

Policing your community

The current economic climate means organisations and public services are facing difficult times ahead, and the police service is no exception. The challenge we face this year is to continually improve the service delivered to the community, while providing the best value for money to the taxpayer.

The Authority has appointed a new Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable in the past year, signalling a new era in the way the two counties are policed. Hampshire Constabulary has also signed up to the national Policing Pledge, giving the public a clear indication of what they can expect from their police force.

Despite the wider financial issues, the Authority and Constabulary are approaching 2009/10 with a positive outlook, looking to work with local businesses and communities to build a safer place for us all to live and work in. We have one of the top performing police forces in the country, and the Authority is determined to make sure it remains that way, ensuring the public get the service they deserve.

Your Police Authority

Hampshire Constabulary is responsible for operational matters, while Hampshire Police Authority is an independent organisation that ensures there is an effective and efficient police force for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

It is made up of 17 members who are elected councillors and independent members of the

public. The Authority is responsible for consulting with the public about their policing priorities, working together with the Chief Constable to set the Policing Plan, and setting a budget to ensure the Constabulary can meet public expectations and the challenging targets from the Authority to reduce crime.

What are Policing Priorities?

The Police Authority and the Chief Constable have jointly agreed on the policing priorities for 2009-12, and they are published in the Policing Plan. The priorities are informed by the latest crime statistics and the results of consultation exercises with the public, local authorities and other agencies.

The priorities for 2009-12 are:

- Providing an excellent service – improving our response to calls from the public, listening and responding to local concerns, acting on feedback.
- Catching criminals and managing offenders - putting the victim first and protecting vulnerable people.
- An active presence in every neighbourhood - working with communities to build and maintain neighbourhoods where people are safe and feel safe.
- Protecting our communities - protecting from terrorism and domestic extremism and preparing for emergencies and major incidents.

- Making the most of our resources.
- Equipping our team to deliver - right people, right place, right time.

A full copy of the Policing Plan is available by visiting www.hampshirepoliceauthority.org.uk.

Contacting your local police

To find out about your Safer Neighbourhoods Team, and to contact them, visit www.hampshire.police.uk or call 0845 045 45 45.

Contacting Hampshire Police Authority

To read more about the Police Authority, its members, committees and other areas of work, visit www.hampshirepoliceauthority.org or call 01962 871595.



Where the money comes from

Policing is funded mostly through government grants, with the remainder coming from Council Tax. The budget for 2009/10 is £304.7 million compared with £294.2 million in 2008/09. The increase is £10.5 million or 3.6 per cent.

	£'000
Budget for 2009/10	304,700
Police grant	121,851
Revenue support grant	16,065
National business rates	69,600
Total general government grants	207,516
Surplus on Council Tax collection funds	507
Council Tax precept	96,677

Council Tax for 2009/10

In 2009/10 the policing element for a Council Tax band D household is £142.11 per year. This is an increase of £6.57 compared to last year, or 4.8 per cent.



How the money will be spent

The majority of the money (84 per cent) will be spent on employees, in particular the delivery of frontline policing services including the continuation of Safer Neighbourhood Teams throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The majority of the increase in cost (£14.1 million) is pay and price inflation in the past year. Further changes of £4.5 million have been added to maintain the current level of service for 2009/10. These changes include £1.9 million relating to lower investment interest receipts and increased capital financing costs as the Authority invests in major capital projects to deliver a new police station in Southampton and new Constabulary HQ. Growth is limited to £0.9 million to improve data sharing between forces, a mandatory project.

Savings of £9 million have been identified to reduce the impact on Council Tax payers. The Authority and Constabulary joint efficiency strategy work identifies cost savings that should not adversely affect frontline performance.

The savings will require the number of police officer and police staff posts to be reduced, but these will be linked with efficiency and productivity plans to minimise the impact of the reductions. The Chief Constable will look to protect frontline areas, and the majority, particularly police officer posts, are already vacant through a programme of managed change which has not resulted in a poorer service to the public in 2008/09.

