



Hertfordshire Constabulary has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published a report on Hertfordshire 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:

- **Money:** Hertfordshire Constabulary needs to save £38 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 89% of this amount.
- **People:** The constabulary is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 460 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 240 of these will be police officer posts. This means there will be 11% fewer officers in Hertfordshire (compared with a 10% average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- **The front line:** However, the proportion of officers in frontline roles will increase (from 83% in March 2010 to 95% in March 2015) This means Hertfordshire Constabulary will one of the highest proportions of officers working on the front line across the whole of England and Wales.
- By 2015, 73% of its total workforce will be frontline roles. This is broadly in line with most other forces.
- **Collaboration:** Hertfordshire Constabulary has an extensive programme of collaboration with Bedfordshire Police, with a view to maximising efficiency. This partnership has delivered savings through shared services in major crime and other specialist departments. It has widened even further now that a third force (Cambridgeshire Constabulary) has joined.
- **Crime:** Overall crime fell more quickly in Hertfordshire than in most other force areas between December 2010 and December 2011.

- **Victim satisfaction:** 87% of victims were satisfied with the overall service provided by Hertfordshire Constabulary. This is above the national figure.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Eastern Region, Zoe Billingham, said:

“Hertfordshire Constabulary has made good progress in achieving the savings required by the 2010 spending review. It has reviewed its support functions and teams to see where savings can be made, and has a well-established programme of collaboration with Bedfordshire Police, which sees them sharing some services in order to bring down costs. As a result, the constabulary is in a good position to meet their savings target by March 2015

“Although the constabulary is reducing its workforce (and this includes cutting police officer posts), it plans to protect frontline services by increasing the proportion of its officers working in crime-fighting roles. This will help Hertfordshire Constabulary in its efforts to bring down crime and keep local communities safe.”

The full report for Hertfordshire 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.