

We use your council tax money to help keep our county safe.

Suffolk Police Authority has a duty to ensure that policing in Suffolk is both efficient and effective.

The Authority is an independent body made up of elected councillors and eight independent members from the local community, including one Magistrate.

Its key responsibilities include the following:

- ▶ making sure Suffolk Constabulary does all it can to improve policing in our local communities;
- ▶ setting the budget for policing in Suffolk. The Government awards an annual grant to the Authority, which is supplemented by your council tax contribution. The level of this contribution is decided only after the Authority has consulted widely with the public and local businesses. The Authority has to strike a balance between keeping council tax increases as low as possible, while ensuring an effective policing service that local people have come to expect;
- ▶ seeking the views of local people on policing priorities, through consultation including public meetings and surveys;
- ▶ setting policing objectives and targets, based on national priorities and local needs;
- ▶ monitoring police performance against objectives and targets and holding the Chief Constable to account;
- ▶ working closely with a range of partners in the county, to make our communities safer;
- ▶ monitoring complaints made against the police; and
- ▶ appointing the Constabulary's Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constable.

More information about the Authority, its membership and when it holds its meetings can be found on its website at www.suffolkpoliceauthority.org.uk



Your money has helped us make Suffolk even safer.

Crime in the county continues to fall, while more offences are solved.



At the end of 2008, overall crime in Suffolk was showing a decrease of 3.2%, a fall of more than 1100 crimes compared to the same period (April to December) during the previous year. This included falls in house burglary (down 9%), vehicle crime (down 7%) and criminal damage (down 6%).

At the same time, more crime was detected, resulting in the detection rate increasing by 3.6% - or nearly an extra 1000 crimes solved.

This positive performance follows a fall in crime of 5.4%, or 2766 crimes, during the financial year 2007/08 as well as an increase in the detection rate of 2.3% - or more than 300 extra crimes solved.

There have been further improvements in key areas such as reducing the time taken to answer both emergency and non-emergency calls.

Surveys reveal that local people continue to show high levels of confidence and satisfaction with the service offered by their local police.

During the past year, the Constabulary has re-organised its Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs), which are the cornerstone of local policing in Suffolk.

There are now 30 SNTs covering every community in Suffolk – and, as a result of the re-organisation, officers within each SNT are now dedicated to policing priorities identified by local people.

The Authority and Constabulary are also ensuring that more staff help the SNTs with their work by:

- ▶ increasing Police Community Support Officers in the county, through a match-funding scheme involving local organisations, including councils;
- ▶ introducing a Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, which gives people such as street wardens, park rangers and security staff targeted police powers to tackle issues such as graffiti, abandoned cars and anti-social behaviour; and
- ▶ boosting the number of Special Constables and other volunteers.

You can find out who is in your SNT and its priorities by visiting www.safersuffolk.org.uk. Every Police Authority member has a link to at least one SNT in the county, to help monitor performance. More details about the Authority and its work can be found at: www.suffolkpoliceauthority.org.uk

Your contribution to policing will help us improve our service to you.

Suffolk is a low cost, high performing force. Our aim for the year ahead is to continue to improve on our already good performance despite the tough financial climate and the continuing need to make efficiency savings.

In the year ahead, the Constabulary's work will range from solving problems identified by local communities to helping the national policing effort to tackle organised crime and terrorism.

Through this work, the Authority and Constabulary want to further increase people's confidence that their local police force is dealing with the issues that concern them.

Already, the Constabulary has taken a step towards this by complying with the new Policing Pledge, which tells the public about the quality of service they should expect from the police.

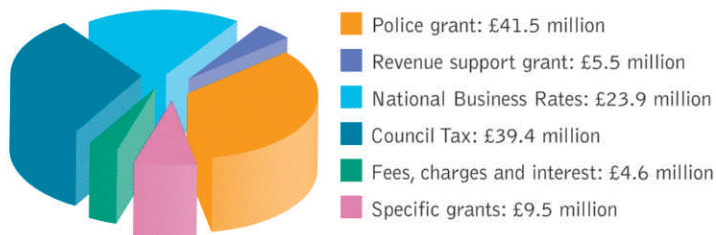
It includes standards about answering and dealing with calls, giving people information about crime and policing issues in their area and dealing promptly with any dissatisfaction.

The full pledge can be found at www.suffolk.police.uk

In the year ahead, the Authority and Constabulary will continue to:

- ▶ provide the technological support needed to police in the 21st century, such as a new helicopter, with enhanced equipment. There will also be the introduction of hand-held mobile technology that will allow frontline officers to record crime data without having to return to the police station, giving them more time to spend in their local community;
- ▶ improve and invest in custody facilities at our main police stations;
- ▶ review areas of activity, to improve performance and make efficiency savings; and
- ▶ work collaboratively with Norfolk Constabulary and Norfolk Police Authority to improve the efficiency of support services – and invest the savings in frontline policing. Areas of activity being looked at include Human Resources and Information Communication Technology. This year will see the launch of a joint Major Investigation Team to investigate murders and other serious crimes, allowing both forces to better manage large scale and complex investigations.

Where the money comes from



Where we spend the money

Total spending last year: £120.6 million Total spending this year: £124.4 million



After taking into account income, the net budget is £110.3m.

This represents an effective increase of 3.15% over 2008/09.

As a result, the Police's part of the Council Tax is rising by 4.27%.

This means the charge for a Band D property this year will be £156.06, a rise of £6.39

For 2009/10 cashable efficiency savings of £2.0m have been identified, building upon savings in previous years. In addition, productivity gains of £2.65m have been identified, enabling a better service to be provided from existing resources.

If you have any views on our budget or how we spend your money, please fill in our survey. Log on to www.suffolkpoliceauthority.org.uk scroll down to the 'have your say' section and click on the link.