



Bedfordshire Police Authority

No council tax increase for policing in 2011-12

“Despite the tremendous financial challenges we face we are determined to maintain the delivery of a quality policing service and keep people safe.”

Peter Conniff, Chair, Bedfordshire Police Authority.



The funding situation

Over the next four years our Government funding will reduce by approximately £19M and two-thirds of this will take place over the next two years. The budget in 2010/11 was £103M so this means that we need to save £6.2M in 2011/12 and a further £5.6M in 2012/13.

In addition, aware of the cost pressures facing local residents, this year we will not increase the policing share of your council tax bill, instead we will take advantage of a government grant to keep our tax bill at last year's rate.

The Police Authority and the Force have been developing new ways of working for some time in order to maintain and improve the quality

of the services that matter most to local people. As a result an efficiency and modernisation project has been specifically designed to help Bedfordshire Police improve the way it works.

We will also achieve savings by focusing on further collaboration programmes, increasing the ways in which we work with partners and cutting any unnecessary expenditure.

However, the funding cuts do mean that we expect to see officer numbers reduce by around 60, and the number of police staff to fall. More information on the impact of the funding cuts can be found on our website under Funding and Finance.

What the cuts mean for you

Although a number of changes are being introduced to help us cut costs, they will not reduce the quality of the service you receive. Our aim is to protect the delivery of your police service by concentrating on structural and management changes in the way we work.

We have listened carefully to the views of local people over the year, which have helped us make these changes, in the knowledge that they reflect your thoughts.

Once these changes have been implemented the Police Authority will be asking residents what, if any, impact they are experiencing.

What will change

Local Policing

Instead of having two divisions, one in Luton and one covering the rest of the county, we will change to three local Policing Districts linked to the local authority areas. Local policing teams will have additional resources to tackle crime, including anti-social behaviour in your street.

Centralised Teams

These teams will concentrate on different parts of our work, such as responding to incidents, tackling serious crime, managing intelligence, protecting vulnerable people and delivering justice.

Centralised and therefore bigger teams will mean that we can move more officers and staff to where they are most needed, when they are most needed.

Control Room

Better systems will help us to resolve more of your queries by telephone, while the appointments system increases public satisfaction and is more time efficient.

These changes provide us with an opportunity to improve efficiency and still allow us to investigate minor offences as each crime will be assessed and dealt with appropriately.

They will also reduce the number of managerial layers and make us more efficient by providing you with a more localised service. Better and smarter use of resources will lead to a better service for the whole county, not just those living in more populated areas.

Working with other organisations



The extended collaboration programme with Hertfordshire Police Authority is now bringing savings of £3.7M per annum across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

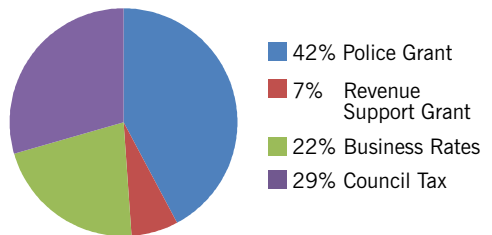
It is expected that Cambridgeshire's recent decision to join this partnership will, in the not too distant future, deliver even greater economies of scale.

We are also looking at ways in which we can work with our local partner agencies such as local authorities, courts, probation, and health services, to remove duplication and streamline the services provided. This includes areas where there are natural links such as offender management, business services and our properties.

Funding and expenditure

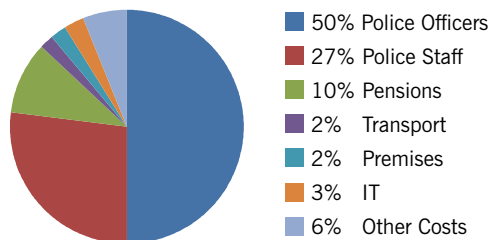
Income

This chart shows how much funding we receive.



What we spend

This chart shows how the money we receive is used.



The budget

This year's budget has been set at £103M of which £30M comes from the part of your council tax that goes towards policing. The Police receive approximately 9% of your total council tax bill, with the rest being used by other local authorities to provide you with other public services.

The amount of council tax you pay towards policing depends on the band of your property and this year there will be no increase. The cost for your household is:

	Per annum
Band A	£96.51
Band B	£112.60
Band C	£128.68
Band D	£144.77
Band E	£176.94
Band F	£209.11
Band G	£241.28
Band F	£289.54

This means that for a Band D property (the average) the amount of council tax which goes toward policing is 40p per day.



If you would like further information about the police budget or any other area of our work please visit our website at **www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk** where you can also give us your views.

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