



Surrey Police Authority – Budget Factsheet 09/10

Police Forces in England and Wales have two main streams of funding – central grants provided by the Government, and the Council Tax precept. Unlike local authorities, they cannot raise funds by charging for their services.

Surrey Police continues to face serious shortfalls in its funding, principally as a result of flaws in the funding formula that the Government uses to decide how much money a particular area needs for policing.

At present, the funding formula looks at the demographics of an area (areas of deprivation, the number high earners etc) and levels of indigenous crime (crime committed by residents of the area). It does not take into account other challenges, like the volume of commuters travelling through an area or the number of criminals coming into a county from surrounding areas to commit crime.

As you will learn below, these 'blind spots' mean that huge challenges faced by Surrey Police are not being picked up by the funding formula, and thus not being provided for by the Government.

Central Funding for Surrey Police

- Of all of the counties in the UK, Surrey contributes more in taxes to the Exchequer than any other, equivalent to **£12,000** for every man, woman and child in the county every year.
- Yet out of the 43 Territorial Police Forces in the UK, Surrey Police receives the **41st** lowest level of central government funding
- Surrey receives around **£93** per head of population for policing, compared to an average of **£132** per head for other forces excluding London (this figure increases to **£150** per head when the Metropolitan Police are factored in)
- Over the past decade, real-terms funding per head of population has fallen by 39% in Surrey. This is the biggest fall out of all of the Police Forces in England & Wales
- For the coming year, Government funding for Surrey Police has been increased by the lowest possible figure – 2.5%. Other forces have received increases of up to 4%

This formula does not take into account some of the unique policing challenges facing Surrey:

Unique Policing Issues in Surrey

- Around **50%** of the crime committed in Surrey is committed by people who do not live in the area (and for which we receive no funding)
- We border London, which brings substantial policing challenges related to cross-border crime, and also around policing the huge numbers of commuters passing through Surrey every day.
- We have two international airports on our borders – Heathrow and Gatwick.
- We have a substantial and extremely busy motorway network running through Surrey, with the busiest points of the M25, M3 and M23 all situated in the county.

As a result of the shortfall, we have to rely on the Council Tax payer to provide the money to tackle these challenges.

Local Funding for Surrey Police

- Because of the lack of central funding described above, the Surrey taxpayer has to pay more for their police force through Council Tax than taxpayers anywhere else in the UK. In Surrey, the Council Taxpayer provides around **50%** of the total cost of policing in the county, compared to a national average of around **25%**.
- Surrey Police's proposed budget requirement for 2009/10 is **£198,796,076.90**
- This is a 3.8% increase in our actual budget, or a 4.8% increase against the notional budget set by the Government following its decision to cap the Authority last year.
- For a Band D property owner, the cost of policing for 2009/10 is **£197.10**
- This is a precept increase of **4.89%** - **£9.18** per year – **76.5** pence per month

We are doing all that we can to make sure that the organisation is as efficient and effective as possible:

Surrey Police – Effective & Efficient

- Surrey Police is consistently one of the top performing police forces in the country.
- Recent figures suggest around **80%** of Surrey people are confident in their police force
- This year has seen substantial reductions in serious crime in Surrey.
- The Audit Commission places Surrey Police in the highest possible category for efficiency and use of its resources. It describes Surrey Police's continued delivery of high performance with limited resources as 'providing excellent value for money to the taxpayer'.
- Over the last decade, more than **£50m** savings have been made and re-invested in front line policing
- As a result, Surrey Police's expenditure per Band D household is lower than that of any other force in the country.
- Surrey is regarded as a national leader in the way it manages its people and other resources to get the most out of what is available.
- We are leading the way in reducing bureaucracy, pursuing the wishes of local people before numerical government targets. Surrey Police encourages its officers to deal with low-level incidents with common sense, rather than resorting to formal action every time. Thousands of hours of officer time have been saved by this approach.
- We continue to look for more savings across the organisation.

As efficient an organisation as Surrey Police is, so acute are our funding issues that front line policing services are at stake should our funding situation worsen in the coming year. To try and protect the front line as far as possible for 2009/10, we have had to make some very difficult decisions:

Surrey Police Services in 2009/10

- The budget for 2009/10 requires a reduction in our headcount of some **144** officers & staff, as a result of our funding problems
- We have also halved the funding we make available for local crime reduction activities with partner organisations.

We remain committed to the direction taken in our three year Local Policing Plan 2008-11, which puts the wishes of the Surrey Public before central targets. We will also continue to crack down on the cross-border criminals committing crimes in Surrey

Finally, we will continue to do all that we can to protect the frontline services that people expect from the Police from future reductions.