



Surrey Police 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 Surrey Police'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:** Surrey Police needs to save £27 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save all of this amount.
- **People:** The force is planning to cut its total workforce (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 70 posts between March 2010 and March 2015.
- However, it will increase the overall number of police officers by 50. Surrey Police will be the only force in the country able to do so. This overall figure masks other changes that the force is making across different police officer ranks to allow for an increase in the number of constables. By reducing the number of officers in more senior ranks (by not replacing managers when they retire), the force is committed to increasing the number of constables by up to 200.
- **The front line:** By 2015, 80% of the total Surrey Police workforce will be in frontline roles. This is above than the national figure.
- The proportion of officers on the front line will increase over the same period (from 78% to 90%). This percentage is in line with most other forces.
- **Crime:** Crime fell across Surrey between December 2010 and December 2011, although more slowly than across England & Wales as a whole.
- **Victim satisfaction:** 84% of victims in were satisfied with the service provided by Surrey Police. This is in line with national figures.

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

“Surrey Police has a history of bringing down costs and adapting the way services are delivered. It began to transform the way it operates in 2009 – a year before the spending review was announced. As a result, it is in a good position to achieve its savings target by March 2015.

“While forces across England and Wales are cutting police officer posts, Surrey Police is actually increasing its officer numbers. As it reviews its plans the force should focus on ensuring as many of these officers as possible are in frontline, crime-fighting roles. This will help it to drive down crime and to keep its local communities safe.”

The full report for Surrey Police, 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.