

Policing Norfolk on a reduced Budget

With £24.5 million of savings to be found over the next four years, there are challenging times ahead for policing in Norfolk. It is inevitable that public sector funding reductions will affect the policing services delivered to local people, but Chief Constable Phil Gormley's priority remains the same – keep communities safe and keep Norfolk a low-crime county.

Your investment in Norfolk Constabulary over recent years, along with a radical modernisation programme and carefully considered spending decisions, has enabled the Force to drive down levels of recorded crime whilst simultaneously reducing costs by £19 million in the last three years. Through public support, strong leadership and the hard work and dedication of its officers and staff, the Constabulary has achieved significant results:

- Norfolk remains the safest county in England with a crime rate of 51 crimes per thousand residents;
- Recorded crime has reduced by 30% over the last three years;
- Reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) reduced by 10% last year;
- Increased detection rates mean more crimes and incidents of ASB are resolved;
- Levels of public confidence and satisfaction in the policing service have improved.



Pictured: Police Authority Chief Executive Chris Harding and Chairman Stephen Bett, and Chief Constable Phil Gormley.

Recent experience of a major modernisation programme, along with strong financial planning, has stood Norfolk Constabulary in good stead for the financial challenges ahead. The Force enjoys a reputation for being high-performing and works hard to maintain that position. The Chief Constable's ambition, at least in the coming year, will be to broadly sustain current levels of performance by seeking to minimise, as far as possible, the impact of the cuts on the delivery of frontline services.

The unavoidable truth is that, with such a high proportion of Constabulary costs relating to staff, numbers of police officers, police community support officers and support staff will have to be reduced. This is mainly being done through a recruitment freeze, which will help to reduce salary bills as those who leave the organisation

are not replaced. The current approach to operational policing in Norfolk is being reviewed to assess its sustainability with fewer staff and to identify options for changes in deployment across Safer Neighbourhood Teams and other areas of frontline policing. Work is also now well underway with Suffolk Constabulary to collaborate on major support service departments, such as Human Resources, Fleet Management and computing, estimated to achieve annual revenue savings across both forces of around £9.8 million.

Ensuring value for money in uncertain financial times

There is no doubting the difficult financial circumstances that the country faces. Equally, there should be no doubt of the continuing commitment of Norfolk Police Authority to ensure, on behalf of local people, that the county's policing service is efficient and effective.

Following consultation with communities and partner agencies, the Police Authority agreed the Budget for 2011/12 on 15 February 2011. Government support for a Council Tax freeze meant raising the Police Council Tax to help bridge the financial gap was not a practical option for the Authority in this year's deliberations. The level of Police Council Tax for 2011/12 will,

therefore, remain the same as last year - £191.16 at Band D.

Over the years, the people of Norfolk have paid a premium to get a high-quality policing service. The Authority's priority now is to monitor the changes to come and ensure that local people continue to get a best value policing service for their money.

In May 2012, the Coalition Government plans to replace police authorities with a directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioner for each police force area. Responsibility for holding the Chief Constable to account will then transfer to that individual, who will be elected by Norfolk's residents.

With so many financial challenges and uncertainties to be faced in the next four years, it is crucial that the current high level of independent policing scrutiny is maintained during and after the transition to the Commissioner. The Police Authority is already working to ensure that all necessary transitional arrangements are in place to help that happen. Next year will see the final budget prepared by Norfolk Police Authority for 2012/13.

Stephen Bett, Chairman



NORFOLK POLICE AUTHORITY

Where the money comes from

	2010-11 £m	2011-12 £m
Government Funding	89.77	90.79
Council Tax	56.92	57.83
Approved Budget	146.69	148.62

How the money will be spent

	2010-11 £m	2011-12 £m
Employees	131.31	126.47
Premises	10.67	5.48
Transport	3.73	4.10
Supplies, Services & Other	18.33	16.94
Capital Financing	1.65	5.39
Contingency	3.12	1.05
Gross total	168.81	159.43
Income	(22.12)	(10.81)
Net Total	146.69	148.62

Capital Spending

In addition to day to day spending, the Authority has approved a capital programme for 2011-2012 of **£7.390 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 increased in 2011-12

	£m
Approved Budget 2010-11	146.69
Loss of specific grants into general grant	5.93
Revised Base Budget 2010-11	152.62
Increased pay & price levels	2.30
Ongoing commitments	1.14
External funding changes	1.58
Organisational developments	0.22
Budget reductions & savings	(11.19)
Changes in appropriations to reserves and balances	1.95

Budget 2011-12 **148.62**

Staffing 2011-12

Operational: **2,141**

Those whose primary role (over 50% of their time) is directly to deliver the key aims of the Police Service.

Operational Support: **488**

Those whose primary role is to support the delivery of the key aims of the Police Service.

Organisational Support: **442**

Those whose primary role is to provide the necessary support to ensure the organisation is fit to deliver effective policing.

Total Staffing **3,071**