



Suffolk Constabulary

PRESS RELEASE

July 21, 2011

HMIC praise preparedness of Norfolk and Suffolk Police to meet financial challenge – plans described as ‘exemplary’

Police chiefs in Norfolk and Suffolk today (Thursday) welcomed the findings of reports from Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary which confirmed that both forces have detailed plans in place to make £38million of savings (combined) over the next four years.

These plans, compiled by the constabularies in close association with their police authorities, place much emphasis on collaborative working to save money and re-engineer working practices.

Both forces also aim to further reduce crime and anti-social behaviour over the next few years.

“The Norfolk and Suffolk collaboration proposals are some of the most ambitious and well-planned in the country,” says Her Majesty’s Inspector. The change plan in place was described as “exemplary”.

Both chief constables say that by working increasingly closely, the people of Suffolk and Norfolk will be able to enjoy a policing style that is right for our times – flexible, affordable and sustainable.

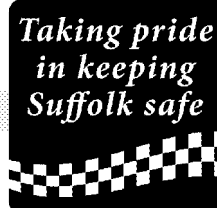
Simon Ash, Chief Constable of Suffolk, said: “It’s pleasing that our work is being recognised nationally and that we are clearly on the right tracks.

“Working collaboratively increases our opportunities to work differently and make efficiency savings. “Yes, there will be fewer officers and staff in both Norfolk and Suffolk but by re-engineering the way we deliver services, we will be minimising the effects of a reduced workforce.

“No one should underestimate how tough it is to make such significant savings and aim to continually reduce the chances of the public being victims either of crime or anti-social behaviour,” he said.

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Phil Gormley, Chief Constable of Norfolk, said: "The model being developed in our counties is ambitious but do-able. We are making great strides in delivering shared services across operational policing and back office functions

"Sharing business support such as ICT, human resources, finance and administration will save us £9.8million with joint policing and criminal justice units saving millions more.

"Ultimately, we are working to preserve, as far as possible, local policing services and the visible frontline that reassures the public.

Both Mr Ash and Mr Gormley paid tribute to the dedication and commitment of everyone delivering the change programme and who are 'going the extra mile' to minimise the impact of what is happening in the service on local people.

Stephen Bett, chairman of Norfolk Police Authority, commented: "The reports are positive for Norfolk and Suffolk and they highlight the innovative approach being taken to meet the financial challenges and also to protect our communities. The road to realising the savings is a long one but these reports are encouraging."

Joanna Spicer, chairman of Suffolk Police Authority, supported those comments, adding that her priority was the protection of visible frontline policing.

"Suffolk was already a low-cost police service which means that our challenge to make savings is all the more greater. Working closely with Norfolk provides one solution to making savings for both counties by the sharing of resources and expertise."

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NOTES TO NEWSROOMS:

1. More information on the reports can be found on the HMIC website at www.hmic.gov.uk
2. Norfolk has to save £24.5million over the next four years and Suffolk £13.6million.

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