

Scale of police cuts is revealed

Sponsored by 



Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire Clive Grunshaw

Published on **02/07/2013 15:35**

Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner has hit out at the Government after the scale of cuts facing Lancashire Constabulary was revealed.

The announcement means the policing budget for Lancashire could be reduced by a further £11m – meaning the force will have potentially lost a staggering £74m from its overall budget between the May 2010 elections and 2016.

Clive Grunshaw sent a clear message to Westminster - residents in Lancashire are not prepared to tolerate any more cuts.

He said: "It is time to say, enough is enough.

"These cuts are on an unprecedented scale, and have now reached a stage where policing is being put at risk.

"It is clear this Government refuses to wake up and realise there is a tipping point – a point at which continued cuts do not just become about making savings, but about fundamentally redesigning the police force.

"There seems to be an assumption no matter how much is cut from budgets, services will adapt and continue to perform at the same level – that is no longer the case.

"This latest round of cuts puts policing in the county under threat, and undermines the work the Constabulary does to protect its residents.

"The call to save what could potentially be another £11m comes at a time when, here in Lancashire, we have already been cut to the bone.

"And it means we have now reached a point where consideration will have to be given to whether police functions previously seen as vital – such as the mounted branch or the dog unit – have to be cut.

"People in Lancashire rightly expect the police to deliver them a high quality service which keeps them safe from harm.

"But with fewer officers and fewer resources, it may be for this Government to explain to communities why the service they are receiving from their force has had to change.

"This potential cut of up to another £11m is going to be incredibly difficult to find, and we are going to be forced to make difficult decisions about what services the police can continue to provide."

The Government has said police budgets will be cut by "less than 6 per cent".

 0

 0

 0