

Essex Police Authority is responsible for the police service which incorporates the Essex County Council area and the two unitary authority areas of Southend and Thurrock. It levies a separate council tax on all properties in its area to pay for this responsibility. This leaflet summarises Essex Police Authority's plan for policing in 2006/2007, and how this and general policing services will be paid for.

The mission statement of Essex Police is 'taking a lead in making Essex safer'. This will be achieved by reducing crime and disorder, easing the fear of crime, reassuring the public, and by delivering best value services.

Essex is considered by its residents to be one of the safest counties in the country and figures from the latest British Crime Survey put it in the top ten of the safest forces nationally.

Local Policing Plan

Essex Police Authority's annual policing plan shows how Essex Police will deliver on policing priorities in 2006/2007, taking into account the requirements of both the National Policing Plan and the priorities of local communities.

A key aspect of the planning process is the consultation undertaken by Essex Police Authority and Essex Police with local people, which has highlighted the main issues that residents want addressed, which are now the top priorities for Essex Police Authority and Essex Police.

- To increase police visibility and reassurance
- To improve both the timeliness and the quality of response to calls for assistance, and
- To tackle anti-social behaviour and disorder

Policing Priorities

In addition to the above priorities, the force will focus its activities and resources on those crimes that most affect the people of Essex. These include continuing to reduce burglary, vehicle crime, violent crime and drug and alcohol-related crime, and increasing the number of offences brought to justice, while providing a high quality, public focused service.

A review of the structure of Essex Police has recently been undertaken, involving widespread public consultation. The findings resulted in the number of Divisions being reduced from ten to six in order to improve the force's ability to:

- Prevent and reduce crime
- Increase detection rates
- Make a positive impact on anti-social behaviour by increasing police numbers and visibility by putting an additional 200 police officers on the frontline by 31st March 2006 with an aim to continue this in the future.

The focus on frontline policing will be further enhanced by the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the county during the coming year. The dedicated teams, who will be known to their local communities, will provide a highly visible and accessible service and work closely with local people and partners to reduce crime nuisance and disorder and improve neighbourhood conditions.

Further initiatives to increase reassurance and accessibility include the ongoing programme to extend the opening hours of police stations across the county, and police attendance at every reported crime.

The full Local Policing Plan, which gives further details of policing priorities and associated targets, will be available on the Essex Police website after March 31, 2006 at www.essex.police.uk.

Financing the Plan

The budget overleaf details how Essex Police Authority will fund policing services in 2006/07 and its commitments are detailed in the Essex Policing Plan.

Financial Settlement and Budget

The Essex Police Authority has approved a budget of £231.9 m for the force, representing a spending

increase of 4.0 % over adjusted 2005/06 budget. The difference between the level of external funding of £162.6m and the budget set by the Police Authority will be met by an increase in the council tax of 5.9%, (a rise of 12 pence per week for a band D property). Budget reductions and efficiency savings of £7.3m have been built into the budget.

Committed increases include £1.2m for major projects including the Contact Management Programme (CMP), which will develop the forces telephone contact with the public and provide a new centralised crime and intelligence bureau. Further commitments include DNA and forensic science £1m, probationer training £0.5m, interpreters and medical examiners £0.2m. The financing of one-off items is being funded by withdrawals of £3.6m from specific reserves, and £2.7m from the general reserve.

As part of the budget settlement the authority will receive approximately £10m from specific national grants. This will include up to £6.1m for the Crime Fighting Fund (CFF) which funds 207 police officers, and £2m for the Neighbourhood Policing Fund which will fund 75% of 122 additional Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

Service Investment Programme

The agreed budget will provide for a programme of service investment totaling £8.6m. Reinvestment is £3.9m and this will fund an additional 125 front line police officers, £1.3m for a further 38 police officers, and £0.9m for 133 PCSOs.

