

THE BEAT

More police officers for your streets



Last autumn I promised you 150 more police officers and 100 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). So, when I revealed my budget proposals at the end of January, I was pleased to announce that I have earmarked funding and savings that will do exactly that and put more bobbies on your streets.

You have repeatedly told me that you want to see more officers in your neighbourhoods and, in this major investment in frontline policing, I intend to recruit 150 police officers in 2013-14 and a further 120 police officers in each of the next two years. I have also budgeted for 35 PCSOs to be recruited in 2013-14 and 2014-15, with 30 more in 2015-16.

The proposed revenue budget for 2013-14 is £196.9m. This budget includes my proposed increase in the amount of council tax that goes towards policing of 1.95% over the coming year to generate an additional £1m. This works out at less than a penny a day whatever band of property you live in.

This increase is reflective of the Government's cut in funding and the unfair funding formula. We need to protect funding for policing in order to fulfill our pledges and objectives and ensure the money is in the budget not just this year but in every year to follow. We need to make sure that crime continues to fall in Nottinghamshire – and you can't do that by cutting resources.

My budget takes into account the financial challenges that Nottinghamshire Police continue to face due to a £42m (or 20%) cut over four years. This means that Nottinghamshire is underfunded each year by £10.5m so there's a lot of work to be done in minimising the shortfall.

This year the Government offered a grant to freeze the precept, which was equivalent to a 1% increase in council tax, but this is just for one year. Consequently, the freeze grant offer for 2013-14 does not provide financial stability for the long term, and this has been considered against increasing the council tax charge for the people of Nottinghamshire.

For more detail, you can see the financial reports on the Budget at: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/2884/Committee/470/Default.aspx>



My first Police and Crime Plan: aiming for fewer victims



The draft of my first Police and Crime Plan, which is closely linked to the budget, has now been put before the Police and Crime Panel for their consideration and we are consulting widely to obtain feedback from all corners of the community.

When drawing up my draft Plan I listened carefully to your views and experiences and I've tried hard to reflect your concerns. My aim is to reduce crime and the number of victims in our county - and an important role of your communities is to tell me what you think.

I want to give victims and citizens a bigger voice in policing to achieve a safer Nottinghamshire - which is also one of my Deputy Chris Cutland's key roles. My draft Plan sets out my intentions for people and communities to feel safe and to have trust and confidence in the services delivered by Nottinghamshire Police and their community safety and criminal justice partners.

As part of my pledge to spend taxpayers' money wisely I intend to create a partnership fund and provide resources to local communities to help resolve local problems and concerns.

I want to make maximum use of partnership working in many areas, including a number of vulnerable groups which I feel will greatly benefit from joint targeted working. These include the most vulnerable age group (18-25) that accounts for nearly 30 per

cent of all domestic violence offences and incidents. I also plan to work with partners on reducing high youth crime rates in Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield, and Broxtowe.

There are many more detailed schemes designed to enable me to fulfil my priorities. Three of these schemes involve: protection and support for repeat victims of domestic abuse; development of opportunities to involve victims of antisocial behaviour and crime in neighbourhood justice; and improved public transport safety.

The pledges I made during the election campaign are featured within the plan. They are:

- **Campaign against Government funding cuts to Nottinghamshire's Police budget.**
- **Improve Community Policing across Nottinghamshire by taking on 150 extra Police Officers and 100 Police Community Safety Officers.**
- **Reduce antisocial behaviour by 50%.**
- **Give extra priority and resources to domestic violence and crimes against girls and women.**
- **Ensure that the victims of crime are treated as people, not cases, and properly fund victim support.**
- **Be fair, honest and protect taxpayers' money.**

See what you think.

Log on to <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx>

No Return for Mounted Section

Despite the clear affection in which Nottinghamshire's Mounted Section is remembered, following an in-depth review into the decision to disband it, we have concluded that there is no sound business case to reinstate it this year.

In these tough financial times we have to prioritise very carefully and there is a huge difference between 'would like to do' and 'must do'. I promised that, if elected, I would review the original decision and I've done that.

As part of that process we held discussions with community groups, asked the public for their views and considered the Chief Constable's review of the original decision.

Quite simply, taking all the points into account, we cannot justify the amount of money it would cost to reinstate the mounted section. I am assured, and reassured, that since the mounted section was disbanded, there has been no operational reason to rue the decision.

I understand that people will be disappointed, but I will watch the discussions taking place regarding the viability of a National Mounted Section. If this comes about, Nottinghamshire will take on board any national requirements – so the door is not completely slammed shut."

I listened closely to what everybody told me and am very grateful to everyone who took part in the consultation via my website survey and by written correspondence. It was telling however that even the most ardent supporters came to the same philosophical conclusion when we looked at costs during at a public discussion.



