



Leicestershire Police Authority

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

Leicestershire Police Authority has today (9th February 2010) agreed a budget for the 2010/11 fiscal year. It is designed to deliver a local policing service that tackles crime and antisocial behaviour that matters in local communities and serious crimes force wide.

Having carefully considered the options available to it, Leicestershire Police Authority has increased the policing precept, which is the part of the council tax that goes towards policing, by 2.68%.

Factors which have contributed to Members setting the precept at this level include government funding, investment from reserves and importantly the fact that the Constabulary has achieved efficiency savings of 4.1% in 2008/09 and is expecting to achieve a further 3.1% in both 2009/10 and 2010/11.

This means that the cost of policing for an average household (band D) will rise by 8.5 pence per week, meaning the total Police precept for a band D property will be £3.26 per week.

Byron Rhodes, Chairman of the Police Authority, said: "Our priority is to set a budget that we feel will enable the Constabulary to provide an effective policing service for all our communities. With the uncertain economic climate continuing, we have strived to keep increases in costs to a minimum for our local tax payers, whilst being

mindful that we need to enable our Policing Teams to develop in the key areas which our local residents have told us are most important to them, including antisocial behaviour and serious crime.”

Byron continued: “The cost of policing continues to increase, and we are grateful to local residents, who recognise this and have consistently supported us in our desire to invest in policing, allowing us to protect and support our local communities. With the increase in efficiencies, improved technology and infrastructure systems we continue to make, we have every confidence that this budget will allow Leicestershire Constabulary to maintain frontline policing and provide a high quality service that benefits and protects all of our community.”

Temporary Chief Constable, Chris Eyre said: “Everyone knows that the next few years will be challenging for the public sector, policing included. The Police Authority and the Constabulary are looking at ways of reshaping policing in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland in order to improve services to the public whilst saving money.

“Improving public safety remains our priority. In making cuts we will reduce management and administrative posts, streamline specialist departments and protect the Police Officers and PCSOs working in neighbourhoods.”

Ends

Notes to Editors:

For any queries arising from this media release, please contact Nigel Tompkins at Better Times, tel: 07860 206565, email: nigel@bettert看imes.co.uk

Leicestershire Police Authority's role is to ensure Leicestershire Constabulary provides efficient and effective policing in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. It holds the Police Force to account on behalf of local communities.

The Authority sets the strategic direction and targets for local policing to ensure that everyone benefits from a better police service.

The Police Authority consults with local people to find out what their priorities are, and to what extent they feel their needs are being met.

The Police Authority sets the police budget for the year and thereby the amount of council tax paid by local people towards policing. This is usually about 8% of the total council tax bill.

The Police Authority has 17 members, nine local councillors and eight local independent members to ensure that policing is responsive to unique local needs.

People can contact the Police Authority to give their views about policing or if they are dissatisfied with the service they are receiving.

Local Police Authorities along with the Home Secretary and Chief Officers of Police make up the tripartite relationship which is responsible for the governance of policing in England and Wales.