Essex Police Authority Planned Spending

| | 2005/06 (£000) | 2006/07 (£000) | Cost per head of population (£) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Net Expenditure | 238,154 | 238,323 | |
| Less use of Balances | 5,925 | 6,338 | |
| Budget Requirement | 232,229 | 231,985 | 140.29 |
| Less Formula Grant & Pension Changes* | 9,256 | | |
| Adjusted Budget Requirement | 222,973 | | |

Financed by:

| | 2005/06 (£000) | 2006/07 (£000) | Cost per head of population (£) |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Home Office Grant* | 90,473 | 98,828 | 59.73 |
| Revenue Support Grant & Business Rates* | 67,243 | 63,791 | 38.55 |
| Council Tax | 64,764 | 69,094 | 41.76 |
| Surplus on Collection Fund | 493 | 272 | 0.16 |

* adjusted to reflect formula grant and pension adjustments

Loans

As at 31 March 2006, Essex Police Authority has no outstanding debt.

Council Tax 2006/07

Band D is used as the base for calculating the tax. The number of Band D equivalent properties in Essex is 622,633. In order to raise council tax income of £69.1m a Council Tax (Band D) of £110.97 is required. The other seven bands are fixed in direct proportions to Band D:

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Band A | £73.98 | Band B | £86.31 | Band C | £98.64 | Band D | £110.97 |
| Band E | £135.63 | Band F | £160.29 | Band G | £184.95 | Band H | £221.94 |

Staff Numbers (full time equivalent)

| Estimated provision in budget | 2005/06 | 2006/07 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Police Officers* | 3,208 | 3,306 |
| Police Community Support Officers | 205 | 338 |
| Police Staff | 2,019 | 2,063 |
| Special Constables | 380 | 430 |
| Cadets | 24 | 24 |

* seconded and career break officers are excluded

Best Value

Best Value is a framework designed to drive continuous improvement in the delivery of services. Since April 1, 2000, the Local Government Act has required Police Authorities to ensure their force conducts reviews of core processes using Best Value methodology. Home Office guidance prescribes the areas that can, should and could be covered by a Best Value Review (BVR).

Best Value Review Programme (BVR)

A three-year BVR rolling programme which began in April 2005 is shown below:

| 2005/2006 (Year 1) | 2006/2007 (Year 2) | 2007/2008 (Year 3) |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| The Crime Process (<i>merging Crime Process with Volume Crime and Forensic Management</i>) | Community Engagement | Estates Management |
| Force Structure and Policing Style | Workforce & Succession Planning | Managing Performance |

In 2005, BVRs of Procurement and Force Structure and Policing Style were published, making recommendations to improve service delivery.

Equality Schemes

Both Essex Police Authority and Essex Police have Equality Schemes which set out:

- a) How we aim to identify any activities and policies which may impact disproportionately on different communities, and
- b) How we shall address any areas where this may happen

We are also currently working to meet the requirements of the new duty to promote disability equality and shall produce revised Equality Schemes by December 2006.

For further details please contact the Equality & Diversity Manager on 01245 452988.

For Further Information

Essex Police Authority and Essex Police welcome your views about the service we provide.

For further information about Essex Police activities and initiatives please contact the Public Relations Manager, Essex Police Headquarters, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6DA.

Telephone: 01245 452395 **Email:** info@essex.pnn.police.uk

You can find further information about the service provided by Essex Police, on our website at www.essex.police.uk.

For more information about this and other Essex Police Authority responsibilities please visit the website on: www.essex.police.uk/authority.

Alternatively contact the Chief Executive, 3 Hoffmanns Way, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1GU.

Telephone: 01245 291613 **Fax:** 01245 291601 **Email:** epa@essex.pnn.police.uk

If you wish to make comments about the Best Value review programme you can contact the Best Value team directly at Essex Police Headquarters:

Telephone: 01245 452600 **Email:** best.value@essex.pnn.police.uk

If you wish to obtain more detailed financial information, please contact the Financial Services department at police headquarters:

