



Creating a safer **Cambridgeshire**

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY COMMENTARY
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Cambridgeshire has a diverse and rapidly growing population. The county presents urban and rural policing challenges which, today, are far more complex than were ever anticipated in a modestly sized, shire county constabulary.

Substantial parts of Cambridgeshire now present the difficulties and demands expected within a Metropolitan police force or a large 'inner city' area.

Cambridgeshire's swift and continuing growth is the result of planned large-scale economic development, one of the country's highest birth rates, and, in the past decade, a considerable concentration of migrant worker communities. These communities serve the retail and service sectors, and, in particular, agricultural and food production businesses.

Strategically placed in geographical terms, Cambridgeshire sits at the edge of the region. The A14 and A1, main arterial roads, run through the county, making it easily accessible. This makes it an ideal location for business. London is also less than an hour away.

A world renowned centre of learning, the University of Cambridge, attracts many of the brightest students from all over the world. Cambridge City also acts as host to over 4 million visitors every year, making it a vibrant location for both tourism and commerce.

Forecasts show that the county of Cambridgeshire (excluding the unitary authority of Peterborough) is predicted to grow by 33% between now and 2031¹. The East of England is projected to be the second fastest growing English Region in terms of population increase, with Cambridgeshire expanding at a higher rate than the region as a whole. The county's population increase is expected to exceed 200,000.

The population of the City of Peterborough was estimated to be 163,000 in 2006. Based on current growth targets, forecasts demonstrate that the population of Peterborough will grow by as much as 22.4% to over 203,000 people².

Combining both predictions suggests that the county's population will exceed 1 million by 2031 or sooner.

Cambridgeshire has very wealthy and socially deprived communities in close proximity. This is true across the county, but the City of Peterborough in particular has some of the most deprived wards in the United Kingdom. Figures in the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation show that Peterborough has 8 of the 13 most vulnerable wards in Cambridgeshire³.

Cambridgeshire also attracts half of the East region's migrant population. Between 2002 and 2008 nearly 48,000 non-UK nationals registered for a National Insurance Number in Cambridgeshire. Official data may present only a

¹ Independent Transport Commission Report for Cambridgeshire County Council 21st July 2009

² Go East, Regional Special Strategy 2008

³ Cambridgeshire Constabulary Strategic Assessment 2009

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partial picture and the actual number of foreign workers in the county could be greater. The number of languages spoken within Cambridgeshire now exceeds 100.

Working with migrant communities, and addressing migrant offending, is placing a substantial demand upon the constabulary's resources, both in terms of officer and staff time, and costs. The chart at Appendix A shows the number of Non-UK detainees who were in custody across the constabulary during 2008, and in the first 4 months of 2009. The total number of Non-UK detainees in custody during 2008 was 4052, accounting for 16.9% of the total. The number of Non-UK detainees for the first 4 months of 2009 was 1328, or 18.08% of the total.

The financial cost of language and cultural support services for the constabulary was £677,000 in 2008 – 2009.

There is also an implication for the constabulary in terms of managing the Non – UK Organised Crime Groups (OCG's). Intelligence would suggest that currently about 20% of the county's OCG's are operated by Non-UK Nationals. As these groups become more strongly established it is likely that the management of their offending will become increasingly problematic. The very serious nature of this offending is likely to have a significant adverse impact on local communities.

One example is people trafficking. Cambridgeshire Constabulary has dealt with, and disrupted, a number of people trafficking groups in both the north and south of the county. Peterborough, in particular, has been identified by the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) as a hot spot for trafficking. In 2008, a significant OCG was disrupted in Peterborough, where a number of offenders were convicted of rape offences, and received 10 year sentences. Similarly, in an operation in Cambridge, 40 people were arrested in relation to female exploitation, where women were being forced to work in brothels. Police activity continues to focus upon this activity, recognising the human suffering involved, and the financial gain arising for those who perpetrate or procure these crimes.

One other major issue for Cambridgeshire has been the number of cannabis factories that have been disrupted in recent years. Commercial cannabis cultivation is an extremely lucrative business and substantial yields of cannabis can be grown in only a few weeks. Traditionally OCG's have used rented houses as a cover for growing cannabis. They are ideal for this purpose but the operation in itself is an extremely hazardous one. It usually involves hacking into the mains electricity supply, from outside of the property, to power the high energy lighting required to grow the cannabis quickly. This action in itself is extremely dangerous and a high fire risk. However, it is also highly lucrative, with a yield of cannabis having a value of tens of thousands of pounds.

In the last 5 years Cambridgeshire has discovered 344 cannabis factories across the County and arrested over 200 people. Cannabis with a commercial value running into millions of pounds has been seized and organised criminality has been seriously disrupted.

