

Lincolnshire Police Authority and Lincolnshire Police



ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008



The year under review was an exceptional one in terms of performance which contributed significantly to our overall aim to make Lincolnshire an even safer place to live and work. Crime, and in particular crime which we treat as a priority, reduced again.

The headlines are that crime has fallen for the fourth successive year with burglary in particular showing a 43% reduction over the last three years which amounts to 1,826 fewer victims in that category alone.

But it was also a year of unprecedented challenge for the Force and the Authority in the context of increased demands, not least from Her Majesty's Inspectorate and the National Police Improvement Agency. All this against a backdrop of severe budgetary difficulties makes the achievements of the Force all the more impressive.

The proportion of crimes where an offender is punished ('sanctioned detections') has again increased and in the second half of the year there was a substantial rise in the satisfaction levels

of those we dealt with as victims of crime.

'We are immensely proud of the fact that we have provided an improved level of service at a time when the funding gap between us and every other force was never greater.'

The year was dominated by the sustainable funding campaign and our efforts to win the hearts and minds of the people we serve but also convince Government of our case for increased funding.

Historically low increases in Council Tax and the lowest government funding per head of population had led to a funding gap of £6m which was destined to continue to widen further without a major increase in funding.

The one-off grant of £3.4m made in the 2007/08 year implied that the Government acknowledged Lincolnshire Police Authority's predicament and it was made on the condition of a recovery plan being submitted. The latter was presented to the Home Office in June 2007 – within their stated deadline.



Richard Crompton

Richard Crompton
Chief Constable



Angela Crowe

Angela Crowe
Chairman



Performance

Notwithstanding the stringent funding situation, by optimum use of resources there have been a number of successes in meeting our stated priorities and actually making a difference to the provision of policing.

THE PRIORITIES IN 2007/2008 WERE:

- ❑ To reduce violent crime
There were 816 fewer crimes recorded which is a reduction of 8.4% on the previous year.
- ❑ Reduce the number of young people (under 16) who suffered fatal or serious injury as the result of road traffic collisions
There were 10% fewer casualties in this category.
- ❑ Reduce crime by 9% (as measured in the British Crime Survey)
Overall crime decreased by 9.6% - a reduction of 3,070 fewer crimes and victims.
- ❑ To achieve a sanctioned detection rate of 25%
A detection rate of 27.9% was achieved.
- ❑ We wanted to deal with the things that members of the community had said were important to them.
59% of people surveyed agreed that we did.
- ❑ We wanted to ensure we kept members of the community informed and improved satisfaction with the overall service.
67.6% of people were happy with the way we kept them informed which was 2.4% below our target and 78.8% said they were happy with the overall service we provided – which was 6.2% below our target.

'We are proud that the Force continues to improve performance in most areas and is seen to be using its precious resources effectively'.



RETIREMENT OF CHIEF CONSTABLE

Tony Lake QPM

Tony Lake, who was appointed Chief Constable in 2004, announced his intention to retire in June 2008.

The fight to increase the funding from central government dominated his tenure but despite the considerable amount of time spent on that issue he has managed to lead the Force into improved performance both in terms of crime reduction and staff absence rates which have improved to one of the best in the country.



NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Deborah McGovern was appointed in October 2007 following the retirement of Roger Buttery and the tenure of the interim post holder, Annette Wood. Deborah joins Lincolnshire from a similar position with British Transport Police and was immediately at the forefront of the fight for a better deal for Lincolnshire Police from central Government and the appointment of the replacement for retiring Chief Constable, Tony Lake.



Focusing on the Citizen



Local policing and what local people expect from their policing service is key to the delivery of an excellent service. Numerous events took place during the year when this issue was addressed and people were invited to tell us what they expect and what they want. These included:

- ❑ Public meetings and forums where local policing issues were considered and debated.
- ❑ A 'You pay you say' engagement event which gave people the opportunity to decide how they would allocate the limited resources to the policing priorities.
- ❑ The hosting of Independent Advisory Group (IAG) meetings to advise on the

development of the service we provide specifically in the context of diversity and minority groups.

- ❑ Regular public meetings and surveys – which resulted in a majority response in support of increased funding to invest and improve services.

NEW SOUTH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS


In November 2007 the long-planned Divisional Headquarters for South Division was opened ahead of time and within budget. It was a long-overdue replacement for the original building which dated back to 1858.




