

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE

Financial Scrutiny and Oversight Board

Report of	CHIEF CONSTABLE
Subject	Summary of Services and Benefits to Taxpayers from Leicestershire Police
Date	Tuesday 13th January 2026
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1. Purpose

1.1 To provide the Police and Crime Commissioner with details on the policing services funded by, and benefits provided to, taxpayers across LLR.

It aims to answer the question of why the PCC should be asking taxpayers to be funding services in addition to statutory policing responsibilities.

1.2 This report specifically seeks to provide information on the following key issues:

- What taxpayers get for their money from Leicestershire Police.
- How we can reassure taxpayers that they receive Value for Money from Leicestershire Police.
- The cost to the taxpayer of the services delivered by Leicestershire Police.

2. Overview

2.1 Leicestershire Police is funded through three key funding streams:

- General taxation (Central Government Grant).
- The policing element Council Tax (the “precept”), this is set locally each year to help keep services running 24/7 across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.
- National thematic funding streams (e.g. Hot Spot Policing Grants).

2.2 Funding Leicestershire Police is not like paying for a subscription; it's paying into a system that provides universal protection, safety, and order for everyone in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, regardless of where they live or what they earn 24/7, 365 days a year.

2.3 In Leicestershire Police, approximately 81% of our entire budget is spent on people, officers, PCSOs and staff because policing is fundamentally a people-driven business delivered around the clock.

3. What Do Taxpayers Get for their Money (in LLR)?

3.1 Below are the core services taxpayers' contribution funds locally, with additional data and insights around the scale of what we deliver:

A) Emergency Response (999 and 101)

Taxpayers get:

- Immediate response to life-threatening emergencies.
- Attendance at collisions, crimes in progress, missing persons, and domestic incidents.
- Close coordination with Ambulance and Fire Services, 24/7, 365 days a year.

Leicestershire facts:

- In 2025 we handled around 1,700–1,800 calls for service every day, with 5,243 more 999 calls and 17,902 more non-emergency calls than the previous year, demand we must be resourced to handle at all times.
- We've invested in our Force Contact & Operations Room to improve 999/101 performance, including refurbishing facilities, strengthening staffing capacity, and deploying new digital tools because answering the phone quickly and effectively is fundamental to public protection, harm prevention and saving lives.

B) Crime Prevention and Deterrence

A significant part of our policing approach is preventing harm before it occurs. As a result, residents, students, businesses, and visitors across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland benefit from the following prevention activity:

- Visible neighbourhood policing that deters crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Licensing and safety checks for venues, events and public spaces.
- Prevention and partnership work with OPCC, councils, schools, and charities.
- Intelligence led disruption of organised crime and high-harm offenders.

Leicestershire facts:

- Our operating model is a neighbourhood policing approach: where local teams own local problems and work alongside specialist units to tackle more complex crime. This model was strengthened through Operation Forefront, enhancing both problem solving and visibility.
- We run a joint Prevention Directorate with the OPCC to scale evidence-based prevention across communities.

C) Investigation of Crime

Taxpayers' funding pays for the people and technology to:

- Investigate crime – including violence, sexual offences and VAWG, burglary, vehicle crime, rural crime, retail and business crime, fraud, online crime, hate crime, cybercrime, and all crimes under the Home Office National Crime Recording Standards.
- Secure evidence, arrest and interview suspects, safeguard victims, and support prosecutions.

Leicestershire facts:

- In 2025 we investigated 94,000 crimes, made over 15,000 arrests, and actively managed over 30,000 safeguarding referrals to protect vulnerable adults and children.
- We launched 11 homicide investigations (2 convictions secured; 5 charged and in the courts; 4 ongoing).
- We created an Assessment & Investigation Unit (AIU) that handles significant volumes efficiently (including video appointments for victims) so frontline responders can stay out in communities.

D) Protection of Vulnerable People

We deliver services that allow us to safeguard those most at risk:

- People affected by domestic abuse, children at risk, exploited adults, missing people.
- People in mental health crisis (often requiring longer officer time and specialist partners).

Leicestershire facts:

- In custody each month we have 1200-1300 detainees, 43% of detainees present a mental health need; 30% report self-harm; 14.5% require an Appropriate Adult, all of which lengthens safe processing and care time.
- We make 1,000+ child protection referrals per month which we deliver through dedicated safeguarding teams and joint working with partners.

