



The Office of Matthew Grove

Working hard to keep you safe

Pacific Exchange
40 High Street
Hull
HU1 1PS
www.humberside-pcc.gov.uk

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Contact: Matthew Grove
Tel: 01482 220787
Fax: 01482 220794
e-mail: pcc@humberside.pnn.police.uk

Our ref: PW/CE/2013

2 August 2013

Dear Home Secretary

POLICING IN AUSTERITY: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

I am writing to you with my comments on the recently published report prepared by HMIC, as required by statute. The report is entitled 'Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge'.

I would like to place on record that the report is fully welcomed by me, as it is already proving to be of use in understanding the financial challenges ahead and it adds impetus to the progress already made. It helps me also to communicate the challenges to my force, partners and the public.

HMIC have rightly recognised that the savings requirement for Humberside is smaller than for other forces. This is because, locally, we started to address the challenge earlier and we were more far reaching in our actions. We have been working to a savings plan which is, by design, both balanced across the organisation as well as being focused on maintaining front line capacity and capability so that the public continue to be properly protected and served.

I am pleased that our careful financial planning has allowed us to spread the challenges of the spending review across a number of years so that we don't have to make rushed decisions that could put at risk the communities of East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire.

As part of my Police and Crime Plan, I am constantly looking for opportunities to improve and as you will be aware we have been at the forefront of business and workforce modernisation. Following my election, I have also carried out my own detailed work and determined that I should continue our active involvement in collaborating across the Yorkshire and Humber region with other police forces and police and crime commissioners, as well as locally, with unitary authorities and other community safety partners. In addition, I am also pursuing collaborative ventures with other emergency services.

I am very pleased to see in the report clear support from HMIC for our new Chief Constable Justine Curran. She is clearly personally committed to delivering my Police and Crime Plan while also having the vision and ability to ensure the shape and style of the Force in the future is right to deliver my ambitions within that plan.

HMIC has also pointed out that we have a strong track record of delivering savings as well as being successful in protecting front line capability. It was therefore reassuring to see that, against that background, the national crime statistics released at the same time showed that crime continued to fall in East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire by 11% for 2012/13, while victim satisfaction remained high at 85.9%, however I take no false comfort from this as local people still suffer from unacceptable levels of serious crime and violent crime.

As you will be aware from the report, we have already delivered £23m of savings and there is a further £9m currently being implemented. But I am also mindful that this report by HMIC was prepared before we knew the next chapter in the spending review.

For the future, in common with all public services, the latest treasury announcements indicate that we can now expect a significant financial challenge. Whilst there is, at present, a great deal of uncertainty about the detail of the funding that we will receive, it is clear based on my early projections we will have to find new ways of working on the delivery of services, together with partners. The changes required are highlighted in my Police and Crime Plan and at this stage I estimate we will have to deliver £25m to £30m of new savings between 2013/14 and 2018/19. That makes the total financial challenge for the period 2010/11 to 2018/19 just over £60m of the budget.

The approach I have adopted locally will fully address the issues raised in the HMIC report.

Finally, I will continue to welcome the work of HMIC around this area of business and particularly the input of Roger Baker, whose constructive and informed challenge is of huge value to me.

I hope that this information is of use.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Matthew Grove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Matthew Grove
Police and Crime Commissioner

cc: Roger Baker, HM Inspector of Constabulary