

Appendix A

22 July 2014

New policing model agreed and robust financial plans in place



The force and PCC Paddy Tipping are confident robust plans are in place to protect Nottinghamshire's financial future in response to cuts to its funding.

The assurance comes as the HMIC today published findings of a recent inspection of all forces looking at how the Police Service is responding to austerity.

The inspection focused on how well forces are achieving value for money and examined three areas:

- To what extent is the force taking the necessary steps to ensure a secure financial position in the short and long term?
- To what extent has the force an affordable way of providing policing?
- To what extent is the force efficient?

The report into Nottinghamshire recognises the significant steps we taken so far to meet our financial challenge by making 73 per cent of our savings in the last three years. It also says we have plans in place to achieve future savings of £12.7m over the next year and have identified a further savings requirement of £8.2m the year after.

The cost of our officers and staff per head of population is also highlighted as being lower than the national average while our victim satisfaction rates and performance in terms of reducing crime are higher.

HMIC has rated Nottinghamshire as good in terms of its efficiency while saying we require improvement in securing a long term financial position and in providing an affordable of policing.

At the time of the inspection the force's new operating model was still in its final development stages and had not been not finalised. However, it has now been agreed and will start to be implemented in the coming months.

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The new approach to delivering policing across Nottinghamshire will put prevention at the heart of a strategy to reduce crime and keep people safe.

HMIC said the force needed to make improvements to its affordable policing strategy. It said Nottinghamshire Police had shown “strong commitment” to regional collaboration but there were delays in the time taken to reach agreement with other Forces. However, the report added there was now ‘great energy and momentum’ going forward with new shared services partnership arrangements in place.

Responding to the HMIC’s valuing the Police Programme report, Commissioner Tipping said: “This inspection took place a few months ago and we are already much further ahead in our preparations to meet future financial difficulties. Although some of the findings were fair at the time they were written, we reject the notion that we’ve been slow to implement change. The challenges we face are significant and require careful consideration. We’ve been determined not to make any rash decisions that we later regret.

“That said it’s an interesting report which recognises the achievements we’ve made thus far while also warning of some major challenges which could impact on police services and our ability to meet our savings targets if left unaddressed.

“Together, we have risen to those challenges and have identified a new operating model that gives us a clear direction moving forward. We are currently in the process of implementing this new template which will involve some changes to workforce arrangements and will be talking to staff and partners over the coming weeks about how we proceed.

Commissioner Tipping added: “Importantly, we have a balanced budget this year, indications show that will remain the case next year and we are achieving our savings. Let me be clear – it’s tough out there, but we are not in a precarious financial position. HMIC is aware fully aware of our position and the progress that has been made since this inspection.”

Deputy Chief Constable Sue Fish said: “We have made huge progress on developing plans which will fundamentally change the way we deliver policing across Nottinghamshire. The PCC has rightly challenged us to create a model that protects front line services but is also sustainable and flexible going forward.

“We have looked at every aspect of the service we provide to see where we can be more efficient and effective, not only because of the financial climate we are now operating in, but also because it is the right thing for us to do.

“This has rightly taken time to develop because it is essential that the future model for Nottinghamshire Police is one which improves the quality of service we offer to the public, yet is also flexible in that it can adjust accordingly to the operating environment.

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Prevention will be at the heart of what we do.

“One of the key drivers in developing the plan has been our desire to engage with officers and staff. It is they who have helped shape the future and that is something we were determined would be the case from the outset.

“Clearly, the financial landscape for policing is hugely challenging and will remain so for the next few years. We are also disadvantaged as a result of complicated funding formulas and the fact that Nottinghamshire relies more heavily on government funding than other forces.

“The financial imperative is clearly very important in delivering a sound future operating model but it is absolutely not the only driver. What remains at the heart of our plan is a real commitment from us to deliver the best possible service to the people of Nottinghamshire.”