

Annual Policing Plan 2008-2009



About the Authority

The Police Authority is an independent body that represents the views of local communities on policing issues.

It is made up of local councillors; members of the public (who are known as Independent Members); and magistrates.

It works to:

- Identify the policing issues that most concern people;
- Set the strategic direction for the Force;
- Agree performance targets;
- Scrutinise Force Performance;
- Set the level of council tax local people pay towards policing;
- Set and monitor the police budget;
- Appoint senior officers.

The primary responsibility of the Authority is to ensure an efficient and effective police service for Bedfordshire. As such it oversees all areas of police activity and delivery.

Bedfordshire Police Authority is committed to equality and diversity in every area of its business. If you need this document in another format or language please let us know.

The Budget

To provide the funds essential to improve police performance and increase the number of frontline officers the Authority set the budget for 2008-09 at **£96.056M**.

The Government provides **£68.508M** towards the budget and we have asked local taxpayers to provide the remaining **£27.548M**.

This budget will enable us to recruit a further **24 police officers** taking the total number to 1274, the highest level in the history of Bedfordshire Police.

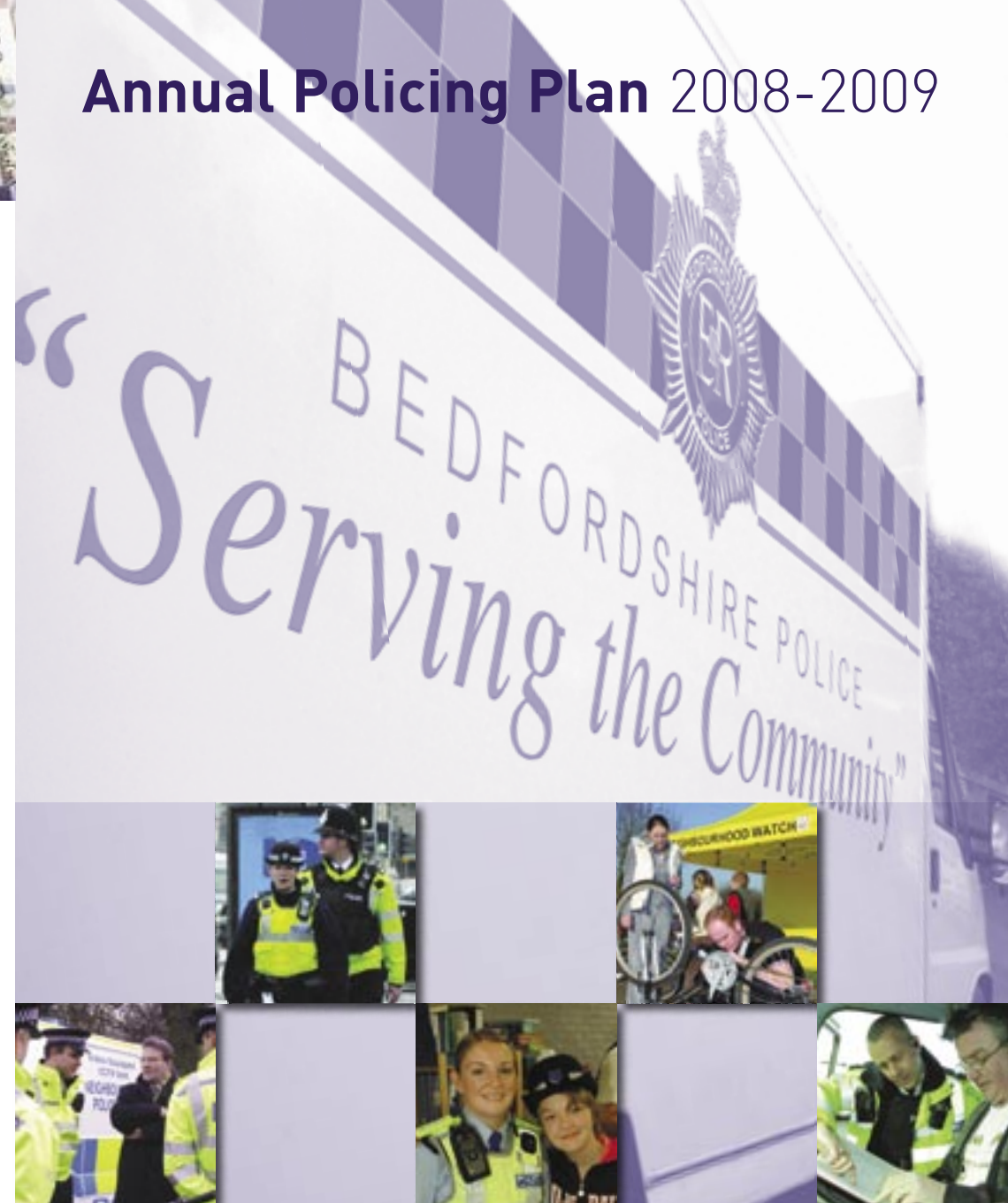
Contacting us is easy



Bridgebury House,
Woburn Road,
Kempston, Bedford
MK43 9AX

Tel: 01234 842066 | Fax: 01234 842068
info@bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk
www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk

If you wish to contact
Bedfordshire Police,
or report a crime, please
call **01234 841212**



SERVING COMMUNITIES AND MAKING THEM SAFE FROM CRIME

Every year the Police Authority, in consultation with the Chief Constable, produces a policing plan which outlines the objectives and priorities that it has set for Bedfordshire Police.

This year's plan is the first strand of a three year strategy designed to deliver an improved police service to the people who live and work in Bedfordshire and Luton.

The plan takes into account what local people have said is of most concern to them, plus targets set by the Government.

Your priorities were:

County Division	Luton Division
Burglary	Crime reduction
Criminal Damage	Anti-social behaviour
Roads Policing	Domestic abuse
Domestic abuse	Increased visibility
Increased visibility	

Looking Forward

The Authority's aim is to make Bedfordshire a place where people are safer and actually feel safer; where people have confidence in the Police and are satisfied with the service they receive.

To achieve this and address the priorities, activity will be focused in four main areas:

- Neighbourhood Policing
- Incident Response
- Crime Management
- Protective Services

The overall objective is the delivery of a first class policing service that meets the needs of individuals and communities, providing a service that people value.

Neighbourhood Policing: Working with you