'See it, Report it' campaign to tackle dog fouling

I was particularly pleased to support the City's campaign to encourage responsible dog owners to report people who don't 'bag and bin' after their pets.

Allowing dogs to foul our streets is highly offensive and irresponsible, let alone illegal. It is reported as a priority in every ward of Nottingham City, with 2643 reports between April and December 2012 and around £240,000 spent on removing dog mess from the city's streets every year.

I recently joined Cllrs Alex Norris and Jackie Morris at Bulwell Market where we saw the City Council's new high-tech equipment for dog mess removal. In fact I had a close encounter with a Poover, a specially equipped motorcycle that vacuums up and disinfects the street and FIDO, which cleans off-road locations such as parks. Great machines...but they wouldn't be needed if people did the decent thing and cleaned up after their dogs.

In Nottingham City, not 'bagging and binning' carries a £50 on the spot penalty and a maximum fine of £1000 if found guilty at court. 'See It, Report It' urges people to report any incidents – anonymously and confidentially – by calling the ASB helpline on 0115 9152020.

Business and voluntary groups give their views

Representatives of businesses and volunteer organisations joined me and my Deputy, Chris Cutland, at the Nottinghamshire Deaf Society in Nottingham on 24 January to tell us their views about our plans.

This was the first of two similar consultations – the one for North Nottinghamshire had to be cancelled in January because of bad weather but has been rearranged for early February in Pleasley Landmark Centre, Mansfield.

The Nottingham meeting discussed my Draft Police and Crime Plan, particularly focusing on my key priorities. It was a great opportunity for me to receive feedback and to answer their questions. Meetings like these are part of our inclusive approach to consulting on the plan and the budget, as we are keen to hear what all sections of our communities have to say.

There's still time to share your views on my priority areas by taking part in my online survey at <https://www.research.net/s/nottspcc> by 15 February.



Out and about...

It would be impossible to cover all the meetings we have held over the last few weeks, but it has been fascinating to meet people from so many diverse communities and hear their views on policing and the issues that affect them.

City Centre Eye Opener

In early January, I joined Chief Insp Leona Scurr, Cllr Alex Norris and Cllr Nick McDonald on a walkabout that incorporated the Victoria Centre, where we discussed the measures being taken to tackle shoplifting with the Centre Management Team, a pub with a computer system to help them deter known trouble makers and the market area. The innovative work that has been done to address problems is both reassuring and encouraging.

Fact finding mission in Harworth

Walking the beat in Harworth, I joined PC Jim Martin and PCSO Kendra Jacob on a useful tour of the area on 10 January, when Cllr David Challinor joined us to talk about local issues as we went round.



Nottingham City Homes

Along with my Deputy Chris Cutland, I met representatives from Nottingham City Homes to discuss local housing services and the inherent problem of crime and antisocial behaviour.

I was fascinated to learn how tenants have been working in partnership with the team at Nottingham City Homes to discuss common issues that affect so many lives such as antisocial behaviour, domestic violence and putting victims first.





Safeguarding Children

Keeping vulnerable people safe is obviously one of the most important elements of policing and on my behalf, Chris Cutland has spent the last few weeks looking at the work being undertaken on safeguarding – both children and adults. She has spent no inconsiderable time meeting key people and seeing how the partners link up to provide a valuable and effective service.

The way in which the police, and their partners, address safeguarding issues will be inspected officially in the coming year, which is a step change away from simply focussing on one element such as Children's Services. The way in which the inspection will be carried out has changed too. Instead of a diarised meeting, it is now likely that the inspectors will turn up announced to see how work is carried out in the ordinary course of events.

Chris commented: "At a recent conference in London covering Safeguarding Children, the extent of cyber abuse against children, and the speed at which it is accelerating, was highlighted. Obviously, this type of crime is not confined by geographic borders. It is an international, very complex, and growing problem which needs addressing with all our partners, so that we can learn what works most effectively."



Keeping in touch

Communication comes in all shapes and sizes these days, and I want to be sure that people in all our diverse communities are able to get in touch in a way that's easily accessible to them. Whether that's talking to face to face, tweeting on Twitter, logging on, emailing, or phoning, I need to be able to listen to your views and learn from them and also know that you can keep up to date with what my Deputy, the team and I are doing.

You can do all this via:

My website: www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk where you can see latest press releases, blogs and sign up for newsletters. You can follow me on my [@nottsPCC](https://twitter.com/nottsPCC) Twitter account or my personal one [@paddytipping](https://twitter.com/paddytipping) – and perhaps you might even retweet for us! You can write to me at: Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP or you can email me at nopcc@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk You can reach me by phone on 0115 9670999 ext 801 2005.