Policing with Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Empathy

Joint Vision

The Force and the Authority have adopted a joint vision:





LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE



Our vision

Policing with **PRIDE**

- P**rofessionalism
- R**espect
- I**ntegrity
- D**edication
- E**mpathy



Policing with Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Empathy

2007/8 Events

OPEN DAY

The second Force Open Day was held in May and presented an ideal opportunity to engage with the community we serve. An estimated 7,000 people attended the event and, judging by the comments and feedback, thoroughly enjoyed their day. There was a whole range of events to entertain and engage including live displays by the police dogs and underwater search unit and static displays from the operational support unit, fleet, wildlife crime, police and police staff recruiting, operational training, crime reduction, adding up to more than 50 displays in the two large marquees



FLOODING

The unpredictability of the commitment to operational policing was starkly illustrated during the summer when the Force led on two multi-agency operations to deal with major emergencies. The inundation in June and then again in July led to widespread flooding in both rural and urban areas throughout the County. The operation was 'Gold' and 'Silver' controlled from an operations centre within Fire and Rescue headquarters in Lincoln and the protracted operations on both occasions involved senior representatives from a range of agencies including the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Fire & Rescue, the Ambulance Service and District Councils and Lincolnshire County Council. Local radio stations also sent representatives to the centre so that latest and live reports could be broadcast.

Head of emergency planning for the County, Brian Kirkham cited the operations as a great

success for multi-agency working. "The numerous agencies came together under one roof which led to good camaraderie and good working relationships. If the police wanted something doing it was simply done. The command and control was excellent."

The scale of the operation can be judged from the statistics which amounted to more than 500 houses and 3 schools affected and nearly 200 people having to leave their homes and be provided with accommodation. Local councils issued more than 35,000 sandbags and over 7,000 calls for assistance were dealt with.



HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE

The inspection carried out during October by Her Majesty's Inspectorate returned performance grades in six areas of operation. Two were graded 'Good' and four were 'Fair'

HMIC Definition of Grades

Excellent	describes the highest level of performance for forces operating leading edge practices. Few forces are expected to achieve this level.
Good	is high quality, above minimum standards.
Fair	is an acceptable level of service where all significant criteria area met.
Poor	represents an unacceptable level of service.

Neighbourhood Policing - 'Good'

HMIC acknowledged that budget restrictions jeopardised the continuing high level of performance in this area. They noted significant progress with teams, 'starting to deliver partnership solutions to local problems and quality of life issues'. Notwithstanding the resource issues, the Force continues to work with local communities to develop training and the overall concept of neighbourhood policing.



Performance Management - 'Good'

HMIC noted a, 'a strong, embedded performance culture where staff are held to account and given positive support'.

Protecting vulnerable people

The capacity to continue to deliver high levels of performance in this area is directly affected

by the lack of resources. Despite this the Force continues to work on improvements in the development of profiles, intelligence, skills and training and the addressing of an independent audit and vetting regime. There are four areas in this category shown below.

Child Abuse - 'Fair'

Once again resource constraints were noted by HMIC which made recommendations for better documentation on decision making with partners, a review of some posts and improved management information. However it noted that the child protection policy was comprehensive and included good risk assessment procedures.

Domestic Violence - 'Fair'

HMIC recommended further work on streamlining and improving working practices and a review of staffing levels and steps have been taken to include this in the business plan. It was acknowledged that the Force has a robust risk assessment which is reviewed by appropriately trained staff.



Public Protection - 'Fair'

HMIC acknowledged that there was strong information sharing and partnership working and recommended further work on intelligence records and the management of information.

Missing Persons - 'Fair'

The policy and risk assessment process were acknowledged as comprehensive although HMIC assessed that more knowledge of protocols and use of performance information was needed together with a review of staffing levels and caseloads.

