Contacting Northumbria Police

By phone:
In an emergency, if somebody's life is in danger or a crime is taking place, call 999.
To report all other crimes or incidents, call 101 or text 07786 200 814.

Examples where people should call 101, or text, include:
- Their car has been stolen.
- Their property has been damaged.
- They suspect drug use or dealing in their neighbourhood.
- They need to report a minor traffic collision.
- They need to give us information about crime in their area.
- They want to speak to us about a general enquiry.

This is also the number to call if you want to talk to us about local problems – where you can be put in touch with the neighbourhood policing team for your area.

For the deaf and hard of hearing:
Minicom 01661 820915 or text 07786 200 815

To write to us about this plan, or to raise any other issues:

Writing to us:
Chief Constable’s Office
Northumbria Police Headquarters
Ponteland
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE20 0BL

Finding us online:
www.northumbria.police.uk
facebook.com/northumbriapolice
twitter.com/northeastbnp

Here you can:
- Find the addresses and opening hours of police stations.
- Find out what is happening in your area.
- Leave feedback about our services.
- Report anti-social behaviour and community safety problems online.
- Record details of your valuables in a secure database.

Finding us online:
www.northumbriapoliceauthority.org.uk

By email: enquiries.npa@gateshead.gov.uk

Contacting Northumbria Police Authority

By phone: 0191 433 2091 (ask for the Police Authority).

Writing to us:
Northumbria Police Authority
Civic Centre
Gateshead
NE8 1HH

Finding us online:
www.northumbriapoliceauthority.org.uk
By email: enquiries.npa@gateshead.gov.uk

Alternative formats (including large format and easy read) of this document are available. Please contact Northumbria Police Authority at the address above, call 0191 433 2091 or email enquiries.npa@gateshead.gov.uk and we will be more than happy to provide additional copies, translations and alternative formats.
Northumbria Police continues to be one of the best performing police forces in the country, with the highest levels of public confidence and satisfaction. Last year there were 6,959 fewer crimes (an 8.4% reduction) and 19,074 fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour (a 16.3% reduction) than in 2010-11. There was also a rise in detected crime, which increased from 41.0% to 43.2%; giving us the second highest detection rate in England and Wales. Other achievements include reducing criminal damage by 17%. We’re also ensuring the most vulnerable people in society are better protected, and have created a Disability Hate Crime Action Plan which will improve reporting, including third party reporting, confidence and satisfaction.

We have achieved this while keeping the cost to each of you as one of the lowest in the country. Because of changes to police funding we did have to make significant savings this past year. We made a commitment to you that we would not reduce the number of officers on the front line and have done this by finding savings that don’t affect the high level of service you expect. Building on this, we have clear plans to carry on making the further savings expected of us over the next few years.

We listen to local people in our daily contact with them, at neighbourhood meetings and in specially commissioned surveys. In this way, we make sure we hear what you have to say and deal with those issues that are important to you.

This will be the last Policing Plan prepared by Northumbria Police and Northumbria Police Authority and, from 2013, an elected Police and Crime Commissioner will be responsible for preparing a Police and Crime Plan. Across England and Wales, the public will be asked to turn out on 15 November 2012, to vote for a Police and Crime Commissioner; who will be accountable for how crime is tackled across their police force area. The Commissioner will replace the Police Authority and we are working together to make sure policing services and standards are maintained during the handover.

We have good relationships with our partners, who help us to make Northumberland and Tyne and Wear a good place to live. We are working closely with them so that together, we can make the best use of our resources to deliver the best possible service to you.

As well as our local responsibilities, we have to keep our eye on the national agenda.

We’re looking forward to supporting the Olympics and the benefits these great sporting events will bring to the region and the wider UK.

Taking all these factors into account, we have prepared this plan to make sure we continue to deliver the level of service and performance needed to keep our communities safe and feeling safe.
The Authority aims to ensure Northumbria has a police service in which all local people have trust and confidence.

