

## NOTICE OF MOTION

*To consider the following motion, deferred from the July meeting of Council, submitted by Councillors Ian Pattison, David Smith, Margaret Pattison, David Whitaker, Ron Sands, Paul Aitchinson and Robert Redfern:*

*This Council requests that the Chief Executive of Lancaster City Council write to the Home Secretary to express growing concerns at the 20% reduction on police budgets, as discussed at a recent meeting of the Lancashire police Authority, which stated that this reduction in the police budget has resulted in an increase in crime.*

*Lancaster City Council therefore calls upon Teresa May MP to seriously look at reversing these cuts to enable the people across the district to receive the level of protection and police presence they deserve.*

***(Note: The wording of the motion has changed slightly from that appearing on the Council agenda of 18 July 2012, in accordance with the wishes of the Members who submitted it.)***

## OFFICER COMMENTS

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has recently published a report on Lancashire Constabulary's progress in meeting the challenges of the 2010 comprehensive spending review.

A thematic report, *Policing in Austerity: One Year On*, found that police forces across England and Wales have risen to the financial challenge of the spending review, cutting their spending while largely maintaining the service they provide to the public; but HMIC has some concerns about whether all forces have transformed their efficiency to the extent that this can be sustained through the next three years (and into future spending reviews).

Based on the data provided by the force, HMIC found that the Constabulary is not only making the necessary savings, but that it is also taking the opportunity to transform services in order to protect the frontline. (HMIC defines the 'frontline' as *those who are in everyday contact with the public and who directly intervene to keep people safe and enforce the law*, and this includes roles such as custody staff, public protection officers, call takers as well as uniformed officers. According to the report, the Constabulary will have a higher proportion of staff working in all frontline roles by 2015, an 8% increase from 2010).

Lancashire will also have a higher proportion of staff working in **visible** frontline roles than other parts of England and Wales, accounting for 61% of the total workforce. (The HMIC define 'visible' roles as *those staff that work in uniform and are seen by the public*, such as neighbourhood and response officers, traffic and firearms officers.)

And whilst crime continues to reduce overall – there was a 4% reduction in all crime between December 2010 and December 2011 – there is a huge challenge for the force and Police Authority to continue consistently to reduce crime. Notwithstanding the

financial situation, it would be extremely challenging to deliver continuing high levels of crime reduction as seen over the last several years. Whilst the force and Authority are committed to working with partners to reduce crime, there is a need to be realistic about what that might look like in the current climate.

**Headline messages are-**

- Lancashire Police needs to save £44 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 87% of this amount.
- The force is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 610 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 550 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 15% fewer officers in Lancashire Constabulary (compared to the 10% average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- The force plans to have 73% of its workforce in frontline roles by 2015, which is in line with other forces in England and Wales.
- The proportion of officers in frontline roles will increase between March 2010 and March 2015 (from 81% to 89%) Again, this is in line with most other forces.
- Lancashire Constabulary continues to drive down crime and has achieved a larger overall crime reduction than across England and Wales as a whole this year.
- 85% of victims in Lancashire are satisfied with the overall service provided by the force, which is line with the national figures.

**Head of Environmental Services**

Monitoring Officer Comments

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments

Section 151 Officer Comments

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments