

Press Information

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Police Authority Seeks Solution to PCSO Funding Gap.

Following the Home Office announcement that it will reduce the level of funding for Police Community Support Officers, Humberside Police Authority is currently considering how it can find, and subsequently sustain, the required budget to fund these officers out of its existing funding streams.

The changes, announced in November 2006, mean that instead of funding 332 PCSOs by March 2008, the Home Office will only fund around 210.

Acknowledging the significant contribution PCSOs make to Neighbourhood Policing Teams, the Authority is keen to carry through its planned recruitment programme.

Chairman of Humberside Police Authority, Cllr Graham Stroud explained: "Although we feel that the Government has let us down on this, we are examining every option open to us so that we can fund the programme out of our existing budget. This is not an easy task as we do not wish to do this at the expense of frontline performance.

"We know that local people are particularly pleased to see the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the current format and we have no wish to renege on our commitment to them.

"However, we have to be certain that even if we manage to find enough room in the current budget, that we can carry this through in years to come. We certainly have the will to this, now we just need to find the way."

Discussions will continue over the next few days until Humberside Police Authority meets to agree its final budget – and therefore the level of council tax paid towards policing – on February 13th.

Ends

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