Northumbria Police Authority is an independent body made up of 17 people - eight local councillors, one elected Mayor and eight independent members. It is their job to make sure Northumbria Police is doing a good job and fighting crime.

With this plan the Authority sets the strategic direction for policing in 2012-13. Each year we talk to local people, our partners - such as councils, and those in business and commerce. The Authority also works with young people through the Northumbria Youth Police Authority. This gives local people a voice and the chance to share their views on policing, helping us to understand local policing priorities.

The priorities in this plan have been developed using this information together with other national and local policing issues.

Using the plan the Authority will monitor how the police are performing when delivering the priorities. By meeting regularly with Northumbria Police, receiving reports, and continuing to involve local communities, we can ensure resources are effectively used to reduce crime and disorder and provide value for money for local people.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduces major change to police governance arrangements. In November 2012 local Police Authorities will be replaced by locally elected Police and Crime Commissioners. The Police and Crime Commissioner will continue to deliver this plan and from the end of March 2013 will be required to produce and publish a Police and Crime Plan and an Annual Report which reports progress on delivery of the plan.

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY Members

Councillor Mick Henry - Chair
Elected Mayor Linda Arkley
Chris Clarke
John Cooke
Tina Drury
Councillor Martin Gannon
Eleanor Hayward (JP)
Councillor Bob Heron
Councillor Stephen Lambert

Northumbria Police Authority Advisers

Advisers provide strategic support and technical guidance to members. They have leading roles in key areas including legal services, finance, policy, asset management and human resources. They also help build links with stakeholders and partners throughout Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.

Our role
Northumbria Police Authority has a number of key responsibilities, including:

- Listening to Northumbria’s communities to ensure they get the policing services they want.
- Setting policing priorities and targets.
- Checking police are fighting crime through measuring, scrutinising and managing performance.
- Setting and controlling the police budget each year ensuring money is spent wisely and not wasted.
- Deciding how much people pay for their police service through local council tax.
- Appointing senior police officers and making sure they are effective.
- Working with partners to improve the quality of life in Northumbria.

Our plans for 2012-13
In 2012-13, Northumbria Police Authority will:

- Continue to engage with communities across Northumbria to set policing priorities which meet local needs and priorities and increase public confidence.
- Focus on value for money while still delivering policing services local people want.
- Work closely with partners to improve policing services and community safety.
- Respond to any proposed national changes in policing, while maintaining the high levels of confidence local communities already have in Northumbria Police.
NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Northumbria Police is one of the largest police forces in England and Wales serving more than 1.4 million people in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear:

The Force covers 2,150 square miles including a range of geographic areas - two cities, three heavily populated urban areas and extensive rural landscapes.

There are six local policing areas – known as Area Commands - which cover the Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland local authority areas.

The Force currently has a workforce of 3,875 FTE Police Officers, 1,499 FTE Police Staff and 419 FTE Community Support Officers. It also benefits from the support of Special Constables and volunteers. At present, 1.6% of police officers are from minority ethnic communities and 26.7% are female.

The Chief Constable is responsible for all policing services and, with support from the Chief Officer Team:
• manages operational policing;
• monitors performance;
• engages with local communities and partners; and
• manages the budget.

Northumbria Police’s Chief Officer Team is shown below:

Further information can be found at: www.northumbria.police.uk
OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

Northumbria Police’s Vision is:

To build trust and confidence in the community and reduce crime and disorder.

This is underpinned by the Chief Constable’s commitment to you:

“At Northumbria Police we want to give the best possible service to our communities. We can only do this with your help.

“We want to get to know our communities and meet you at public meetings. My officers will also make themselves available in the places you use, such as shops and community centres, to hear your concerns and feed back important information to you.

“We will treat everyone with respect at all times, making sure you have fair access to all our services.

“We are a caring, professional organisation and whenever you get in touch with us we will always try to respond in the most appropriate way, answering all calls promptly.

“My officers and staff will attend emergencies as quickly and safely as possible.

