



Cheshire Constabulary has made good progress in achieving their savings for the comprehensive spending review period.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published a report on Cheshire Constabulary's progress in meeting the challenges of the 2010 comprehensive spending review.

A thematic report, *Policing in Austerity: One Year On*, found that police forces across England and Wales have risen to the financial challenge of the spending review, cutting their spending while largely maintaining the service they provide to the public; but HMIC has some concerns about whether all forces have transformed their efficiency to the extent that this can be sustained through the next three years (and into future spending reviews).

Based on the data provided by the force, HMIC found that:

- Cheshire Constabulary needs to save £29 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012, they had planned how to save 100% of this amount.
- The force is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 650 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 240 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 11% fewer officers in Cheshire (compared with a 10% reduction across England and Wales).
- Currently the force's workforce plans only extend as far as 2013: by then, 68% of its workforce will be in the front line, which is lower than other forces over the same time period.
- The proportion of police officers on the front line will increase over the same period from 82% to 88%, which is in line with other forces in England and Wales.
- The Constabulary has committed to protecting frontline services. It continues to drive down crime, and is achieving this more than other forces.
- 86% of victims in Cheshire were satisfied with the service from Cheshire Constabulary, which is above figures for England and Wales as a whole.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Northern Region, Roger Baker, said:

“Cheshire Constabulary has put in place a comprehensive change programme to manage the reductions in its budget. The force is in a good position to achieve its savings target by March 2015, and may even exceed it.

“Although the force is reducing its workforce, which includes cutting police officer posts, it plans to increase the proportion of officers in frontline roles by 2013. This will help protect frontline services; and so the force should continue to focus on this as it develops its workforce plans for the last years of the spending review period.”

The full report for Cheshire Constabulary, along with the national thematic review ‘Policing in austerity: One year on’, can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk

Notes to editors

1. The full thematic report ‘Policing in austerity: One year on’ and supporting material can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk
2. The review ‘Adapting to Austerity’ published in July 2011 and the accompanying force reports can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk
3. In October 2010, the government announced that the central funding provided to the police service would reduce by 20% in the four years between March 2011 and March 2015.
4. Figures are rounded (financial figures to the nearest million and workforce figures to the nearest 10) and financial figures are in cash prices.
5. For further information, or to request an interview, HMIC’s press office can be contacted during office hours from 8:30am – 5:30pm Monday – Friday on 0203 513 0600.
6. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest, and rigorously examines the effectiveness of police forces and authorities to tackle crime and terrorism, improve criminal justice and raise confidence. HMIC inspects and regulates all 43 police forces in England and Wales together with other major policing bodies such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the British Transport Police and HMRC.
7. HMIC’s out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.
8. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out an inspection of all 43 police forces in England and Wales in spring 2011, to see how they were planning to meet this financial challenge. When the results were published in July 2011 (search for ‘Valuing the Police’ on www.hmic.gov.uk), we committed to returning one year later to report on progress, and to assess whether there had been any impact on the service provided to the public.