

# PRESS INFORMATION

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HUMBERSIDE  
POLICE AUTHORITY

## Home Office Rejects Plea for Funding

Humberside Police Authority has been informed that the Home Office has rejected the plea from its Chairman Graham Stroud and Chief Constable Tim Hollis requesting that the decision to cut planned funding for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) be reconsidered.

The changes, announced in November, mean that instead of funding 332 PCSOs by March 2008, the Home Office will only fund around 210. Therefore, either the already tightly stretched police budget will have to fund the outstanding number of officers or the planned roll out of Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the region will be severely affected.

Cllr Stroud said today: "The decision to withdraw promised funding is a severe blow to our financial plans in respect of Neighbourhood Policing, which were based on making our full contribution to the numbers set out by the Government in its election manifesto. It is particularly disappointing that a Government that pledged so much to policing and continues to place Neighbourhood Policing as one of its top priorities has now reneged on its own promises.

"Neighbourhood Policing Teams are already proving tremendously popular and we agreed with the Government that they would do much to restore confidence and reassure local communities. We had the courage to advance our recruitment of PCSOs, fully believing the Government would honour its commitment to help us fund our programme - a programme that has already been communicated to local people, thereby raising their expectations.

"Now we are left in a very difficult position. The unprecedented pressure on police budgets is so severe that it is unlikely that we will even be in a standstill position. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that the Government has put a cap on increases in the locally raised council tax. We still believe that Neighbourhood Policing is the way forward but the promised funding will not be available. This could also mean that Police Officer numbers will be put seriously at risk.

"I feel that the Government's stated commitment to policing is now called into question – and this decision appears to prove it!"

ENDS

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