“Your local officers are there to help you, patrolling in areas where you say you need them most. Get to know them, use our website and, most of all, work with us for a safer community where you live.”
OUR PRIORITIES - HOW WE ARRIVED AT THEM

Our objectives - what we aim to achieve - take account of the needs and priorities of our local communities and regional and national priorities.

This is the last Local Policing Plan jointly prepared by Northumbria Police Authority and Northumbria Police. It refreshes the 2011-14 Policing Plan and focuses on 2012-13. Police and Crime Commissioners will be required to issue their own Police and Crime Plan by the end of March 2013.

As in previous years, we have put a lot of effort into making sure our priorities are the right ones to deliver the service our public expects.

Public consultation and engagement

We deal with the public every day and, in order to understand the issues that are most important to local people and communities, we hold ‘Police and Communities Together’ (PACT) meetings and Police and Community Forums.

We also carry out the Safer Communities Survey in partnership with local councils and criminal justice agencies. Northumbria is the only Force which works with partners to conduct a joint survey. This allows us to respond more effectively to the key things the public are telling us are important to them, whilst also keeping them safe.

These four priorities are supported by seven objectives, each with specific performance targets.

In preparing this Local Policing Plan we have also taken into account our historic performance in reducing crime and disorder and considered the risks and challenges which could face the Force and our region in the next few years. These challenges include:

- Protecting our children from grooming
- Reducing crime and disorder, including in those areas which are seeing an increase

We also need to consider the national agenda, including legislation such as the ‘Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act’. This will introduce Police and Crime Commissioners at the end of 2012 and the newly created ‘Strategic Policing Requirement’ (SPR) where the Home Secretary sets out our responsibilities to support national policing. The SPR prioritises the threats listed below as those of national importance or those that can only be tackled at a national level:

- Terrorism.
- Other civil emergencies needing a response across police force boundaries.
- Organised crime.
- Threats to public order or public safety which cannot be managed by a single police force alone, such as the 2011 riots.
- A large-scale cyber incident, such as a criminal attack on a financial institution or where many people or businesses across the UK are targeted.

Police Forces and Police and Crime Commissioners must work together with other partners, to respond effectively to these threats. They must have sufficient capability and maintain capacity to deal with the threats locally whilst supporting national activities.

Our agreed priorities

We have developed our four priorities around the key things the public are telling us are important to them, whilst also keeping them safe.

We work in close partnership with a wide range of organisations to address our priorities. We want to acknowledge their contribution and have provided further information about them on page 24.

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MEASURING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Setting targets
Northumbria Police Authority ensures Northumbria Police is fighting crime and dealing with the things that are important to our communities.

To do this the Authority agrees targets for the Force to achieve each year. They then meet regularly with the Chief Officers and provide ongoing scrutiny and challenge against these targets.

Our targets are based on the performance of forces comparable to Northumbria and aim to match the best of these, while achieving continuous improvement.

The public’s view
Ultimately Northumbria Police is accountable to the public it serves and the Police Authority regularly holds public meetings to hear their views.

Northumbria Police continually assesses progress against its objectives and is in contact with the public on a daily basis, through surveys, social media and community groups.

Inspection findings
National inspections are a further measure of our performance. Last year, as part of a series of national inspections, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) looked at several areas of policing in Northumbria. This included our recording of crime and incidents where we are committed to providing quality data, how we respond to anti-social behaviour, and if we provide value for money.

These inspections show Northumbria Police and Northumbria Police Authority in a positive light and we are particularly pleased that HMIC recognises our commitment to consult and engage with the public.

Copies of the HMIC reports can be found on the HMIC website at: www.hmic.gov.uk/inspections

How we measure performance in all aspects of policing and seek the views of the public is summarised in the diagram opposite.

