



PRESS INFORMATION

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Police Authority Agree Budget for Effective Policing

Bedfordshire Police Authority has today (12th February, 2010) agreed a budget that focuses on the provision of the most cost effective delivery of policing services for the public of Bedfordshire, not only in 2010-11 but in future years. It is designed to take into account the tightening financial situation widely expected to affect all public sector organisations in the next three to five years.

The revenue budget for 2010-11 has therefore been set at £102.821M, an increase of £3.314M over last year. The increase in the policing precept, the part of the Council Tax that goes towards policing, has been kept as low as possible at 3% (£4.21 p.a.) for a Band D household, which is approximately 8 pence per week.

To assist the process of balancing budgets whilst sustaining service delivery the Authority has overseen some significant process reviews within Bedfordshire Police that will provide the public with a more visible police force through a more focused response function and better crime investigation.

As a result further efficiencies have been identified alongside ways in which existing resources can be effectively reprioritised. Therefore this year's budget allows for 1264 Police Officers and 992 Police Staff, a small reduction on the 2009-10 year, who will be focussed on the provision of visible and effective frontline services.

Resources have been redirected into areas of organised criminality to enable a greater ability to tackle organised crime associated with burglary, vehicle crime and drug and knife crime. Further investment has been agreed for the protection vulnerable people, such as victims of child and domestic abuse and sexual offences and Neighbourhood Policing activity which will continue to be developed to provide a more consistent approach across all neighbourhoods.

Peter Conniff, Chair of Bedfordshire Police Authority, said: "We were clearly keen to provide the Chief Constable with as much resource as possible to enable her to sustain the significant improvements in performance made over the last few years.

"We had to balance this aim with the very real risk of being 'capped' if the Government considered any increases 'excessive' which obviously limits what we were able to do and at a 3% increase in precept we feel that we have the balance right. We also took into account the effect that the current financial climate is having

on many households in Bedfordshire, including Luton and tried to keep the increase to reasonable figure.”

“This will allow the Force to focus on the things that people tell us matter most to them, provides for improvement in priority areas and sets the foundations for further efficiencies in the future.”

Ends

Editor information:

The average* cost per household for policing is £144.77 per annum, but varies depending on the banding of different properties, as shown below:

	£
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 H	289.54

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