

Devon & Cornwall Police Authority

Our priorities

The Police Authority is an important link between the local community and the police service. Its 19 members work with the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Constabulary who has overall responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the Force.

Our key roles are:

- To listen to communities to gauge local opinion and to respond by influencing policing priorities.
- To set and monitor demanding targets for the Constabulary to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour, increase detection rates, and improve public satisfaction and confidence in the police service.
- To agree the police budget and spending plans for the year ahead and set the police element of the council tax.

Our achievements in 2008/9

You asked... to see more police officers on the streets

We responded... by providing the Chief Constable with the funding and support to return 200 police officers to visible, community-based roles. This comes at a time when some police authorities are actually cutting the number of frontline officers.

You said... that you are kept waiting too long when calling the non-emergency police number

We responded... by setting the Constabulary a target to ensure that at least 94% of people are satisfied with the ease of contacting someone within the police who can help them. We will continue to press the Constabulary to maintain its record of answering at least 90% of non-emergency calls in 30 seconds or less.

You asked... for us to keep council tax increases down

We responded... Devon & Cornwall Police Authority asked for an extra 18p per household per week in 2008/9 to maintain its record strength of 3,500 police officers plus 362 police community support officers. This was the first year of a three-year initiative to increase frontline policing and improve performance. In 2009/10 a major savings programme will mean that the increase in council tax will be considerably lower.



Delivering improvements over the long term

The Police Authority has endorsed the Chief Constable's vision for Devon and Cornwall Constabulary to be one of the top 10 performing police forces in England and Wales within three years:

- having the lowest level of serious acquisitive crime, such as burglary;
- experiencing the lowest level of serious violent crime;
- achieving the highest total crime detection rate;
- gaining the highest victim satisfaction rate.

The targets are designed to strike a balance between national priorities and the needs of our local communities. The aim is to provide an efficient and effective service which is responsive to public demand.

The Policing Pledge

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary launched its Policing Pledge in December 2008, setting out minimum standards in 10 areas of policing. Its aim is to give communities a stronger voice and the means to challenge us if they are not receiving the standard of service they expect. We want to meet the needs of our local communities, provide a good service, and ensure that witnesses and victims receive the best possible treatment and respect. The Policing Pledge is available from local libraries, police stations and on line at: www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

For further information visit the Police Authority website at: www.dcpa.police.uk or telephone us on (01392) 268333.

Contacting the police

Enquiries other than emergencies

08452 777444

- To report a crime
- For information and advice

Emergency 999

If life is threatened, if people are injured, if offenders are nearby, if immediate action is required.

Minicom 01392 452935

Textphone for use by the hard of hearing and speech impaired.

www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

For information and advice, to report a non-emergency crime on line, and to contact your local officers.

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Call anonymously to give information about crime.

Keyholder Scheme 0901 470 0440

Allows you to register a nominated keyholder, for police to contact should any situation bring your home or business property to their notice - 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Further information available on the Force website, from police stations or your neighbourhood officers.

Financial information

The Police Authority has a responsibility to ensure the provision of an effective and efficient policing service. It has to consider the policing needs of local, regional and national communities, the requirements of central government and the resources the Chief Constable needs to provide a balanced service.

Proposed day-to-day spending

For 2009/10 the Police Authority has approved day to day revenue spending of £277.348m. This is equivalent to around £163 per head; 67% of the funding comes as grants from central government and the rest is paid by local council taxpayers. The budget will increase by 3.5% but because of the way council tax works this translates into a 4.94% increase in the police element of the council tax. Some $\frac{3}{4}$ of this increase is due to the cost of improving front line policing by 200 officers. The table below shows the police element of the council tax for each band.

Valuation Band	Range of values
A	£99.48
B	£116.06
C	£132.64
D	£149.22
E	£182.38
F	£215.54
G	£248.70
H	£298.44

For an average household in Devon and Cornwall, this is equivalent to around an extra £6.25 per year or 12p extra per week. Overall, the police element of the council tax is still the lowest in the south west and well below the national average.



The focus of the police service in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is to provide the best possible service to the public within available resources. A three-year plan has been established to improve performance and meet the demand for more visible policing. To achieve this, 200 police officers are moving from support functions to the frontline and a major business transformation programme will modernise our procedures and ensure that we are more efficient.

The period 2009/10 is the second year of the plan and significant savings are forecast to contain overall costs and to enable reinvestment in frontline police officers. This year the Police Authority also faces the additional impact of the downturn in the national economy. The total level of savings required in 2009/10 is £5.521m.

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary has a good record of making efficiency savings. A plan is in place to save £25m over the three-year period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011.

Balance of funding	2009/10 (£m)	2008/09 (£m)
Government funding	186.414	181.868
Council tax	90.934	86.217
Approved budget	277.348	268.085

Why we will need to spend more in 2009/10	£m
Budget 2008/09	268.085
Inflation	7345
Continuity commitments	3.443
Increase in frontline capacity and other service developments	3.632
Efficiency plan and savings	(5.521)
Change in use of reserves	0.364
Budget 2009/10	277.348

Staffing targets	March 2010	March 2009
Police officers	3,500	3,500
Police community support officers	362	362
Police staff	2,253	2,354
Total	6,115	6,216

Capital spending

Capital spending covers replacing and improving long-term assets such as buildings and shorter-term assets such as vehicles and technology-related equipment and systems. For 2009/10 the programme will be £22.648m. Debt repayments on borrowing are paid from the revenue budget and the estimated level of outstanding debt as of March 2009 is around £24.7m, well within the national guidelines for prudent capital financing.

The year ahead

The Annual Policing Plan for 2009/10 contains detailed information on the services provided by your local police. You can view the plan on the Force website at www.devon-cornwall.police.uk or the Authority website at www.dcpa.police.uk. (We can supply copies in Braille or other languages on request). The Authority website also has more about the Authority's role and its members.

