



**Norfolk 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 Norfolk 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:** Norfolk Constabulary needs to save £27 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 92% 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 360 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 160 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 10% fewer officers in Norfolk (which is in line with the average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- **The front line:** By 2015, 72% of its overall workforce in frontline roles. This is lower than in most other forces.
- The proportion of officers in frontline roles will increase between March 2010 and March 2015 (from 84% to 89%). This percentage is broadly in line with most other forces.
- **Collaboration:** The force has undertaken an extensive and ambitious programme of collaboration with its preferred partner Suffolk Constabulary. The partnership has already successfully delivered savings through shared services, such as major crime and operational planning. Further savings are expected to be delivered as other units collaborate later this year. In total, Norfolk Constabulary expects to achieve 38% of its required savings through collaboration.

- **Crime:** Across England and Wales, crime rates fell between December 2010 and December 2011; but they remained static in Norfolk. However, the constabulary has one of the lowest numbers of crime per person.
- **Victim satisfaction:** 87% of victims are satisfied with the overall service provided by Norfolk Constabulary. This is above the national figure.

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

*“Norfolk Constabulary has put in place a comprehensive change programme to manage the reductions in its budget. It has reviewed key policing functions, to see whether they could be more efficient; and implemented an extensive and ambitious programme of collaboration with Suffolk Constabulary, which has already cut costs. As a result, the constabulary is in a good position to achieve their savings target by March 2015.*

*“Although like other forces Norfolk Constabulary is reducing its workforce numbers (and this includes cutting some police officer posts), it plans to protect the front line by increasing the proportion of officers in these crime-fighting roles by 2015. This should place the constabulary in a strong position to maintaining its very low crime rates, together with high victim satisfaction.”*

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