Further information about crime and policing in your area, including Crime Maps, can be viewed at: www.northumbria.police.uk/about_us/targets_and_performance/index.asp

The Crime Maps are also available at: www.police.uk

Public Involvement Through:

Police and Community Forums
Use of social networking
Working with the media
Public surveys
Community messaging
Public consultation
Publishing performance information, including local crime mapping
Daily interaction
Police and Communities together (PACT) meetings held in each neighbourhood

Northumbria Police Delivery

Forcewide Performance
Maintained through effective leadership and communication; delivery against targets; regular review of survey findings and monthly performance monitoring.

Area Command and Department Performance
Achieved through the delivery of local Business Plans in support of Force objectives; regular reviews of survey findings; reviews of neighbourhood performance and officer deployment in response to identified issues and concerns.

Neighbourhood Performance
Maintained through regular public meetings and robust policing activity to resolve community concerns resulting from surveys. Individual appraisals ensure that each member of staff is working towards delivering effective policing across Northumbria.
PRIO RITY 1

Reduce and prevent crime and disorder

Why is this important?
We want people in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear to be safe and feel safe - crime and disorder are barriers to achieving this. It is our job to prevent crime and disorder from happening or to stop it where it does take place. Over the past five years crime has reduced by 41% in the Northumbria area and we are determined to keep Northumberland and Tyne and Wear a safe place to live, work and visit.

OBJECTIVE 1.1 - Reduce and prevent crime and disorder

What we will do:
• Reduce and prevent crime against people, households and businesses.
• Reduce and prevent anti-social behaviour.
• Increase the visibility and accessibility of our officers.
• Improve our response to incidents.
• Catch more criminals.

How we will do it:
• Maintain visible policing services.
• Reduce the bureaucracy officers have to deal with, allowing them to spend more time in neighbourhoods helping to prevent and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.
• Improve how we deploy our officers so the right officer is in the right place at the right time to effectively deal with incidents.
• Monitor and respond to any changes in criminal behaviour, such as the rise in metal thefts in 2011.
• Target resources on prolific and priority offenders.
• Bring more offenders to justice.
• Keep up to date with new technologies, focusing on both preventing their criminal misuse, and how we can use them to fight crime.

We want to achieve:
• A further reduction in recorded crime by at least 755 offences (from 75,504).
• A further reduction in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents by at least 977 incidents (from 97,683).
• An increase in the positive disposal rate\(^1\) (from 46.0%).

\(^1\)The percentage of crimes where an offender has been sanctioned (charged or cautioned etc) or if more appropriate, dealt with by means of restorative justice such as community resolution.

OBJECTIVE 1.2 – Reduce alcohol and drug related crime and disorder

There is a strong link between alcohol and drug misuse and crime and disorder, often with the involvement of a higher level of violence. The public has raised alcohol and drugs as a concern. By tackling misuse, the illicit supply which contributes to this misuse and the violence that often follows the use of alcohol and drugs, we will help the public to feel and be safe.

What we will do:
• Reduce alcohol and drug misuse.
• Control the illicit supply of drugs and alcohol.
• Promote responsible management of licensed sales.
• Reduce violent crime, often alcohol related, including domestic violence.

How we will do it:
• Keep officers on the streets to deal with cases of alcohol and drug misuse.
• Ensure offenders are offered support for drug or alcohol dependence.
• Tackle the illicit suppliers of drugs and alcohol.
• Strengthen already good relationships with the Licensing Authorities and licence holders, to make sure alcohol is sold and used responsibly.
• Continue to take a strong stance against those supplying alcohol irresponsibly.
• Continue to work with partners, such as Balance North East, to raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of drug and alcohol misuse, particularly among young people.
• Bring more violent offenders to justice.

