

West Mercia Police Authority Consultation

Continued Effectiveness of Policing

This is the last year that a Policing Plan and Budget for West Mercia will be set by West Mercia Police Authority. From November 2012 a Police and Crime Commissioner, elected by you, will undertake responsibility for Policing and Crime Plans and for setting the future policing budget in our area.

We are doing all we can to ensure a smooth handover of duties and we are confident that West Mercia's Police & Crime Commissioner will inherit one of the most financially sound forces in the country.



Sheila Blagg, Chairman

What are we doing now?

The restrictions on police budgets continue into 2012/13. West Mercia has already reduced its base budget on police officers and police staff by £9.8m but still faces a funding gap of £25.8m over the medium term. Our long term record of prudent financial management has provided strategic reserves which will help to phase in future reductions but we are currently planning to reduce expenditure by £5m in the financial year 2012/13.

We are considering not increasing our council tax element for yet another year while benefiting from a special grant available to areas freezing their council tax in 2012/13. However this special grant will not be available in future years and a decision to freeze our tax element in 2012/13 would create a significant shortfall in the 2013/14 budget.

To manage our £5M reduction we are reducing the size of some departments, whilst doing all that we can to protect 'front line' services. The reductions are part of our long term plan to create leaner support services, in part by joining in collaboration with our neighbouring force in Warwickshire.

To this end we have agreed to enter into a Strategic Alliance with Warwickshire Police Authority to explore further collaboration which will support both forces in implementing the savings set out in their financial plans.

Key Themes

As part of the process of revising and developing our priorities for the coming year, we look at many different influences including feedback from victims, issues raised at PACT meetings, responses from our crime and safety surveys and any emerging national priorities.

In addition the force undertakes what is known as a 'strategic assessment' which seeks to identify the biggest policing risks facing the force area. This year this assessment has been developed in conjunction with our alliance partner Warwickshire Police.

Strategic Assessment - key risks to be addressed

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|---|---|
| Plan & prepare: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violent extremism• Civil Emergencies• High profile major crime | Target & reduce: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug related crime• Protecting the vulnerable• Alcohol-related violence• ASB & associated crime• Managed offenders |
| Monitor & intervene: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major crime• Protecting the vulnerable• High risk / reward acquisitive crime• Drug supply• Public order | Strategic intelligence gaps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protest activity• Cyber crime• Significant ASB• Criminal use of firearms• Career criminals/crime groups• Chemical misuse |

Our Priorities

**Strategic Aim:
Protect the public from harm**

Draft Priorities 2012 - 2015

- Provide an effective emergency response
- Protect people from crime and anti social behaviour according to their needs and vulnerabilities
- Proactively target organised crime groups and individuals who cause most harm
- Work with partners to bring offenders to account and reduce re-offending
- Provide a supportive and effective response to victims and prioritise the most vulnerable
- Disrupt drugs markets and the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
- Protect road users by working with partners to reduce casualties
- Plan and prepare to respond to any major and serious incidents
- Provide an efficient and effective policing service which delivers value for money
- Plan and prepare to deliver our contribution to the Strategic Policing Requirement (defined by the Home Office).*

Outcomes

Levels of crime and anti-social behaviour remain low

The public have confidence in us and express satisfaction with our policing service

Our communities feel safe

** The Strategic Policing Requirement will define the forces' contribution to regional and national issues*

Your views are important to us

We are interested in hearing your views on our suggested priorities. There are a few different ways you can give us your views.

Write to us at:

West Mercia Police Authority,
FREEPOST SY 952,
Shrewsbury SY2 6BR

Email us at:

police.authority@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Live Webcast

The Chairman, Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Treasurer will be holding a webcast on Wednesday 11th January at 7pm in County Hall Worcester in front of an invited live audience. They will outline their thoughts on the priorities, and be available to answer questions live on air.

You can submit a question to us ahead of time, to this email address: westmerciapa@gmail.com

You can join in with the webcast by visiting the Police Authority web site at: westmerciapoliceauthority.gov.uk and follow the links. If you would like to be part of the audience during the webcast please contact the Police Authority either in writing or by email.

Help Us

Using email can help up in reducing the costs of consultation and we are currently working to update our electronic address list. If you are happy for us to hold your contact details so that in future we can contact you electronically, then please email your details to: police.authority@westmercia.pnn.police.uk



West Mercia
Police Authority



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POLICE



SERVING - PROTECTING - MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

This document is available in large print and other formats.
Telephone West Mercia Police Authority on 01743 264690