

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 8
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Report of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Police and Crime Panel on the resources available to tackle crime in Cambridgeshire at the:

- national level,
- regional level; and
- local level.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To note the report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 As Police and Crime Commissioner I set the overall budget for policing in Cambridgeshire. The Chief Constable is responsible for operational deployment. This deployment is informed by dynamic assessments of threat, risk and harm which continually taking place at the national, regional and local level.

3.2 Resources for policing are decreasing. Having made significant savings to date, Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) still need to save a further £21m over the next four years. It is my job to ensure policing is efficient and effective. On taking up office I recognised the challenge this posed and committed to driving increased collaboration at local and regional level in order to improve resilience and reduce costs.

3.3 I have seen these collaborations pay dividends. For example, Operation Pheasant which addressed a major criminal network of people traffickers, was jointly led by the police and the Gangmasters Licensing Authority and involved the National Crime Agency (NCA), Fenland District Council, the Home Office, the UK Border Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. Operation Darcy, the investigation into the triple murders in Peterborough by Joanne Dennehy in 2013, was led by the Major Crime Unit and is another example of the collaboration between the Constabulary and Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary.

3.4 I am also aware of the importance of visible local policing. This is why I have updated Objective 1 of my Police and Crime Plan: Maintain Local Police Performance. Over the last 18 months there has been considerable progress on the Constabulary’s collaboration with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Constabularies and also with Operation Metis.

3.5 The sections below provide an overview of the resources available at the national, regional and local level. Technology is not currently available to produce a map of distribution of police with location and time spent in each area.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 National Resources

4.1.1 **National Crime Agency** – The remit of the NCA is to fight Serious and Organised Crime. This is done in partnership with local police forces. The details of deployment are operationally sensitive but suffice to say that there is a national tasking process where the responsibility for tackling serious and organised crime groups are assessed and allocated to either national, regional or local resources.

4.1.2 **Counter Terrorism Resources** – as with serious and organised crime, the Constabulary is able to draw on national, regional and local layers of resources to tackle the threat posed by terrorism. Each region is served by a Counter Terrorism Unit.

4.1.3 **Non-policing agencies that support law enforcement** – there are many other agencies and departments that support law enforcement within Cambridgeshire including Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, the Home Office, and the Vehicle Licensing Authority, to name a few.

4.1.4 **National Police Air Service** - this national collaboration was mandated by government. Cambridgeshire are part of the national collaboration agreement and those air support resources are deployed within the county on a risk assessed basis.

4.1.5 **Mutual Aid** – whilst there are clear operational boundaries within UK policing between forces, the Policing Act provides for mutual aid, this is normally for a major incident or events. The Strategic Policing Requirement places a duty on forces to have the capacity relating to mutual aid. It is worth noting that the strong formal collaborations that the Constabulary has entered into with Hertfordshire Constabulary and Bedfordshire Police, together with the wider eastern Region, reduces the dependency on mutual aid.

4.2 Eastern Region – Eastern Region Special Operations Unit

4.2.1 The purpose of the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) is to tackle organised crime. The nature of organised crime groups is that they operate across force boundaries and as such require a response that is similarly not constrained. There are around 190 staff working within ERSOU drawn from the participating forces. The units within ERSOU include:

- The Regional Intelligence Unit
- The Regional Asset Recovery Team
- The Regional Confidential Unit
- The Northern Investigation Team
- The Southern Investigation Team
- The Regional Specialist Support Unit
- The Regional Operational Security Risk advisor
- The Regional Cyber Crime Unit
- The Regional Economic Crime Unit

4.2.2 As ERSOU covers the police forces of Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire and, in some functions, Essex, those 190 staff will clearly not be working within Cambridgeshire at any one time. However, there is a regional tasking process that considers all the available intelligence within the region and based upon a rigorous assessment of threat, risk and harm, the ERSOU assets are deployed anywhere within the region. The nature of organised crime is that the pattern of offending impacts on larger geographic areas than a single police force.

4.3 Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire Strategic Alliance

4.3.1 There is extensive collaboration within the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire

Strategic Alliance (BCH) in areas of police operations known as Joint Protective Services (JPS). This unit consists of over 600 officers, the majority of which are in the Major Crime Unit, Armed Policing Unit and Roads Police Unit. These are specialised units that provide a considerable degree of resilience for our operations within Cambridgeshire. The full list of units within JPS is:

- Armed Policing Unit
- Camera/Tickets/Collisions
- Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism
- Dogs
- Major Crime Unit
- Operational Support
- Resilience
- Roads Policing Unit
- Scientific Support

4.3.2 The functions which involve deploying staff to incidents and events do so on the basis of an assessment of Threat, Risk and Harm. In essence they are deployed in full force wherever there is a public need for them and in practice on a daily basis this is anywhere within the three counties.

4.4 **Local Resources**

4.4.1 Despite the significant cost savings already made, front line policing has, thus far, been maintained. Operation Metis is proving to be very successful and will continue to be rolled out. Early trials have shown significant benefits and the new technology is popular with officers. For example, a six week trial at Hampton Police Station, Peterborough has seen:

- 25% more incidents being attended;
- Officers were on patrol on average one hour earlier than colleagues every day;
- A “slate” sergeant spent an extra 100 hours on patrol;
- A team of five constables were in the community for 27 extra hours each shift;
- Vehicle mileage decreased.

4.4.2 New technology will support local police visibility as officers work from locations such as garden centres, shops, libraries, leisure centres, schools and parks.

4.4.3 Officers continue to work in the community with volunteer groups such as Neighbourhood Watch, Countryside Watch, and Speedwatch, sharing information using new technology such as Alert.

4.4.4 A 229 strong Investigations Team which includes the Public Protection Department (PPD) provides specialist services to all Districts. This unit, works in partnership with other agencies to respond to issues such as domestic abuse or child protection issues. Assessing vulnerability and responding to it, is the focus of policing in Cambridgeshire. The size of the PPD is an indication of the importance that is placed on this work.

4.4.5 Districts are supported by other officers based in central units. They are not generally deployed to geographic incidents but they provide critical functions to enable District officers to be effective. The following is a list of the additional support functions available:

- Command of serious incidents by senior officers;
- Covert and undercover operations;
- Crime Investigation resources;
- Custody provision;
- Force Duty managers (within the Force Control Room);
- Intelligence support in directing deployments through the force tasking process;
- Operations Support Team;

- Specialist negotiating skills.

4.4.6 The operational deployment allocation of staff and officers within the six Cambridgeshire Districts is detailed below.

	FTE Establishment territorial policing		
	PCSO	Officers	Specials
Cambridge City	28	143	48
E Cambs	9	55	13
Fenland	19	90	37
Huntingdonshire	29.5	109.5	49
Peterborough	48	232	81
S Cambs	16	71	15

Within each District, the Commander has responsibility for deploying resources to where they are most needed, but as referred to throughout this paper, is supported by a huge range of other specialists when needed.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The deployment of “fixed” allocation of resources to a local area, paints only a small part of the wider picture of keeping people safe. The above demonstrates the interplay of neighbourhood, force, BCH, Eastern Region and National resources that operate within a very complex partnership network of local authority resources and other agencies.