

Presentation Notes from Tim Passmore Address to the Rural Services Network 29/3/2023

Funding Spreadsheet

Apologies for the complexity of data. The main area of interest will be the funding per head in columns M and N. These highlight the huge discrepancy between Home Office funding per head of the population between urban force areas such as MOPAC (London), Merseyside, West Midlands, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire and their rural counterparts such as Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Dorset, North Yorkshire and West Mercia (Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire). Please disregard the data for our Welsh friends as their funding arrangements are different.

It requires a radical transformation as it is (in my opinion) totally unfair and discriminates against rural communities.

The additional funding for the national officer uplift programme is included – we are very grateful for the additional officer strength but sadly allocations were made on the basis of the current (unfathomable) funding formula, so Suffolk received around 1.2% of the uplift whilst The Met gained an extra 20% of the uplift.

Policing Council Tax Increase for 20223/4

Most force area Police and Crime Commissioners opted for the maximum permitted £15 / Band D household increase. In Suffolk's case this is an increase of 6%. Government funding only increased by 1.7% in our case.

Current Funding Formula Review

Up to 80+ factors are being considered as components for the new formula which was due for consultation at the beginning of this year – it is nearly April!

We will do all we can to ensure there is adequate recognition of the cost of delivery in remote rural areas – settlement patterns, length of road network, population fluctuations for popular tourist areas such as Devon and Cornwall, Cumbria and others.

More focus should be given on supporting crime prevention and rehabilitation of offenders to reduce levels of crime overall.

Access to justice is also compromised due to the closure of courts, lack of public transport, affordable homes including for younger / first-time buyers.

Economic Development

For me there is a very clear link between lack of educational attainment, aspiration, deprivation and higher levels of crime, abuse, addiction and anti-social behaviour. This is not the preserve of the metropolitan areas. Low crime areas tend to have wealthier communities and are more successful economically but this is unlikely to be achieved without sufficient well run policing.

Demographic Changes

Aging populations in rural areas result in greater prevalence of mental disorders such as dementia leading to more missing persons. This can take up huge quantities of police time particularly in large rural areas.

S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy

Policing does need to maximise the opportunity for income generation. S106 is place / project specific whereas the CIL is more flexible and can be regarded as a top up. Not all local authorities have a CIL system in place but as an example in Mid Suffolk our new joint Police / Fire Station which cost nearly £4m received a generous contribution of £432k via the local CIL

One-off Home Office Grants

The £120 m set aside for violence reduction units almost exclusively favoured the (18 out of 43) urban force areas which already receive far better per capita funding settlements. Safer Streets Funds are much more difficult to apply for in rural areas.

Future Developments

We will do whatever we can to work with you in the network as we have common cause so please keep in touch and then we will (and must) succeed.

The other points made by Kerry and Graham were spot on and have my full support.

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