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fighting crime

HMIC COMMISSIONER RESPONDS TO REPORT FROM HMIC COMMISSIONER

Following the publication of HMIC's report considering Derbyshire Constabulary's response to the funding challenge, Alan Charles, Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner said:

"HMIC found that Derbyshire Constabulary has made sound progress in meeting its financial challenge, which is good news for all Derbyshire residents.

"I am pleased that HMIC has recognised the work that has been carried out to date and the progress that has been made, which reflects my own views and indeed those of the former police authority.

"However, we cannot afford to sit on our laurels, as the latest spending review highlighted. The Force is currently working to understand the impact of these additional cuts in funding, which will put further pressure on the financial situation.

"My role will be critical in seeking to bridge this new gap, as we seek to facilitate more effective partnership working, streamline existing services and work with other forces in the region to find further savings wherever possible and if it is in the interests of Derbyshire.

"The future will undoubtedly be extremely challenging but I am confident that the force will once again rise to the challenge of finding the £3.2m highlighted in the report.

"The view is echoed by HMIC in its report, stating that 'HMIC is confident that Derbyshire Constabulary will close its remaining funding gap during this spending review period. The early start that the force took in reducing its costs and the well-led change programme both stand the force in good stead.

"At the same time, it is impressive that the force is continuing to deliver an excellent policing service to the people of Derbyshire with crime falling at one of the fastest rates seen across England and Wales.'

"However, in the latest Comprehensive Spending Review announced by the Chancellor on 26 June, we were told that the Force will need to find approximately a further £10m in savings by 2015-16. To put it bluntly, you can't keep taking money out of the system without consequence and we are already seeing early indications that these continual funding cuts maybe having a negative impact on performance. We will do everything we can to avoid this, but we have to be realistic."

Ends

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