We want to achieve:
• A reduction in the percentage of people who perceive people being drunk or rowdy in public places as being a problem in their local area (from 19.7%).
• A reduction in the percentage of people who perceive people using or dealing drugs to be a problem in their local area - areas where this is a concern (from 8.2%).
• A further reduction in the number of violence against the person with injury offences (from 6,507).
• An increase in the detection rate for violence against the person with injury offences (from 62.9%).
PRIORITY 2

Increase confidence and address public concerns

Why is this important?
Northumbria Police is accountable to those people who live and work in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear. There are common things people have said they would like us to address including young people drinking alcohol in public places and/or being rowdy or a nuisance; speeding or dangerous driving; noise nuisance; inconsiderate parking; and vandalism or graffiti. To increase public confidence in the places where they live and work and in our service, they want to see us actually dealing with these issues.

We also recognise that different people and communities have different concerns and that our services must be fair and accessible, respecting human rights and equal opportunities. We take this responsibility very seriously and aim to give our best service to everyone. To identify and meet these different needs we listen to people and work with them in dealing with problems. We have a good track record in this area and 59.1% of people say Northumbria Police and local councils are dealing with local crime and anti-social behaviour issues. This is higher than the national average of 58.8%.

OBJECTIVE 2.1 – Address local priorities by working with our communities

What we will do:
- Work with local people to make sure the crimes and anti-social behaviour of most local concern are prioritised appropriately and addressed.
- Give the public the opportunity to be involved in addressing crime and disorder issues.

How we will do it:
- Ensure officers and staff really listen and talk to people when they are out in communities.
- Talk to people in a range of ways such as face-to-face, telephone, email or through social networks.
- Share public concerns with partners and ensure the most appropriate partner responds.
- Focus our new road safety unit on local road safety concerns.
- Provide volunteering opportunities.
- Increase and make the best use of the Special Constabulary.

We want to achieve:
- An increase in the number of people who believe they can rely on the police to sort out a problem in their local area (from 90.7%).
- An increase in the number of people who agree the police in their area are dealing with the things that matter to their community (from 66.9% Jan-Dec 2011).
- An increase in the percentage of people who agree the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area (from 59.1% Jan-Dec 2011).

OBJECTIVE 2.2 – Build relationships with our communities to achieve greater community engagement

We already have a good relationship with our public, shown by the confidence and satisfaction people have in us. Figures show 65.8% of the public think we do a good or excellent job, higher than the national average of 61.4% - making us ninth highest in the country. We will maintain and improve these relationships by working with local people to keep our region a good place to live, work in and visit.

What we will do:
- Reinforce these positive views by ensuring our officers are visible, accessible, professional and courteous.
- Encourage people to interact with us.
- Ensure people know who to contact and how to find out the results of police action following an incident.
- Keep the overall levels of public satisfaction and confidence in our service high, so they want to engage with us.
- Continue to closely monitor if our services meet the needs of specific groups so they do not become disaffected.
- For those people who become victims of crime, we will ensure they receive a professional response and keep them informed about their case.

How we will do it:
- Encourage our workforce to positively interact with members of the public.
- Make officers available at convenient locations and times, to listen to concerns and provide advice and information.
- Recognise the different types of people and communities we serve.
- Use all communication channels to allow the public to easily engage with us and for us to engage with them.
- Work closely with partners and the media to enhance relationships with communities.
- Examine our public contacts and carry out satisfaction surveys so we can assess how well different needs are being met and react accordingly.
- Deal sensitively with victims and their supporters, so they feel supported and want to continue to work with us.

We want to achieve:
- An increase in the percentage of people who perceive a high level of anti-social behaviour in their local area (from 5.3%).
- A reduction in the percentage of people who perceive speeding or dangerous driving to be a problem in their local area, in those areas where this is a concern (from 9.2%).
- An increase in the number of volunteer schemes and an increase in the number of Special Constables.
PRIORITY 3

Protect the public

Why is this important?
The police, together with other agencies, have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities. While we do have a duty to all, we need to give the appropriate level of attention to those who are more at risk and less able to look after themselves.

OBJECTIVE 3.1 - Protect the vulnerable

What we will do:
- Prevent vulnerable people from becoming victims of crime, including hate and disability hate crime, intimidation or harassment.
- Work with partners to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place and suitable protection is offered to those most at risk.
- Limit the risk of repeat victimisation.
- Manage those people who pose the greatest threat to vulnerable people.

