

Police Funding

Driver – Economic

Related Drivers – Recession, Asset Recovery, Collaborative Working, Efficiency, Procurement, Public Sector Productivity, Conservative Party Reform, Police Mergers

Background

Funding is essential to the operation of efficient and effective policing. Police funding is derived from a combination of locally levied police precepts and central grants from the Home Office. Since 1997, governmental grants to the police service in England & Wales have increased by 19% in real terms between 1997/98 and 2008/09. However, the Association of Police Authorities (APA) submitted a provisional estimate to a Home Affairs Select Committee 2007 inquiry, *Police Funding*, which anticipated the following short falls in funding:¹

Year	Projected shortfall (£m)
2007/08	391
2008/09	656
2009/10	831
2010/11	966

In the most recent Comprehensive Spending Review, announced December 2007, the central grants made to police forces will increase by 2.9% (2008/09), 2.9% (2009/2010) and 2.7% in 2010/11.² The APA told the Home Affairs Select Committee in their recent review on policing that this settlement would result in shortfalls that were roughly in line with their predictions. This funding situation will hold resources at a relative level point increasing the demand for greater efficiency and productivity to deliver policing.³

The combined effects of minimal increases in governmental funding and caps on council tax precept, will result in lack of growth in budgets and possible cuts which can impact operational services. Performance management skills exercised at all levels are key to obtaining maximum output from existing financial and human resources.⁴

Potential Skills Needs

Change management skills – manage change at both an organisational and personal level effectively

Customer service skills – delivering a consistent high quality service

Financial awareness skills – managing police budgets in time of cuts to ensure continuation of priority areas

Financial management skills – managing finances in line with maximising productivity and efficiency

People Management skills – to empower and develop staff

Performance management skills – manage performance and effectiveness against targets

¹ [House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee \(2007\) *Police Funding*. Fourth Report of Session 2006-07. HC 553, London: The Stationery Office Ltd.](#)

² [HM Treasury \(2007\). *Meeting the Aspirations of the British People: 2007 Pre-budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review*. London: HM Treasury.](#)

³ [Home Office \(2008\) *From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our communities together*. Cm 7448, London: The Stationery Office Ltd](#)

⁴ [Flanagan, Sir Ronnie \(2008\) *The Review of Policing: Final Report*. London: Home Office.](#)