

REPORT TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1. Meeting:	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
2. Date:	2 December 2013
3. Title:	Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge
4. Organisation:	Police and Crime Commissioner

5. Summary

This report provides members of the Panel with information in relation to the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) report Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge report and the response by the Police and Crime Commissioner to the South Yorkshire Police's response to the funding challenge report.

6. Recommendations

That the Panel note the contents of the report and comment on any matters arising.

7. Proposals and details

At the last meeting, the Police and Crime Panel considered a report on issues that had arisen during the summer period, including in that report was the HMIC Policing in Austerity Report. Members requested that the response by the Police and Crime Commissioner to this report be submitted to the next Police and Crime Panel meeting.

In October 2010, the Government announced that central funding to the Police Service in England and Wales would reduce by 20% in the four years between March 2011 and March 2015.

HMIC's Valuing the Police Programme has tracked how forces are planning to make savings to meet this budget demand each year since summer 2011. The South Yorkshire Police's response to the funding challenge report, published July 2013, identifies what HMIC found in the third year (see Appendix A).

The inspection focused on three questions:

1. How is the force responding to the budget reduction?
2. What is the impact for the workforce and the public?
3. How is the force managing current and future risks?

To answer these questions, HMIC collected data and plans from forces, surveyed the public to see if they had noticed any changes in the service they received from the police as a result of the cuts, and conducted in-force inspections. HMIC also interviewed the Chief Constable, Police and Crime Commissioner and the chief officer leads for finance, change, human resources and performance in each force, and held focus groups with staff and other officers.

National findings and patterns across all 43 forces are given in our thematic report, Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge, which is available from www.hmic.gov.uk

Section 55(5) of the 1996 Police Act requires PCCs to prepare comments on any HMIC's published reports that relate to their force, and then publish these in the manner they see fit. Section 55(6) requires PCCs to send a copy of these comments to the Home Secretary. Commissioner Wright publishes his responses to HMIC on his website site www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk

Attached at Appendix B is Commissioner Wright's response to the HMIC report South Yorkshire Police's response to the funding challenge.

8. Finance

The budget challenges referred to by HMIC show no signs of abating. Detailed discussions with the Chief Constable and his Command Team colleagues are ongoing with a view to addressing cost reduction requirements for 2014/15 and establishing a 'strategic vision' to guide budget and resourcing considerations in the medium term.

These matters will be the subject of further reports to the Panel in due course.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Possible deterioration of force performance, quality of service, delivery and impact on community confidence.

10. Background Papers and Consultation

HMIC thematic report Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge
HMIC south Yorkshire Police's response to the funding challenge

11. Contact

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