How we will do it:
- Ensure staff have the skills and knowledge to recognise potential victims and engage with partner agencies to support them.
- Provide advice to increase awareness of personal safety and security.
- Apply the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process to increase the safety, health and well-being of high-risk survivors of domestic abuse and their dependents.
- Make sure repeat or vulnerable victims are identified at the earliest opportunity and offered protection and support.
- Conduct thorough but sensitive investigations, to bring offenders who prey on vulnerable people to justice.
- Work with partners to encourage people with disabilities, or their friends or family, to report any crime, anti-social behaviour, harassment, or other form of intimidation directed towards them.
- Improve third party reporting and the identification of safe places to report through consultation with local groups.
- Protect victims of domestic abuse by targeting offenders and identifying high risk victims at the earliest opportunity.
- Work with partners under Multi Agency Public Protection Agreements (MAPPA) to manage sex offenders and those who pose a serious risk to the public.
- Train staff in disability and mental health awareness.

We want to achieve:
- A reduction in the percentage of the highest risk victims of domestic abuse that suffer a further violent incident of domestic abuse within the next 12 months (from 22.3%).
- The establishment of mental health support schemes for persons entering custody.
- Raised officer awareness of mental health and the support available.
- An increase in referrals of young people to support agencies through triage in custody and community resolution.
- Where appropriate, hostility based upon the victims disability or sexual orientation is presented to the Court for consideration in sentencing.

Section 146 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 allows the courts to increase the sentencing because of hostility based on disability or sexual orientation.

• Increased opportunities for the reporting of hate crimes/incidents, including those that are disability related.
• Improved quality of service standards for victims of serious sexual offences, ensuring that victims are examined at the earliest opportunity in accordance with their individual needs or within 90 minutes of the request.

OBJECTIVE 3.2 – Protect society and infrastructure

This plan has already recognised the need to deal with local issues and respond to the needs of the more vulnerable people in society. However, we must not forget the need to provide other policing services to deal with more serious and organised crime, which can cross local boundaries. We need to address the potential for disorder and terrorism, minimise the impact of adverse events, such as extreme weather, road accidents or industrial accidents, and support the national policing agenda. This involves tackling serious criminal activity, keeping borders secure and keeping roads, utilities and public spaces safe.

What we will do:
- Continue to target organised crime, including suppliers of illegal drugs and alcohol.
- Disrupt and dismantle criminal groups.
- Deter violent radicalisation.
- Minimise the impact of adverse natural events or accidents.
- Keep our roads safe from irresponsible driving, deal with accidents and make routes less accessible to criminal traffic.
- Meet national policing requirements.
- Raise public awareness of cybercrime and appropriate preventative measures.
- Maintain public order.

How we will do it:
- Gather information from communities about criminal groups and potential violent radicalisation.
- Collaborate with key institutions, including education, faith, health, and criminal justice, to support those who may be vulnerable to violent radicalisation or serious criminality and to deal with people who become active.
- Implement local multi-agency plans to challenge the ideology of terrorism and reduce the threat to communities from those who promote it.
- Implement targeted plans, supported by specialist officers, to reduce and prevent serious crime.
- Work with partners to ensure effective emergency planning and minimise the potential of attacks on critical infrastructure.
- Provide officers to support Olympic events, including the Olympic torch journey and football matches, within the Force area.
- Provide the public with advice on protecting themselves and their businesses from cybercrime.
- Act swiftly and decisively to prevent disorder.
- Work with partners to educate road users and strategically deploy road safety technology at high accident sites.

