



Protecting Communities, Targeting Criminals

15 February 2011

‘Forward planning will pay off, but there’s still work to do’ says Police Authority Chairman

The Chairman of Humberside Police Authority, Cllr Chris Matthews, said the joint financial planning of Humberside Police and Humberside Police Authority will show its worth over the next four years as we work hard to generate almost £30 million savings.

At a meeting held today (15 February 2011), the Police Authority Chairman and Chief Constable, Tim Hollis, pledged a joint commitment to continue to deliver the best possible service to local communities, in spite of the reduction in budget.

Whilst the significance of the challenge cannot be underestimated, the Police Authority and the Force stated that careful planning would ensure change is managed and measured. Work is already underway to refine a clear plan that will allow the strategic priorities to be achieved, the financial challenges to be met and ensure that the public continue to be protected from harm.

In light of the Government grants settlements, the Force and Authority are looking to save £10.6m in the coming financial year (2011/12), with over £5.4m already identified. The Authority today agreed to freeze council tax for 2011/12 at the same level as 2010/11. The Authority also agreed to use £6m of its reserves to help manage the substantial front loaded budget cuts of 5.1% (£7.1m) in 2011/12 and 6.7% (£8.7m) in 2013.

At the Police Authority meeting, Cllr Chris Matthews explained how preparations had begun a long time before the Comprehensive Spending Review, to balance the budget and make savings. The Chairman said:

“The Police Authority and the Force have been planning for austerity for a long period of time and have been able to supplement some of the comprehensive savings. This extensive forward planning will pay off over the next four years, we know there’s still a lot of work to do, but the Chief Constable has robust plans in place to effectively manage the cuts. The Authority will be releasing £6m of reserves to assist the Chief Constable in implementing this change over the next two years and in particular, to ensure quality policing is delivered and try and avoid the need for compulsory redundancies.”

Following the meeting, Humberside Police Chief Constable, Tim Hollis said

“Although the plans have been developed under pressure of time and money, they have been built upon the sound foundation of the successful changes we have introduced across the force in the last six years.

“We build on the strength of our current structure – Neighbourhoods; Incident Response; Investigation; Specialist protective services and good Business Management; all of which will be maintained, albeit in a moderately reduced form.

“We have also taken account of the risks associated with change, public confidence, resilience, impacts on staff and the results of the public consultation. Our plans are comprehensive, scrutinising all aspects of Humberside Police, including the number of senior posts, our structure and the size and capacity of all of our units.

“The budget is very demanding and there are hard times ahead. However, I am confident that we will meet them successfully because as a Force, we are built on solid foundations and because of the good people who are proud to work for Humberside Police and deeply committed to serving their local communities.

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Claire Harrison of Humberside Police Authority on 01482 317003/07792 935581 or Tracy Milnes of Humberside Police on 01482 578286/07802 891458.

To access the papers and Medium Term Financial Strategy visit:

<http://www.humberside-pa.org.uk/about-us/committee-meetings/police-authority>

Notes to editors:

Deletion of posts as follows:

Year 1 – BWFM16, PSC 24, Choices, 25 CSR 2015 77 – Total 142 posts

Years 2, 3 & 4 are purely speculative at this moment in time and subject to scrutiny with each individual annual review.

Key to terms:-

BWFM – Business Workforce Modernisation

PSC – Public Service Centre

CSR – Comprehensive Spending Review