

18 July 2013

## **North Yorkshire Police has made good progress in meeting its financial challenge, finds HMIC**

*North Yorkshire Police has identified the financial challenge for the current spending review and developed a plan to make the required savings. However the force is yet to properly assess and plan for the next round of cuts.*

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

### **Progress in making savings**

- North Yorkshire Police has identified that it needs to save £16.1m over the four years of the spending review (i.e. between March 2011 and March 2015). The force has planned how it will save £11.6m of this total.
- As a proportion of its overall budget (10%), this savings requirement is lower than most other forces. However, North Yorkshire Police's challenge is harder because the amount of money it spends on policing is already lower than most other forces, it has fewer police officers per head, and the amount it spends on each officer is also lower than most other forces.
- This means that the force faces a bigger challenge because it has less scope to make savings than most other forces in England and Wales.

### **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 plans to have 116 fewer police officers. This means the number of police officers will reduce by 8% between March 2010 and March 2015. This is a smaller reduction than in most other forces.
- There is evidence that North Yorkshire 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 92% to 94%. 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 the number of police staff is planned to reduce by 221 or 19%. This is more than in most other forces. North Yorkshire also plans to reduce the number of police community support officers (PCSOs) by 15 or 8%. This is a smaller reduction than in most other forces.

### **Impact on the public**

- Over the first two years of the spending review, recorded crime rates (excluding fraud) fell by 18%, which is higher than the figure for England and Wales (13%).
- Victim satisfaction remains high at 85.3%, which is broadly in line with other forces.

### **Future challenges**

- The force has started to consider the position beyond 2015 but at this stage has yet to develop plans.
- The outcome of discussions between the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable on which functions (e.g. human resources and management of the buildings and estates) the force will have responsibility for or those which will remain with the PCC is going to be important in terms of how future savings may be managed and delivered.

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

*“North Yorkshire Police needs to cut its spending by £16.1m between 2011 and 2015. This is 10% of its total budget, which is lower than the average savings requirement for other forces. Achieving this will not be without challenge, as it already spends less and has fewer police officers per head than most other forces.*

*“HMIC found the force had made a good start and has plans to find all but £4.6m of the savings. The force was developing savings plans to meet the gap, but had also included some prudent assumptions around changes to the funding it receives. If these assumptions do not materialise, the gap will reduce. HMIC is pleased that the force is clearly focused on protecting police services in North Yorkshire and, while job cuts are inevitable given the size of the budget cuts, the force has protected as far as possible frontline policing, with fewer police officer reductions than most other forces.*

*“However, HMIC is concerned that there are still some savings to find before 2015 and then the likelihood of further cuts in spending after 2015. North Yorkshire Police has not yet started to properly assess and plan for the next round of cuts.*

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

The full report for North Yorkshire 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  $\pm 0.9\%$
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.