We want to achieve:
- A further reduction in the number of serious crimes (from 838).
- Delivery of our commitments towards the Strategic Policing Requirement.
- A reduction in road traffic collisions (from 3,426 Jan-Dec 2011).
Provide good value for money

Why is this important?
We have a fixed level of funding provided by taxpayers and have a duty to spend our budget wisely on their behalf. Reductions in public funding over the next few years will raise public expectation of prudent financial management. As a Force, we will achieve this through maintaining our high level of service and performance and focusing our resources in the right places. To continue delivering high quality policing at a reduced cost we have already reorganised structures and staffing levels to increase efficiency and remove duplication. We have done this while improving already very high performance levels and have a structured plan to continue this successful service improvement and stringent financial management. This Programme of Change is led by the Deputy Chief Constable, with delivery accountability shared by the Chief Officer Team.

OBJECTIVE 4.1 - Deliver a police service which provides our communities with value for money

What we will do:
• Maintain services and performance.
• Maintain public confidence and satisfaction.
• Reduce non-staff costs.
• Deliver agreed workforce reductions.
• Meet the annual savings requirements in view of reduced funding.

How we will do it:
• Maintain the front-line by moving non-operational officers to fill vacant posts.
• Improve how we deploy our officers to have most effect.
• Minimise time away from the front-line by providing staff with appropriate support and management.
• Continue to revise how we do things to make sure they are done in the most effective and efficient way.
• Ensure staff have the skills to be effective and efficient.
• Ensure we have staff in the right places.
• Work with partners, both public and private, to share services and reduce costs.
• Reduce our costs for goods, services and utilities by purchasing competitively and in collaboration with partners where this will bring economies of scale.
• Optimise estate use by releasing unnecessary buildings, developing new ways of working and sharing space with partners.

We want to achieve:
• Delivery of policing services within budget.
• The alignment of resources to demand and business priorities.
• Sickness levels for officers and police staff of seven days or less.
THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Medium Term Financial Strategy has been agreed by the Police Authority. It is a key part of the Authority’s planning process which links operational, financial and resource planning, ensuring all resources are directed towards policing priorities. The Strategy describes the financial direction of the Authority and outlines the financial pressures and savings to be achieved over the next three years. It sets out how the Authority can provide the Chief Constable with the resources to deliver the priorities in the Policing Plan.

From this, specific proposals are developed for consultation with stakeholders before the Authority agrees its revenue and capital budgets in February of each year.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy is published on the Police Authority website.

Revenue and capital budgets

In preparing the annual revenue and capital budgets the Authority considers:

- The key principles of the Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- The Local Government Finance Settlement;
- Revenue and Capital estimated outturn positions for the current financial year;
- Budget pressures facing the Authority;
- Delivery of the Local Policing Plan and the Authority’s corporate objectives;
- Value for money and budget savings;
- Council Tax capping;
- Reserves and risk assessment; and
- The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

Revenue expenditure

For 2012-13, Northumbria Police Authority set a revenue budget of £271.9m comprising net expenditure of £291.3m offset by transfers from reserves of £19.4m. Last year the revenue budget before appropriations from reserves was £307.3m offset by transfers from reserves of £19.6m.

The revenue budget is financed from government formula grant and council tax. For 2012-13, formula grant totals £235.1m, a reduction of 6.7% on the previous year. Total income from council tax in 2012-13 is £36.6m, based on a Band D council tax of £83.68 per annum. The Band D Council tax is a 0% increase from that agreed in 2011-12, which continues to be the lowest across all police authorities in England and Wales.

A summary of the planned savings is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Savings</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police Officer Reductions</td>
<td>£7.4m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Staff Reductions</td>
<td>£5.4m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other reductions</td>
<td>£8.3m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£21.1m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further budget savings of £33m have been built into the Medium Term Financial Forecast for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Details of the revenue budget are published on the Police Authority website at: www.northumbria.policeauthority.org.uk/money-matters/

Capital programme

The Police Authority has a capital programme for 2012-13 of £29.2m, with a further £32.8m budgeted across 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Capital resources such as capital grants and capital receipts continue to be scarce so the main source of funding of the capital programme is prudential borrowing, for which the Authority’s reserves are used to fund the revenue costs of borrowing.

