



Press Information

8th November 2010

Police Authority Cuts Back

Bedfordshire Police Authority, one of the very few Police Authorities to be assessed as performing well in terms of ensuring value for money for the public by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), continues to push for further efficiencies as it strives to meet the forthcoming cuts in funding.

As a result it is reviewing all areas of its own business to ensure it contributes to the savings needed to meet the funding cuts.

Chair of the Police Authority Peter Conniff said that there was a clear determination among members and staff to do whatever was necessary to achieve the reductions. "At a time when the police service is facing significant cuts we obviously have to keep our own house in order," he explained. "We are therefore considering how we can reorganise our committee structure to reduce administration and other associated costs, while still carrying out our statutory duties.

"We are cutting out anything that is not an essential element of our work and merging different workstreams to match resources with demand and priority.

"The Authority is determined to continue its drive to deliver a police service that is providing clear and transparent value for money in every area."

The Authority will consider the proposals at its meeting in December.

The move follows the announcement that both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Police Authorities have given approval to proposals to establish a joint Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Department and a joint Police Pensions Administration function.

The phased implementation of the joint ICT function, which will commence in December this year, will initially save the two forces a total of £350,000 per year. This will increase substantially as work progresses, with savings in the region of £1.7m a year expected within five years.

The joint Police Pensions Administration function for the two forces will bring further efficiencies of around £105,000 from the start of April 2011, when the service will commence.

Ends

Media Enquiries, Sallie Blair, 01283 821012