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It is against this challenging environment that the resources allocated to Cambridgeshire needs to be assessed. Cambridgeshire is, by any standard, one of the lowest funded police forces in the country. This table shows that Cambridgeshire is amongst the lowest resourced constabulary in its Most Similar Group (MSG), despite being a hot spot for both migration and population growth.

| Most Similar Group (MSG) | Total police ranks as of 31/3/09 | Police Officers per 100,000 head of population as of 31/03/09 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Cambridgeshire | 1450 | 191 |
| Avon & Somerset | 3355 | 213 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 3556 | 213 |
| Essex | 3484 | 206 |
| Gloucestershire | 1372 | 235 |
| Kent | 3799 | 231 |
| Warwickshire | 994 | 189 |
| Wiltshire | 1229 | 191 |

If Cambridgeshire was allocated the average number of officers for its MSG then it would receive an additional 167 officers. If it was to receive the resource level equivalent to Gloucestershire it would receive an additional 372 officers. This would enable the constabulary substantially to improve its services across a whole range of policing areas. It would also allow the constabulary to manage its high levels of demand more effectively. Two years ago an independent report by analysts from KPMG⁴ concluded that the constabulary at that time required an additional 100 police officers to simply manage its workload. Continuing population growth and the complexity arising from unprecedented levels of migration is stretching capacity even further.

Staff productivity within the constabulary, however, is consistently high. Productivity analysis for 2007/08 showed that Cambridgeshire officers arrested the most people per officer in their Most Similar Group. Cambridgeshire officers conducted the highest number of stop searches per officer in its Most Similar Group. Cambridgeshire had the highest number of drug seizures in its Most Similar Group, and was 3rd nationally in drug seizures per officer.

In spite of a low number of officers, Cambridgeshire has a highly efficient and motivated workforce, which provides a high level of delivery with the resources available. In a very short period, the constabulary has developed into a real success story, emerging from assessment as a failing force and becoming a dynamic and forward-thinking organisation. The constabulary is lean, effective and efficient. Its reform programme has put the public at the heart of everything that it does. It is fully committed to the delivery of the 'Policing Pledge', ensuring that resources are visible and responsive within local communities.

⁴ KPMG – resource analysis of Cambridgeshire: implications of policing

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A substantial investment is also being made in respect of community policing. Police are working closely with the 39 Neighbourhood panels across the county, building confidence and delivering services at a local level. Recent initiatives include using multi-lingual Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to hold surgeries for minority communities. 'Roll Calls' are held in Peterborough, providing street briefings to residents. Local people get briefed on what is happening in their area and get the chance to find out what officers are doing and how many of them are working locally. 'Weeks of Action' have been making a substantial impact in Peterborough over the last 2 years. Public, private, voluntary and the community sector, work together to deal with crime and non crime issues. The myriad of agencies work together to tackle Crime, ASB, graffiti, rubbish removal, fly tipping, untaxed vehicles, forensic property marking, painting, garden improvements and a range of other environmental improvements. By working in partnership we have sought to improve the look and feel of neighbourhoods and address those engaging in criminality in the area, all to the benefit of law abiding citizens.

The constabulary also has an exemplary record when it comes to the investigation of major crime. Since the inception of the Major Investigation Team in 2004, it has achieved an 87% detection rate in relation to all homicides. A number of the investigations have had a Regional, National and International implication to them. The constabulary has been recognised for the high quality of family liaison it provides to the families of victims. Only recently a Cambridgeshire officer was given a National award for the support she provided to the mother of young man killed in the London bombings.

Every effort is made to ensure that victims of crime and their families are provided with a seamless end-to-end service which keeps them informed at every stage of an investigation and which consults them about their preferred outcome.

The service is also getting to grips with difficult issues within the community which were previously hidden. A good example of this is effort to tackle Honour-Based Violence (HBV)⁵. Since setting up an HBV hotline - which is a 24/7 service – the force has received 501 enquiries, of which 178 have developed into live investigations. As a consequence dozens of people who would otherwise have had nowhere to turn have received help, support and justice.

⁵ The police definition of Honour Based Violence is: 'A crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and or community'

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Despite achieving a 19% reduction in crime in the last 5 years, the constabulary continues to face high levels of offending. The tables below show comparisons with our Most Similar Group and Regional forces. This adds further weight to the argument that Cambridgeshire is a complex and challenging policing environment that currently is not adequately resourced or recognised. It perhaps also highlights what might be achieved if the constabulary had MSG average resource levels.

