



Cheshire Police Authority is the body which sets the annual budget for the Constabulary and raises funds for policing through the local council tax.

Setting this year's budget has been very challenging. We have been working to prevent the Coalition Government's funding cuts from damaging front-line services.

We want to ensure that policing services continue in a way that people expect whilst making £35.4m savings over the next four years.

Savings of £7m have already been made but further savings of almost £11m will be needed this year. 84% of the police budget is spent on people, so cuts in the number of people we employ is unavoidable. Many officers based in specialist units in Headquarters have already been re-deployed to local communities and we have partially frozen police officer recruitment.

We have also changed the way we work to cut budgets across the Constabulary to keep staff reductions to a minimum.

Police officer numbers will reduce by 62 this year and up to a further 151 over the following three years. 446 police staff posts are predicted to be lost over the same period.

Police Community Support Officers make a positive impact on community problems such as anti-social behaviour. In many areas they are part-funded by local councils, parishes and other organisations. The Authority is seeking to maintain at least 215 PCSOs this year.

The challenge is to ensure that your police service is efficient and effective and that we have the right people with the right skills working to continue to keep you safe.

Margaret Ollerenshaw,
Chairman of the Police Authority