The 2012-13 capital programme will enable the Authority to:

- Ensure its buildings remain fit for purpose.
- Deliver the Newcastle City Centre Police Station and the Firearms Operations and Training Facility.
- Maintain and develop the existing computer and communications infrastructure.
- Invest in the vehicle fleet in line with policing strategies.

Details of the capital budget are published on the Police Authority website.
Our partners are many and varied. We work with individual representatives from diverse and community groups, large regional and national agencies and other emergency services to achieve the best results.

Our partners include:

- **Local Authorities**: responsible for working with us across many areas, including:
  - Tackling anti-social behaviour - having responsibility for elements such as fly-posting, graffiti, noise nuisance, refuse (fly-tipping) and vandalism.
  - Enforcing parking regulations and providing traffic wardens.
  - Supporting vulnerable children and adults, providing housing services, and being key partners in the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Multi Agency Public Protection Agreement (MAPPA) processes to manage dangerous offenders and identify vulnerable victims.
  - Emergency preparedness – working to protect the public from major incidents or unforeseen events such as flooding, etc.

- **The Courts**: responsible for the administration of justice in England and for handling the imprisonment, parole and probation of those convicted.

- **The Prosecution Service**: advises the police on cases for possible prosecution, working with us to tackle crime or criminals which cross force boundaries and to support victims of crime and bring offenders to justice. In some cases we are co-located with the Crown Prosecution Service.

- **Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)**: which exist to encourage joint working and community involvement by bringing together representatives from the local statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to address local problems, allocate funding and discuss strategies and initiatives for local areas.

- **Northumbria Local Criminal Justice Board**: which works to improve the criminal justice system in Northumbria and brings together the police, Crown Prosecution Service, Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunals Service, Her Majesty’s Prison Service, the Northumbria Probation Trust, the Youth Offending Service and the Legal Services Commission.

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- **Community Groups and their representatives**, such as tenants’ associations, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators, community leaders and faith groups, provide us with local views and information. They also act as focal points for community safety funding and crime-fighting initiatives, such as targeted patrols or crime prevention measures.

- **Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)**: statutory partnerships made up of representatives from the police and police authority, the local council, and the fire, health and probation services (the ‘responsible authorities’). The responsible authorities work together to develop and implement strategies to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safe. They work out local approaches to deal with issues including anti-social behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and re-offending. There are six CSPs in the Northumbria area, all aligned to local council boundaries.

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Contacting Northumbria Police

By phone:
In an emergency, if somebody's life is in danger or a crime is taking place,
Call 999

To report all other crimes or incidents,
Call 101 or Text 07786 200 814

Examples where people should call 101, or text, include:
• Their car has been stolen.
• Their property has been damaged.
• They suspect drug use or dealing in their neighbourhood.
• They need to report a minor traffic collision.
• They need to give us information about crime in their area.
• They want to speak to us about a general enquiry.

This is also the number to call if you want to talk to us about local problems – where you can be put in touch with the neighbourhood policing team for your area.

For the deaf and hard of hearing:
Minicom 01661 820915 or Text 07786 200 815

To write to us about this plan, or to raise any other issues:
Writing to us:
Chief Constable's Office
Northumbria Police Headquarters
Ponteland
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE20 0BL

Finding us online:
www.northumbria.police.uk
facebook.com/northumbriapolice
twitter.com/northumbriapol

Here you can:
• Find the addresses and opening hours of police stations.
• Find out what is happening in your area.
• Leave feedback about our services.
• Report anti-social behaviour and community safety problems online.
• Record details of your valuables in a secure database.

Contacting Northumbria Police Authority

By phone: 0191 433 2091 (ask for the Police Authority).

Writing to us:
Northumbria Police Authority
Civic Centre
Gateshead
NE8 1HH

Finding us online:
www.northumbriapoliceauthority.org.uk
By email: enquiries.npa@gateshead.gov.uk

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