Safer Neighbourhood Teams provide visible and accessible local policing for local people. They are an important part of the plan to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and now every 'neighbourhood' has its own team.

These teams work with the public and partners (local councils, Fire and Rescue Service, health authorities, housing associations and local groups), to decide

what the priorities are for the coming months, with the aim of developing lasting solutions to those issues.

There are various ways that you can talk to your local team:

- On patrol;
- Local surgeries;
- Mobile police stations in your area;
- Community Safety Forums.

- Consultation will take place to see just how well you think these teams are doing. For more information visit the website at: www.bedfordshire.police.uk (use the postcode search to find your team), or by calling 01234 841212

Incident Response:

Responding to you



It's important that people receive a timely and appropriate response to calls for assistance from Bedfordshire Police, whether this is routine or part of an emergency.

To ensure improvements we will:

- Work with other Forces on a new system to make response more efficient;
- Review the ways in which people contact the Force to evaluate the service provided;
- Work with partners to reduce demand on calls for service, such as the work currently underway with local pubs and clubs to deter alcohol-related crime;
- Ensure that the right people are in the right place at the right time when you need them most.

Crime Management:

Policing for you



Like you, the Authority and Force want to see the number of burglaries, robberies, vehicle and other high volume crimes reduced while more offenders are caught and brought to justice.

We will work with our partners to implement the most effective methods to tackle crime. This includes working with:

- The local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships;
- The Criminal Justice Board;
- Youth Offending Teams.

Initiatives which have proved effective at reducing drug related crime will continue, such as:

- Offender referral schemes and;
- Drug treatment programmes.

Protective Services: Protecting you

This fourth key element concentrates on protecting people from a wide variety of different crimes. 'Protective Services' is much more than counter-terrorism activities. It includes:



- Serious and organised crime;
- Protecting vulnerable people (eg children, older people, victims and witnesses, those at risk from domestic violence etc);
- Major crime investigation;
- Roads policing;
- Critical incident management;
- Public order and contingency planning;
- Work to combat terrorism.

The additional investment in the Public Protection Unit is good news for victims and sends a warning to offenders that their actions will not be tolerated. In the coming year we also plan to develop further collaboration agreements with other Forces to increase effectiveness.



Full copies of both the 2008-09 Policing Plan and the Three-Year Strategic Plan are available on the Police Authority's website:

www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk

