSR and plan for a decade of smaller increases in police funding from central government Forces should put the emphasis instead on the case for growing local funding sources”
Policy Exchange “Cost of the Cops” 2010
- Huge additional pressures on policing:
 - civil unrest
 - industrial disputes
 - street politics
 - crime and disorder
 - vulnerability



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2.Chief Constable's Challenge

- 300 youth projects closing
- 15,000 young people affected
- Young men who are NEET - 5x more likely to offend
- High levels of child poverty (Gt Yarmouth, Norwich)
- Local increase in crime, ASB and high risk behaviour



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Proposal To The Norfolk Police Authority

- Supplement our planned local policing model by 25 PCSOs
- Focus on:
 - Safer Schools
 - ASB and Operational Partnership Teams
 - Protecting the vulnerable (Operation Comfort)
- Enable warranted officers to focus on serious harm
- Convert cash reserves into staff reserves –
 - *‘feet on the street vs. cash in the bank’*
- Enable Constabulary to support community through worst of recession
- Build social capital, reduce whole system cost
- Capable, flexible response focused on threat, harm and vulnerability



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Issues raised

- Home Watch
- PCSO's
- Managing the Change



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- Thank you for attending, listening and sharing your views.
- Goodnight and a safe trip home!



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NPA consults communities on Council Tax dilemma

On the day when official Home Office crime figures were announced and Norfolk was identified as the safest county in England, Norfolk Police Authority held its annual budget consultation event last night (19 January) to gauge public opinion on the dilemma facing its Members in setting the 2012/13 police budget. The public meeting, attended by more than 50 business and community representatives, as well as senior police officers and Police Authority Members, focussed on the impact of funding cuts on Norfolk's policing service.

The Authority's Chairman, Stephen Bett, and Chief Constable Phil Gormley reported on the steps taken in the last year to realise savings made necessary by a 20% cut in Government grant. These steps included collaboration with Suffolk Police Authority and Constabulary to form joint support service departments and specialist policing teams, removing duplication and making the most of tightening resources. Attendees also heard of the reductions in police officer, PCSO and staff numbers, and the work that had been undertaken by the Force to change its approach to operational policing to maintain the general quality of frontline services with a reduced workforce.

With further funding cuts in 2012/13 and the next three financial years, the message from the police representatives was this: The progress made thus far had been good, but the road to realising the required savings was a long one with many difficult decisions to be made along the way. One of those decisions, Mr Gormley explained, would be taken by the Members of the Police Authority on 21 February when they agreed the police budget for the coming year. The choice facing the Authority was outlined: accept a one-off Government grant equating to a 3% rise in Council Tax in 2012/13, in return for a freeze on the police precept; or raise Council Tax by up to 3.9% (the maximum permitted by Government restrictions), increasing annual income for 2012/13 and future years.

Mr Gormley explained that the grant, equating to £1.7 million cash, was of limited use to him as, being a one-off, it would not create sustainable income. By accepting the grant, the Authority's Members would do little more than slow the pace at which overall expenditure needed to be cut; he couldn't use it to retain or recruit staff, invest in services or do anything that would create recurring revenue costs.

The Chief Constable said that, by choosing to increase Council Tax, the Authority would allow him to plan for the future with a greater degree of certainty. He emphasised that it was not about growth, but about minimising the impact of the current cuts, and increasing the Constabulary's resilience to future ones.

Outlining the challenge he faced, Mr Gormley spoke of cuts to youth services, the effects of rising unemployment amongst young people, and rising child poverty, referring to the potential these things had to cause an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour in the county. And with these increases would

come greater demand on Norfolk's policing service. He shared with attendees the proposals he had presented to the Police Authority at its budget seminar, saying that, with increased income through a rise in Council Tax, he could maintain current Police Community Support Officer numbers (the work of whom, feedback showed, was valued by communities across the county) focussing them on working with schools to support young people in the learning environment to reach their potential, and tackling anti-social behaviour. He would also use the PCSOs to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society, including the elderly, allowing them to feel safe and supported. Mr Gormley explained that, by tasking PCSOs in this way, he could free up warranted officers to concentrate on addressing the crimes that posed serious harm and presented a risk to the safety of communities.

The Chief Constable went on to say that, with further funding cuts and another Comprehensive Spending Review on the horizon, it was likely the impact on the public sector would be felt even more in the years to come. He stressed that, through an increase in Council Tax, Norfolk police service could build resilience and continue to support the county's communities through the worst of the recession.

In closing, and before inviting questions and comments from attendees, Mr Gormley said that he would, of course, make the best of whatever budget he had to work with, and was committed to continuing to provide as effective a policing service to the people of Norfolk as possible. He stated, however, that he would be failing in his responsibilities if he did not point out the benefit of continuous and sustainable investment and inform the Authority of the resources he needed to do the best job he could.

The themes of questions and comments from the floor included current and potential future collaboration, police officer and staff numbers, the revised model of policing for Norfolk, and the changes to policing governance being introduced in November 2012 through Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Mr Bett provided a breakdown of the effect of the police precept on Council Tax payments, which, as an example by way of illustration, using Wymondham Town's parish precept and adding to this the County, South Norfolk DC and the NPA precepts, the total Council Tax payable and the effect of a 3.9% increase would be on a Band A an extra 9 pence per week, £5 per year, on Band D an extra 14pence per week, or £7.50 per year.

At the close of the meeting, Mr Bett asked for an indication from attendees of their view on the Council Tax dilemma facing the Authority, to which he received an overwhelming show of support from community representatives for choosing an increase and allowing the Chief Constable to implement his proposals. Attendees were then given the opportunity to talk informally to the Constabulary officers and Police Authority Members in the room.

The views shared and points raised by the community representatives who attended the meeting will play an important role in the Police Authority Members' budget deliberations. A final decision will be taken at a meeting of the Authority to be held on 21 February 2012. The agenda papers for that meeting will be published on the NPA website.