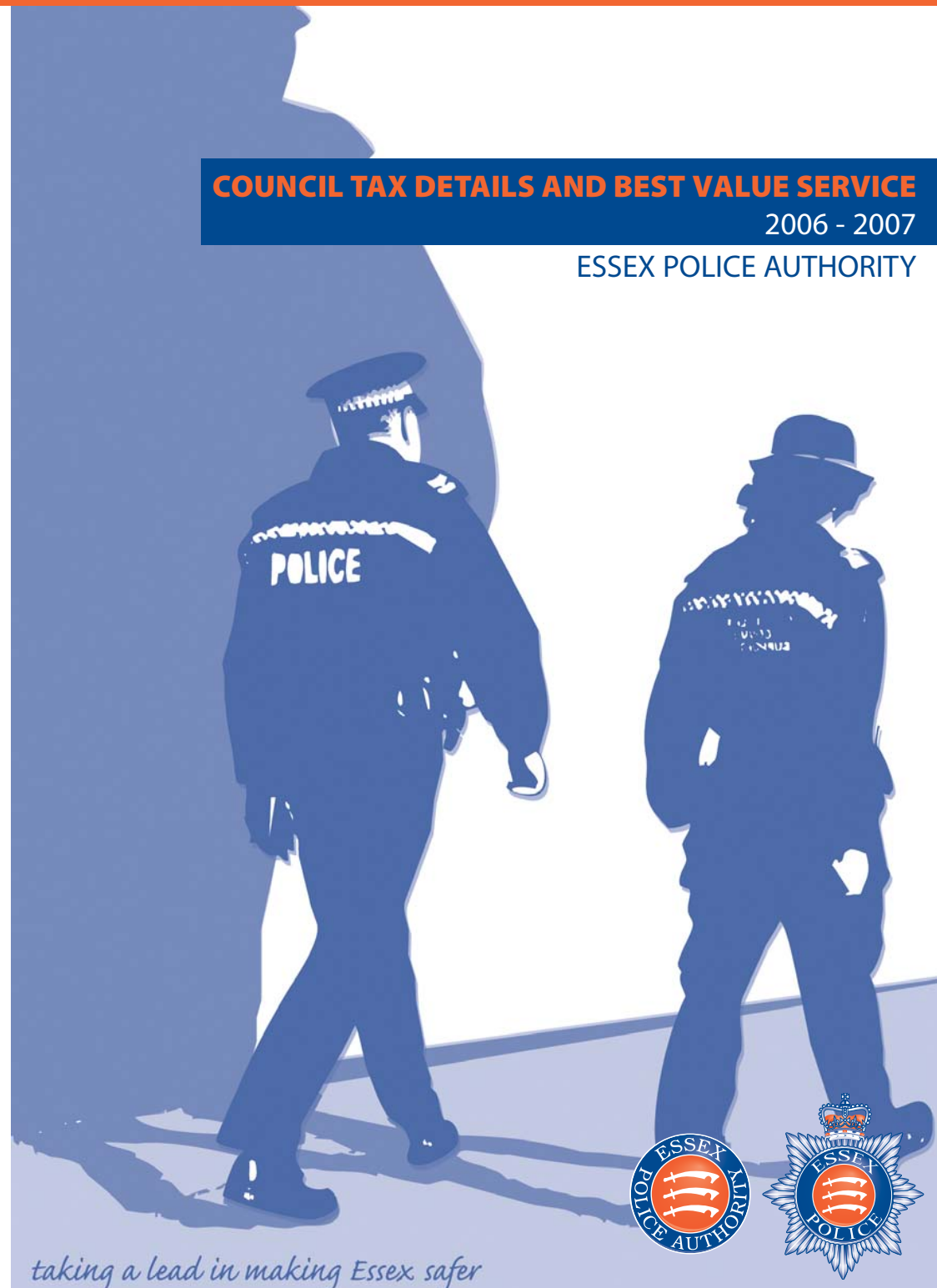
Telephone: 01245 452615 **Fax:** 01245 452568 **Email:** financehelp@essex.pnn.police.uk

Information on the National Policing Plan and Police Reform Programme can be found at www.policereform.gov.uk

COUNCIL TAX DETAILS AND BEST VALUE SERVICE

2006 - 2007

ESSEX POLICE AUTHORITY



taking a lead in making Essex safer