E) Counter Terrorism, Firearms & National Security

Taxpayers in LLR receive support and protection from dedicated Counter Terrorism, Firearms and Serious and Organised Crime Teams.

Much of this work is not visible, and that's by design. However, they protect local communities by the:

- Disruption of extremist threats and organised networks
- Protection of crowded places and critical infrastructure
- Coordination with regional and national policing units
- Response to public safety incidents and crimes

Leicestershire facts:

- In 2025 we mounted 225 firearms deployments (178 dynamic incidents and 44 planned operations), plus mutual aid for national threats. Maintaining trained firearms and public order capabilities is a legal and operational requirement that protects LLR.

F) Public Order & Safety at Events

Leicestershire Police provide public order and public safety services across LLR and beyond and ensures our communities can safely enjoy events throughout the year. The services we provide include policing:

- Protests and marches
- Football matches, concerts, festivals, and major community events
- VIP and royal protection

Leicestershire facts:

- We delivered 70 full public order deployments in 2025 (53 locally and 17 in national support) to keep people safe and minimise disruption.

G) Roads Policing

Taxpayer funding supports:

- Serious collision response and investigations
- Tackling dangerous and uninsured driving
- Disrupting criminals who use the road network

Leicestershire facts:

- Our roads policing and tactical teams are structured and staffed to meet 24/7 coverage standards and national capability requirements, staffing levels are set against risk, call patterns and shift models.

H) Partnership Work That Saves Society Money

Leicestershire Police have statutory responsibilities that it legally must deliver and supports other locally based partners in protecting our communities.

We work with:

- NHS & Mental Health Services, Local Councils, and Social Care
- Probation, Prisons, and Charities
- Regional and national policing collaborations for specialist capabilities and services

Leicestershire facts:

- We participate in national collaborations (e.g., specialist forensics, wildlife crime, ACRO checks, protest intelligence coordination) that would be costly or impossible to reproduce alone, this keeps people in LLR safer, more efficiently.

4. Do Leicestershire Police provide Good Value to local Taxpayers?

4.1 Independent scrutiny says we run a lean, value for money service.

- External and internal auditors have given the highest levels of assurance on our financial management and sustainability.
- HMICFRS Value for Money profiles show Leicestershire has very lean “back office” functions compared to peers, with proportionally higher investment in frontline delivery.

5. As a force the demand that we managed in 2025 included:

- 1,700–1,800 calls for service every day (more 999s and 101s than last year)
- 15,000 arrests, ~94,000 crimes investigated, ~4,000 missing people located
- 30,000 safeguarding referrals shared with partners to protect vulnerable people
- 11 homicide investigations, 225 firearms deployments, 70 public order deployments

6. How we stretch the taxpayers’ pound in LLR:

- We have delivered £23m of efficiency savings in the last three years, redesigned processes and introduced technology (incl. automation and AI) that gave 200,000 staff hours back to frontline work without compromising safety.
- Our operating model prioritises local neighbourhood policing supported by specialists, so issues are owned and solved where they occur.

7. What Happens if Funding Falls Behind Local Need?

7.1 We plan meticulously to protect the essentials; i.e. public safety, emergency response, and local neighbourhood policing. However, some functions, particularly, non -statutory ones, may have to be scaled back or delivered differently if funding reduces while demand and complexity continue to rise.

That is why we:

- Adopt a medium-term view of finances.
- Continue to reform how we work, including the use of digital tools, automation, artificial intelligence, and process redesign.
- Maximise collaborations where a national or regional solution offer safer, more efficient, and more cost-effective outcomes for residents across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

7.2 A reduction in the support provided by taxpayers will have a significant impact on public service delivery, community safety, and operational capability of the force in the short, medium, and long term.

Such reductions could place the public at risk as the operational capacity and capability of the force would have to reduce significantly, requiring time and planning.

8. Summary

8.1 For every pound put into policing locally, it funds:

- A 24/7 emergency service that attends when it is needed the most
- Visible neighbourhood policing that keeps streets, towns, and villages safe
- Skilled investigators and specialists team equipped to tackle today's complex and high-harm crimes
- Protection for the most vulnerable of our communities
- Behind the scenes enabling teams and national collaborations that ensure services operate efficiently and effectively behind the scenes

8.2 Leicestershire Police remain committed to delivering consistent, good public service with high standards, and we'll continue to demonstrate how taxpayers' money is translated into safety, justice and protection for the people of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.

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