

# **Plymouth 2020 Partnership Budget Challenge Briefing**

## **Devon and Cornwall Police**

### **1. HEADLINE BUDGET POSITION**

1.1 The economic fall-out from recession and Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) remain the key feature of both the national and local landscape.

1.2 Overall, the force's medium term financial strategy requires reductions of £32m on a budget of £287m over the next 3 years. This is in addition to the £17m reduction this year. Broadly anticipated that this will mean a reduction of 500 police staff posts and 700 police officer posts across the peninsular since 2009. Significant police staff reductions have already been achieved. The single largest cuts have been in back office functions (HR, Finance and Admin), civilian investigators and front desk staff. These reductions have followed targeted reviews, not general voluntary redundancy processes.

1.3 All reductions have and continue to be on a design led approach which balances service, risk, threat and harm against the budget challenges. The design principles include:

- Reduce by design not chance
- Do police staff reductions quickly
- Reduce infrastructure in line with numbers
- Not using sworn staff to release police staff (we have the highest number of officers in frontline duties nationally)

1.4 Planning assumptions have been made in relation to the Winsor and Hutton reviews pending statutory changes.

1.5 The effect of the one off council tax freeze grant is likely to be a request for additional cuts or a sharp increase in council tax. This will be considered by the Police Authority in the budget setting process.

1.6 The implementation of the new command and control system, STORM, is scheduled to take place next year with the introduction of a new crime investigation, intelligence and case and custody system to follow. In addition a new duty management system is scheduled to be delivered from November this year.

### **2. RISKS AND ISSUES TO DELIVERING THE CITY PRIORITIES**

Progress on Level 2 indicators:

2.1 The rate of anti social behaviour incidents (ASB) is down and on target. However, the force are reviewing the data recording and management of incident records post the operational changes introduced in May 2011 which may have implications for ASB data/numbers recorded.

2.2 Reducing the gap in overall crime in the worst neighbourhoods is not on target mainly due to recent increase in serious acquisitive crime which has meant overall increase in total crime of 3% on last year (see below).

2.3 Reducing harm from inter-personal violence - this indicator has not been developed yet and sits with the Violence and Domestic abuse delivery groups to progress.

2.4 The percentage of community priorities resolved is on target and improving

2.5 Reducing the number of hate incidents reported - this is showing as on target

2.6 Satisfaction with outcome of hate incidents - this is showing as on target but with a worsening trend. This is measured against joint police/Local authority data. Locally the police surveys are showing a reduction in satisfaction for racist incidents and BME victim satisfaction.

2.7 Following successive year on year reductions in crime over the last 3 years, there has been a year to date (April-November 2011) increase in all recorded crime equating to 3% (over 300 crimes) compared to the same period last year. The largest rise is in serious acquisitive crime including robbery (+14 offences); domestic burglary (+106); shed/garage other burglaries (+244); theft from vehicle (+126).

2.8 Neighbourhoods that are most significantly affected include Mutley/Greenbank and a spread of neighbourhoods within Devonport and West Sectors.

2.9 There have been reductions in the number of sexual offences reported (-23); common and serious assaults (- 82); harassment offences (-61); theft of vehicles (-12).

2.9.1 Significant preventative, intelligence and enforcement activity has been applied to the emerging crime trends and this includes a partnership led task and finish group focusing on the hotspot areas. This has resulted in reducing the rise in acquisitive crime. Additional partnership activity requires a focus on:

- Informed analysis to better understand the offending profile/causation
- Regular sharing of changes within the drugs market
- Engagement with HM Court services to share awareness of the city challenges and treatment/diversion infrastructure
- Tackling risk taking behaviour associated with alcohol misuse
- Coordinated efforts to better understand the market for stolen goods and city wide networks.
- Supporting a 3 year crime reduction strategy for the city

2.9.2 The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Bill represents both a threat and an opportunity to the Force and the city. A key feature of this bill is the change of governance to an elected Police and Crime Commissioner in place of the existing Police Authority. A Draft Protocol for Elected Police and Crime Commissioners<sup>1</sup> has

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/police-commissioners-protocol?view=Binary>

been published. In particular it represents an opportunity to ensure that we are well placed to provide support to the successful candidate. In this respect the Force is supporting local Community Safety Partnerships to deliver a peninsula Joint Strategic Needs Assessment scheduled to ensure delivery prior to the elections. The key challenge will be balancing manifesto commitments with the diverse urban, rural and coastal needs across the peninsula. An additional challenge for the chief constable will be to adjust to the PCC demands whilst meeting the requirements of the nationally set Strategic Policing Requirement (setting mandated service requirements, mutual aid etc).

2.9.3 The Home Affairs Committee is holding an inquiry into the New Landscape of Policing, with the aim of assessing the extent to which the Government's proposals, as set out in Policing in the 21st Century, will enhance the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of the police. As part of the enquiry they have launched a public consultation on which areas the police service should prioritise. Clearly this is likely to have a significant impact on the development of the police service in the future.

### **3. CHANGES TO SERVICE DELIVERY**

3.1 The work to build a strategic position on service delivery against a resource profile of 2810 officers by 2015 should be finalised in the early part of 2012. The force's officer establishment last stood at 2810 in 1992, a year in which there were 140,000 recorded crimes. In recent years recorded crime has fallen to below 90,000.

3.2 There are no plans to reduce the PCSO numbers. The funding is ring-fenced until April 2013. Plymouth has 83 PCSOs an asset that is highly valued by the community. They could have a significant role in neighbourhood management once the strategic direction at 1.5 above is set.

3.3 There are no plans to reduce the allocation of Plymouth's local partnership funding (circa £160k) in 2012/13, subject to Police Authority approval. This money will be offered to a joint commissioning process aligned to the city priorities to support key services, intervention and activity.

3.4 This will be the last budget set by the Police Authority and will cover the year that the PCC is introduced. Targets and performance indicators for 2012/13 will not be finalised by the authority until February 2012.

3.5 There are opportunities for the partnership to shape service delivery going forward in a number of ways:

- Maximising the Localism agenda and developing the capacity and capability of the community to 'self regulate' (CASAP contract)
- Developing collaborative work to target/support those people that make the highest levels of demand on public services in the city (Total Place)
- Co-active environmental scanning, joint business analysis and business intelligence
- Joint commissioning
- Exploring the options for shared services or wider collaboration

#### **4. CRITICAL RISKS TO PARTNERSHIP SERVICE DELIVERY**

4.1 The partnership has identified a level of risk relating to partnership activity in the following areas:

- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Assault Referral Centre
- Anti-social behaviour and Family intervention service
- Support for enhancing the capacity of the voluntary & community sector
- Youth Offending Team
- Locality working
- Alcohol

The management of a number of these risks is being co-ordinated through the Safe & Strong Theme Group. Additional activities to mitigate risks and service community priorities are being considered in both the local and peninsular wide Strategic Assessments.

4.2 Current year on year funding cycles present a threat to building sustainable, long term partnership activity and mitigate against developing a strategic environment in which we can realise the 2020 Vision.

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Background Paper – Police Authority Meeting 2 September 2011

Performance Report of the Deputy Chief Constable – Item 8 and Appendix 8a

<http://www.dcpa.police.uk/how/policeAuthority/meetings/111216.html>