



PRESS INFORMATION

14 December 2010

Statement from Bedfordshire Police Authority

The Government has announced provisional details of police funding for the two financial years from April 2011.

Bedfordshire will receive £73.2m next year which represents a 5% cut in funding compared to 2010/11 - the equivalent of £4m.

In 2012/13, the settlement figure will reduce further to £4.9m, which equates to a further 6.7%

The Government has agreed to retain the Neighbourhood Policing Fund for another two years which helps to fund PCSOs.

Peter Conniff, Chairman of Bedfordshire Police Authority, said: "We have been bracing ourselves for this announcement for some time and have already undertaken vital groundwork to minimise the impact of any funding cuts on operational policing.

"Unfortunately the budget settlement is as challenging as predicted back in October and this means that as a Police Authority and Force we will now need to make difficult decisions to protect as much as possible the frontline policing service we deliver to the public and ensure the safety of our communities. It is disappointing for Bedfordshire that, despite the support of our MPs, the Authority is still not receiving the full grant relative to its needs.

"We have been exploring a range of savings options to ease this process which will reduce the organisational structure of the Force but fundamentally maintain the local policing teams which are valued by the public.

"We have also been looking at ways of extending our collaborative work with other forces which has a proven track record of delivering savings - now worth about £3m annually. We have just announced a three force strategic partnership with Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire to help each of us gain greater economies of scale in increasingly difficult financial circumstances.

"We also remain committed to exploiting opportunities with our partners locally in the county to deliver more efficient services.

"This work will help to ensure Bedfordshire Police delivers a balanced budget in 2011/12, however further difficult decisions will be necessary if the Force is to achieve the 6.7% cuts announced in 2012/13 without affecting some aspects of service.

“The Police Authority will be considering reports in January before finally agreeing the budget in February.”

Ends

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