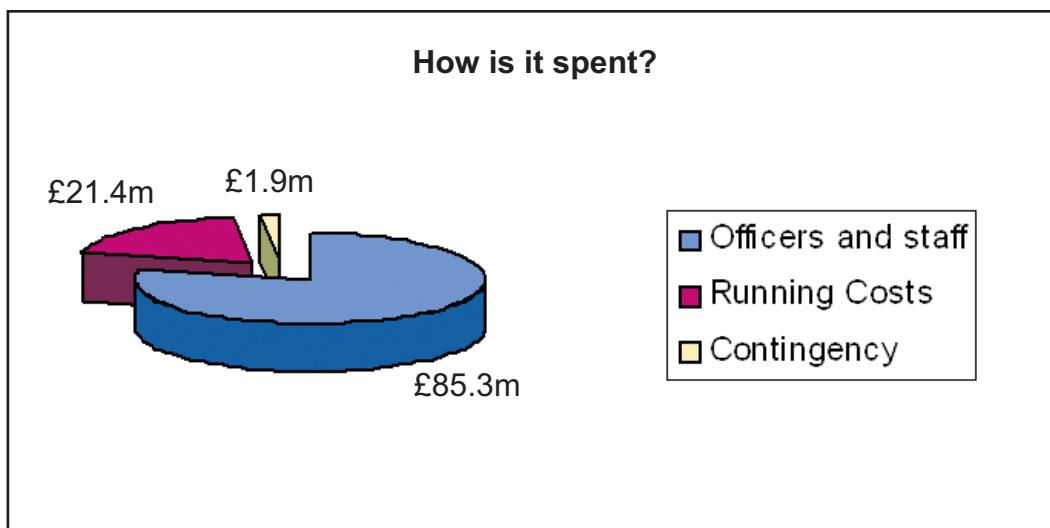
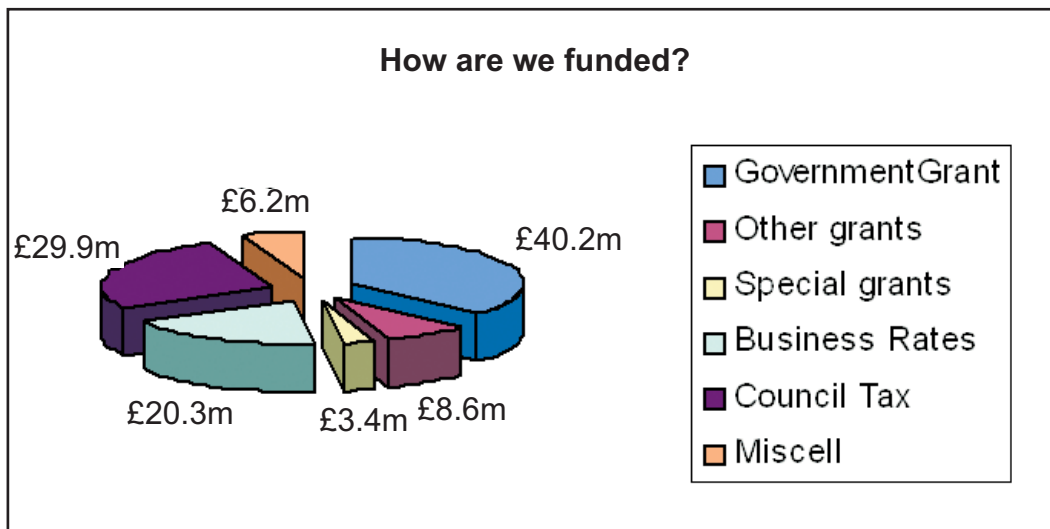
POLICE USE OF RESOURCES EVALUATION (PURE)

During the year the Audit Commission reviewed the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Police Authority's use of resources. Despite the fact that Lincolnshire Police is the lowest cost per head of population, it noted that performance had improved against a rising and ageing population, 'poor'

transport infrastructure and high numbers of seasonal and migrant workers. It acknowledged that the Force was 'performing well' in the areas of 'financial management' and 'value for money'. It also noted that the ability of the Force to further improve was likely to be restricted by the financial position.

RESOURCES

In 2007/08 the funding for Lincolnshire Police of £108.6m was broken down as below:



Over 78% of the money accounted for staffing costs. At year-end the police officer establishment was 1,107 (a similar figure to 10 years ago) 890 police staff and 149 Police Community Support Officers.

The main areas in running costs include vehicles, property including police stations and ICT and other equipment.



Securing Our Future – For £2 Per Week

The decision taken by the Police Authority in February 2008 would have secured and strengthened future policing across Lincolnshire. The increase, which would have seen band D householders paying £2.00 per week extra, would have covered the £6m shortfall and allowed for much needed investment and improvement.

The Lincolnshire Force, which has struggled for many years within an extremely tight budget, would have had the opportunity to transform the way in which it delivered services. When considering the options for the Police element of the council tax bill, the Authority agreed that transformational change was necessary to secure a visible and responsive service and to provide much needed resilience behind the scenes.

Mrs Crowe, the Chairman of the Police Authority summarised the philosophy behind the decision, "Above all, our aim is to make sure that Lincolnshire people feel safe, and are safe. Without additional investment, the service gaps would have grown and we would not have been

doing our job in ensuring that Lincolnshire has an efficient and effective service."

Lincolnshire Police has been identified in independent research by Loughborough University as one of the most efficient Forces in the country. However with the lowest spend per head of population of all 43 Forces in England and Wales the service reached breaking point. Without significant investment, the performance of Lincolnshire Police could not have been maintained.

The Authority does not see this as the end of their campaign to secure additional Government funding. "The lobbying will not stop just because the budget is set," said Mrs Crowe. "We will continue to fight for a better settlement until we are satisfied that Lincolnshire receives a level of funding from Government that reflects what we deserve."

Note – for further details of our aims, objectives and targets, please see the Lincolnshire Police Strategic Plan 2008 - 2011



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