

18 July 2013

## **Dyfed-Powys Police has made very good progress in meeting its financial challenge, finds HMIC**

*HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is confident that Dyfed-Powys Police is on track to deliver its planned savings by March 2015. It has responded well and made significant savings, while at the same time maintaining performance – crime has continued to fall and satisfaction with policing remains high.*

In a report published today, HMIC has found:

### **Progress in making savings**

- Dyfed-Powys Police has identified that it needs to save £13.6m over the four years of the spending review (i.e. between March 2011 and March 2015). The force has planned how it will save all of the £13.6m it needs by 2015.
- The force's savings requirement is below that of most other forces. HMIC considers that Dyfed-Powys faces a lesser challenge than other forces. This is because it spends more on policing per head of population than most other forces and it has a higher number of staff (so has a comparatively higher pay bill) Also, the amount it spends on each officer and staff member is higher than most other forces.
- This means it has more scope than many forces to reduce spending in line with the average.

### **Workforce changes and protecting the front line**

- The force is reducing police officer numbers by limiting recruitment and holding vacancies. As a result, by the end of the spending review period it is planned that there will be 71 fewer police officers. This means the number of police officers is planned to reduce by 6% between March 2010 and March 2015. This is a smaller reduction than most other forces.
- The force will be broadly protecting frontline posts as it makes these cuts. Between March 2010 and March 2015, the proportion of police officers in frontline crime-fighting roles is planned to increase from 92% to 93%. This compares to an overall increase across England and Wales from 89% to 93%.
- The force has made some use of voluntary early retirement and voluntary redundancy for police staff, as well as not replacing others as they have left. As a result, by the end of the spending review period the number of police staff is planned to reduce by 82, or 11% between March 2010 and March 2015, which is a smaller reduction than that seen in most other forces.
- The force plans to increase the number of community support officers (CSOs) by 79% (from additional funding provided by the Welsh Government) - most other forces are planning to reduce the number of CSOs.

### **Impact on the public**

- Over the first two years of the spending review, recorded crime (excluding fraud) fell by 12%, which is broadly in line with the figure for England and Wales (13%).
- Victim satisfaction remains high at 83.2%. This is also broadly in line with other forces.

### **Future challenges**

- The force demonstrates a clear understanding of the financial challenge and has well established and effective financial forecasting and management processes in place.
- The force has developed a detailed change programme which will allow it to reduce costs while continuing to fight crime.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Wales and Western Region, Dru Sharpling, said:

*“Dyfed Powys Police faces a moderate challenge compared to other forces. The savings requirement for the force is lower than that of most other forces in England and Wales. Costs are higher than most other forces, so there is greater scope to cut spending. However, Dyfed Powys Police is a small force with the challenge of policing a large geographic area of over 4,000 square miles.*

*“Dyfed Powys Police has made good progress towards delivering the savings it needs. The force is on track to meet the financial requirement over the spending review period, while continuing to fight crime and keep communities safe. Reductions in crime have been greater than in other forces and the force has one of the highest satisfaction rates in England and Wales.*

*“Although Dyfed Powys Police has reduced the number of officers and staff, reductions have been smaller than most other forces. The force has delivered an extensive change programme which will allow it to reduce costs further without damaging the frontline.*

*“HMIC will continue to monitor the force for the remainder of the spending review period.”*

The full report for Dyfed-Powys Police, along with the national thematic review, can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)

### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The thematic report ‘Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge’ can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)
2. Victim satisfaction for this force has a confidence interval of  $\pm 4.6\%$
3. HMIC’s July 2012 report ‘Policing in austerity: One year on’ and July 2011 report ‘Adapting to Austerity’ along with supporting materials can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)
4. 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.
5. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest, and rigorously examines the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces to tackle crime and terrorism, improve criminal justice and raise confidence. HMIC inspects all 43 police forces in England and Wales together with other major policing bodies.

6. For further information, HMIC's press office can be contacted during office hours from 8:30am – 5:30pm Monday – Friday on 0203 513 0600.
7. HMIC's out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.