Crimes per 1000 Residents

Most Similar Group

| Total Crime | 01/04/2008 to 31/03/2009 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cambridgeshire | 85.176 |
| Avon & Somerset | 87.473 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 61.644 |
| Essex | 66.833 |
| Gloucestershire | 75.758 |
| Kent | 73.499 |
| Warwickshire | 71.14 |
| Wiltshire | 64.583 |

Crimes per 1000 Residents – Compared with Regional forces

| Total Crime | 01/04/2008 to 31/03/2009 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cambridgeshire | 85.176 |
| Bedfordshire | 76.501 |
| Essex | 66.833 |
| Hertfordshire | 71.429 |
| Norfolk | 58.491 |
| Suffolk | 65.553 |

The implication of these higher levels of crime is that Cambridgeshire's resources are substantially more stretched than its MSG forces and those across the East region. It also suggests that Cambridgeshire may well sit within an inappropriate MSG group, and other forces would provide better like for like comparisons.

Performance in relation to crime detection has improved substantially in the last 5 years. This is against a backdrop of a highly ethical recording and detection policies. In the year 2003 – 2004 the constabulary's detection rate for all crime was 14.6%. Detection rates for all sexual offences and all violent crime were 19.8% and 20.7% respectively. In the year 2008 – 2009 the overall detection rate was 25.5%, with detection rates for all sexual offences and violent crime now at 29.5% and 47% respectively. The constabulary continues to perform well in crime detection and is committed to working hard to improve its position.

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DETECTION RATES **Most Similar Group** **1/04/08 – 31/03/09**
Total Crime

| Most Similar Forces | Recorded Numbers | Detection Numbers | Det % |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Cambridgeshire | 64790 | 16516 | 25.49 |
| Avon & Somerset | 138083 | 36178 | 26.20 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 102737 | 30859 | 30.04 |
| Essex | 112841 | 39724 | 35.20 |
| Gloucestershire | 44136 | 13665 | 30.96 |
| Kent | 121049 | 38773 | 32.03 |
| Warwickshire | 37468 | 9398 | 25.08 |
| Wiltshire | 41468 | 12763 | 30.78 |

DETECTION RATES PER OFFICER **Most Similar Group** **1/04/08 – 31/03/09**
Total Crime

| Most Similar Forces | Officer Numbers | Detection Numbers | Detections per officer |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Cambridgeshire | 1450 | 16516 | 11.39 |
| Avon & Somerset | 3355 | 36178 | 10.78 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 3556 | 30859 | 8.68 |
| Essex | 3484 | 39724 | 11.40 |
| Gloucestershire | 1372 | 13665 | 9.95 |
| Kent | 3799 | 38773 | 10.20 |
| Warwickshire | 994 | 9398 | 9.45 |
| Wiltshire | 1229 | 12763 | 10.38 |

The constabulary has the 2nd lowest detection rate in its MSG and it also has the 2nd highest number of detections per officer. This once again demonstrates the high productivity of staff and evidences once again the shortfall in resources for Cambridgeshire.

The level of Incidents is also significant, placing a great deal of demand upon resources. Again, the tables below reflect the comparative level of demand faced by the constabulary, and other forces.

Incidents per 1000 Residents

Data available 1st January 2009 – 31st March 2009

MSF Average 39.935

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Most Similar Forces | |
| Cambridgeshire | 47.393 |
| Avon & Somerset | 39.266 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 35.909 |
| Essex | 42.077 |
| Gloucestershire | 46.272 |
| Kent | 42.382 |
| Warwickshire | 46.075 |
| Wiltshire | 20.012 |

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Cambridgeshire's population estimate for 2009 is 784,000. This is based upon population projections carried out in 2006 by the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

The longer term implication of our growing elderly population is something the constabulary is addressing in its strategic plans. Older citizens and society generally, have particular fears and perceptions around Anti-social behaviour (ASB). Cambridgeshire Constabulary deals with the highest instances of ASB in its MSG. Again, this is an area particularly affected by the presence of uniform officers. Having MSG average resource levels would make a significant impact upon addressing this issue.

Data available 1st January 2009 to 31st March 2009

ASB Incidents per 1000 Residents

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| MSF Average | 12.751 |
| Cambridgeshire | 16.015 |
| Avon & Somerset | 14.100 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 14.121 |
| Essex | 11.337 |
| Gloucestershire | 13.874 |
| Kent | 10.779 |
| Warwickshire | 13.708 |
| Wiltshire | 8.069 |

This concludes a summary of hugely complex and challenging issues which have arisen in the day-to-day policing of Cambridgeshire in the twenty-first century.

Robust analysis and evidence-based growth forecasts tell us that they will only intensify.

In response, police officers and staff work with great energy and are achieving exceptional productivity levels, to deliver a service built upon integrity, respect and putting people first. Cambridgeshire's Chief Constable is today leading an organisation which has moved from failing to first class in just five years.

Cambridgeshire, though, remains a county facing all of the complexities and challenges to be expected in a metropolis; and Cambridgeshire Constabulary continues to be resourced inadequately for the serious demands placed upon it.

Appendix A

