



## **Suffolk Constabulary has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period**

*Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published a report on Suffolk 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:

- **Money:** Suffolk Constabulary needs to save £17 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 99% of this amount.
- **People:** The force is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 190 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 10 of these will be police officer posts. This means there will be 1% fewer officers in Suffolk (compared with the 10% average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- **The front line:** By 2015, 73% of its workforce will be in frontline roles. This is broadly in line with other forces in England and Wales.
- The proportion of officers in on the front line roles will increase over the same period (from 86% to 89%). Again, this percentage is similar to most other forces.
- **Collaboration:** The constabulary has undertaken an extensive and ambitious programme of collaboration with its preferred partner, Norfolk Constabulary. The partnership has already successfully delivered savings through shared services, such as major crime and operational planning. Further savings are expected to be delivered as other units collaborate later this year. In total, Suffolk Constabulary expects to achieve 61% of its required savings through collaboration.
- **Crime:** Crime fell in Suffolk between December 2010 and December 2011, although not as quickly as it did across England and Wales as a whole.

- **Victim satisfaction:** 82% of victims were satisfied with the overall service provided by Suffolk Constabulary. This is in line with national figures.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Eastern Region, Zoe Billingham, said:

*“Suffolk Constabulary has a comprehensive programme in place to help it make the savings required by the 2010 spending review. This has included reviewing many of its key departments and functions to identify where costs could be brought down. It has also implemented an extensive and ambitious programme of collaboration with Norfolk Constabulary, which has already cut costs.*

*“The constabulary is cutting a significantly smaller proportion of police officers than most other forces; and at the same time is increasing the percentage of officers who work in frontline, crime-fighting roles. This should help Suffolk Constabulary to improve its drive down crime and keep the local communities safe.”*

The full report for Suffolk Constabulary, along with the national thematic review ‘Policing in austerity: One year on’, can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)

#### **Notes to editors**

1. The full thematic report ‘Policing in austerity: One year on’ and supporting material can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)
2. The review ‘Adapting to Austerity’ published in July 2011 and the accompanying force reports can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)
3. In October 2010, the government announced that the central funding provided to the police service would reduce by 20% in the four years between March 2011 and March 2015.
4. Figures are rounded (financial figures to the nearest million and workforce figures to the nearest 10) and financial figures are in cash prices.
5. For further information, or to request an interview, HMIC’s press office can be contacted during office hours from 8:30am – 5:30pm Monday – Friday on 0203 513 0600.
6. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest, and rigorously examines the effectiveness of police forces and authorities to tackle crime and terrorism, improve criminal justice and raise confidence. HMIC inspects and regulates all 43 police forces in England and Wales together with other major policing bodies such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the British Transport Police and HMRC.
7. HMIC’s out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.
8. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out an inspection of all 43 police forces in England and Wales in spring 2011, to see how they were planning to meet this financial challenge. When the results were published in July 2011 (search for ‘Valuing the Police’ on [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)), we committed to returning one year later to report on progress, and to assess whether there had been any impact on the service provided to the public.

