



### **Public asked to back plans to put more officers on the beat**

Police chiefs are asking if people in Nottinghamshire would be willing to pay a few pence a week more as part of their council tax to help fund more officers on the county's streets.

Work with partners has helped Nottinghamshire Police achieve sweeping performance improvements over the past twelve months when the Force recorded some of the largest crime reductions in the country. This is despite the fact that it has had to dramatically scale back resources to meet savings targets through reducing back office costs, collaboration with other Police Forces across the region, voluntary redundancy of police staff and the compulsory retirement of police officers after 30 years' service.

Crime is currently 7.7% lower than it was last year and the Force has achieved significantly better sanction detection rates and improved victim satisfaction. But the Force and Police Authority must now identify a further £11.6million in savings in 2012-13 to plug the funding gap left by reduced Government funding and both organisations believe it is critically important that efforts are made to protect the huge progress made in making Nottinghamshire a safer place to live.

As a result, Nottinghamshire Police Authority is considering the option of increasing next year's council tax precept (the proportion of the council tax bill the public pays towards policing) to finance additional frontline police officers in the county.

The plan would see the number of divisional frontline police officers rise from 1,600 to 1,700 over a three-year period, as well more Police Community Support Officers - an extra officer per neighbourhood policing area (56) - and additional police staff to support the release of police officers to the frontline. The Authority intends to prioritise recruitment from PCSOs and Special Constables into police officer roles. However, before any final decision is made, the organisation will first seek the views of the public in a series of consultation events.

The Authority is considering the possibility of front-loading the investment in recruitment by increasing council tax by 3.99% for 2012-13, which is just below the Government's capping limit for Police Authorities of 4%. This would see the council tax bill on an average (Band D) property increase from £160.11 to £166.50 which is an annual rise of £6.39 (or 12.3p per week). However, the majority of properties in Nottinghamshire fall into the Band A or Band B category and these would experience increases of £4.26 per year (8.2p per week) and £4.97 per year (9.6p per week), respectively.

Jon Collins, Chairman of Nottinghamshire Police Authority, said: "Our chief priority is to make Nottinghamshire safer, so that residents have confidence that they are safe in a county with low crime and high detection rates. So far, we've limited the impact of any cuts on the frontline, which has helped to protect performance. However, the more we hack away at our assets to meet on-going savings pressures, the greater the risk of regression. It is vital we act now if we are to secure our future success.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
POLICE AUTHORITY

## Press Information

“However, I would like to stress that no decision will be made until residents have been given the opportunity to express their own views on the police budget and their policing priorities for the year ahead.”

Glynn Gilfoyle, Vice-Chair of Nottinghamshire Police Authority and Chair of the Authority’s Finance and Business Committee, added: “Nottinghamshire residents have consistently told us that they want to see a stronger police presence which has helped to develop our thoughts. We believe that although this plan represents a small additional cost to hardworking families, it will help to protect local communities and safeguard our ability to detect more crime in the future.”

Residents are invited to send any feedback that they would like to see taken into account by the Authority when it makes its final decision on the budget can be made either by post to:

Nottinghamshire Police Authority, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire NG2 7QP;  
via our website [www.nottspa.org](http://www.nottspa.org), or email [npa@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:npa@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk).

Comments should reach the Authority by 10th February 2012.

In addition, a series of road shows are taking place at shopping centres across Nottinghamshire to gather further feedback from the public. Representatives of the Police Authority will be at Broadmarsh Shopping Centre on January 21, the Four Seasons in Mansfield on January 23 and 27, and the Victoria Centre in Nottingham on January 24.

Ends

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