

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

Police Authority Meet to Discuss Minister's Capping Decision

[8 July 2008] Leicestershire Police Authority met today to discuss the Government's decision to restrict the Authority's precept increase to 3% in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

In February this year the Police Authority set a budget which increased the Police precept by 15.43%. This move sought to cover the shortfall of £9.3 million in Government funding over the next three years. This resulted in a weekly charge of £3.08 for the cost of policing for a Band D household, an additional 41p on last year's cost.

On 26 June 2008 the Government announced Leicestershire Police Authority could keep this year's 15.43% precept rise but would be capped to a 3% precept in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Following the special meeting convened to discuss the Government's decision, Byron Rhodes, Chairman of the Police Authority, said – "The Chief Constable today outlined the operational impact of the proposed cap in year 2 and year 3 of the budget and how this will affect the future delivery of the service. We will be pressing ahead with the recruitment of 105 new Police Officers in order to meet public demand for visible policing but we will need to look more closely at the effects this budget constraint will have on wider Police business in the coming years".

.....ENDS.....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

1. Mr Rhodes' photograph can be downloaded from the Leicestershire Police Authority website: <http://www.leics-pa.police.uk/about/members/>
2. Leicestershire Police Authority monitors the Leicestershire Constabulary, which polices the area of Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland.
3. Police Authorities are independent bodies made up of local people. Police Authorities hold the Police Force to account on behalf of local communities.
4. Local Police Authorities along with the Home Secretary and Chief Officers of Police make up the tripartite relationship which is responsible for the governance of policing in England and Wales.