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Chief Executive
Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon
Cambs
PE29 3TN

17th November 2005

Reorganisation of policing – implications for Cambridgeshire

Dear Colleague

We have been encouraged by the number of comments submitted to the Authority or the Acting Chief Constable about the implications of proposed changes to police force structures in Cambridgeshire.

We submitted a range of potential options to the Home Office on October 28. These included three potential merger options and an option for Cambridgeshire to remain as a standalone force.

As part of our submission we also highlighted some of the concerns that you and others have raised about this process, which included:

Cost of merger and future resource implications
Concern about the future of partnership working
Lack of clarity about governance and future accountability

The Home Office has now replied and set out its view on the options this county and others in the Eastern region should concentrate on. We are required to present final business cases for all three options and the pros and cons by 23rd December.

We have established a project team to look at the actual impact on policing which will be supported by external consultancy advice on support services and other organisational issues.

However we believe it is essential that the views of our partners are included in the final submission to the Home Office. To achieve this we would again ask you to consider the following options from your perspective and that of the people/organisations you represent.

We know that it is very difficult to make judgements about these options without access to all the facts and figures. We will publish the findings of our reviews as soon as possible. However, in the meantime, and within the extremely tight restrictions placed on us by the Home Office, we would ask you to let us have your views on these proposals.

Regional policing – Cambridgeshire's options:

Regional Force

A regional force made up of six forces:

Cambridgeshire

Norfolk

Suffolk

Hertfordshire

Bedfordshire

Essex

North/South split

Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk

East/West split

Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire,

Bedfordshire

We will be inviting wider comment through media campaigns and electronically via our website in the next few weeks.

As part of the study we are asking people which options they favour, whether they need more information before expressing a view or whether they want the county's police force to stay as it is.

The deadline for responses is 5th December, however to help us analyse the returns we would be grateful for any response as soon as possible.

It's anticipated that the Home Office will set out their view on any preferred options in the new year and that this will then trigger a formal period of further consultation which will enable us to engage in a wider and more substantial debate at that time.

In the meantime we would like to thank you for your patience and support.

If you have any questions please contact our respective offices.

Acting Chief Constable's office: 01480 42 2319

Police Authority Chairman's office: 01480 42 2649

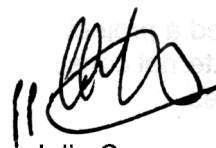
If you would like to e-mail us please send responses to:

kim.campbell@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Yours sincerely,



Michael Williamson JP
Chairman
Cambridgeshire Police Authority



Julie Spence
Acting Chief Constable