

18 July 2013

## **Greater Manchester Police has made very good progress in meeting its financial challenge, finds HMIC**

*Greater Manchester Police has well advanced plans to continue to deliver an excellent service to the public of Greater Manchester. This has put it in the best possible position to face further budget reductions, but it is a large and complex organisation with a significant level of high risk business to manage.*

In a report published today, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has found:

### **Progress in making savings**

- Greater Manchester Police has identified that it needs to save £145.5m between March 2011 and March 2015. The force has planned how it will save £137.6m, and still has £8m to find. This gap represents only 5% of the total amount required. Although a remaining gap is not ideal, the proportion is small and the force was able to demonstrate that it is developing plans to make the additional savings.
- As a proportion of its overall budget this savings requirement of 20% is higher than most other forces, and HMIC considers that the force faces a particularly difficult challenge. This is because of the savings required and the overall demands placed on the force. However, there are opportunities to reduce its cost and its size means it has advantages of economies of scale.

### **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 1,525 fewer police officers. This means the number of police officers is planned to reduce by 19% between March 2010 and March 2015. This is a greater reduction than in most other forces, but unsurprising given the scale of the challenge the force is facing.
- There is evidence that the force Police is successfully 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 87% to 92%. This compares to an overall increase across England and Wales from 89% to 93%.
- The force has also made some police staff redundant and not replaced others as they have left (e.g. through retirements and resignations). As a result, by the end of the spending review period, it is planned that there will be 532 fewer police staff in the force. This means the number of police staff is planned to reduce by 13% between March 2010 and March 2015, which is lower than in most other forces. The force is maintaining the number of police community support officers (PCSOs).
- With an outstanding funding gap it is possible that the force may need to make more workforce reductions than it is currently planning.

### **Impact on the public**

- Over the first two years of the spending review, recorded crime (excluding fraud) fell by 19%, which is more than the figure for England and Wales (13%).
- Victim satisfaction remains high at 85.1%, which is broadly in line with other forces.

### **Future challenges**

- The force's response to the financial challenges is strong and this will be a good foundation for future change and service delivery. However, the force's challenge has been significant by national comparison, and there is still a small proportion of savings required from this spending review to be found.
- Further budget reductions as part of the spending round in 2015/16 will add to these challenges.

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

*“Greater Manchester Police faces a difficult challenge. It is the second largest police force in the country with serious and complex crime problems. Like many urban forces it has to manage an above average cut to its budget. As a large organisation it does have scope for economies of scale and a level of overall resilience, but driving major change and changing the culture of a large organisation is complex and demanding.*

*“The force had a strong response to the spending review challenge and has achieved one of the greatest reductions in crime levels in a force area over the spending review period. It has a well-developed overarching change programme, has reshaped the organisation significantly, and is using partnership working and evidence based and innovative techniques to drive further cost savings and improve performance.*

*“There is a high level of inherent complexity and risk for the force to manage when making further reductions in spending, but progress so far suggests the force has put itself in the best possible position to face this.*

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

The full report for Greater Manchester 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  $\pm 0.8\%$
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.