

Subject: PCC funding for an additional Police Officer in the Breckland District to maintain high visibility policing.

Originator: Director of Policy, Commissioning and Communications

Decision no. 44/2026

Reason for submission: For decision

Submitted to: Colin Sutton - Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

Summary:

1. Since the announcement that RAF Barnham is being considered as a site for large - scale asylum accommodation, there has been well publicised disorder, unrest, and anxiety in nearby Thetford.
2. In response to this, Breckland District Council has decided to invest Home Office funding in an additional police officer resource, to increase the visibility of policing in the town.
3. To ensure there is sufficient capacity to maintain a high visible police presence, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Norfolk has agreed to invest in another police officer for the area for two years; providing greater resilience, having a greater impact, and addressing the concerns and anxieties of residents.
4. Working together, the two new Police Constables will conduct high visibility patrols, provide reassurance and work with communities to maintain cohesion.
5. The PCC's overall financial contribution will be £140,000 across two years, funded from efficiencies from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN), which are being directly invested into frontline police in line with the PCCs stated priority of increasing police visibility in communities.

Recommendation:

To approve the funding for an additional Police Constable in the Breckland District, to maintain high visibility policing, for a period of two years.

Outcome/approval by: Colin Sutton - Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature: 

Date: 12/10/2026

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

1.1 To increase frontline policing capacity in the Breckland District to:

- Achieve high visibility policing in Thetford.
- Provide greater reassurance to residents.
- Reduce community tensions.
- Prevent future disorder and associated distress.

2. Background:

- 2.1 Since the announcement that RAF Barnham is being considered as a site for large-scale asylum accommodation, there has been well publicised disorder, unrest, and anxiety in nearby Thetford.
- 2.2 In response to this, Breckland District Council has decided to invest Home Office funding in an additional police officer resource, to increase the visibility of policing in the town.
- 2.3 To ensure there is sufficient capacity to maintain a high visible police presence, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Norfolk has agreed to invest in another police officer for the area for two years; providing greater resilience, having a greater impact, and addressing the concerns and anxieties of residents.
- 2.4 Working together, the two new Police Constables will conduct high visibility patrols, provide reassurance and work with communities to maintain cohesion.
- 2.5 Norfolk Constabulary will employ patrol tracking data to demonstrate the impact of the additional Police Officers in the town and monitor other policing activity.

3. Areas for consideration:

- 3.1 The PCC is providing a total of £140k to Norfolk Constabulary to fund a Police Constable for a period of two years, located in the Breckland District and dedicated to Thetford to deliver high visibility policing through patrols and engagement.
- 3.2 The funding comes from efficiencies achieved by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN).

4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 None.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

- 5.1 This directly supports the stated aim of the PCC to increase police visibility.

6. Financial and other resource implications:

- 6.1 The funding for the additional role will come from efficiencies achieved by the OPCCN.
- 6.2 The total cost will be 70k per annum for the next two years.

7. Carbon emissions and other environmental implications:

Carbon Emissions

- 7.1 The estimated impact on our carbon emissions that must be reported under current statute from this proposal is:

Emission Categories:	Increase in tCO ₂	Saving in tCO ₂
Scope 1 – Fuel – Building Heating	0	0
Scope 1 – Fuel – Transport	0	0
Scope 2 – Electricity	0	0

Environmental Implications

- 7.2 No material implications.

8. Other implications and risks:

- 8.1 None.

Originator checklist (must be completed)	Please state 'Yes' or 'No'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Yes
Have sustainability and environmental factors been considered (e.g. biodiversity, employee commuting, business travel, waste and recycling, water, air quality, food and catering and estates construction)?	Yes
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Yes

Is this report a Confidential Decision?

No

If yes, please state reasons below having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)

Approval to submit to the decision-maker (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

Signature: 

Date: 08/10/2026

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
Or
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
Or
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves,
And
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature: 

Date: 11/10/2026

Public access to information: Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential.' Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.