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Police Headquarters, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk IP5 3QS

January 19th 2016

Dear Councillor,

Further to your recent phone conversation with Leigh Jenkins relating to your match-funded Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), we would like to confirm our revised plans.

Following our announcement that as part of the review of local policing, Suffolk Constabulary would no longer be able to fund its share of the PCSO which you have jointly funded in the past, many partners expressed concern, particularly due the very tight timescales. We are therefore going to postpone this decision until April 2017, to give you time for proper consideration of your requirements in the future.

We hope this extension of your match-funded PCSO until April 2017 will give you the opportunity to work with the Constabulary during this period to identify other town or parish councils who might be prepared to join you to fully fund a PCSO together after April 2017.

From April 2017, the Constabulary will not be funding match-funded PCSO posts which do not meet the core functions we require our safer neighbourhood teams to fulfil. After this date we will be offering parish and town councils the opportunity to jointly fund a PCSO, therefore 'fully funding' the post. Should you wish to continue to fund a PCSO past April 2017, we hope that this extension will give you the opportunity to work with us to find other town or parish councils with whom you can partner.

The review of PCSOs is part of series of changes to Suffolk Constabulary's local policing model which will help deliver significant savings required by government, whilst improving the efficiency of our services. This review will be implemented on April 1 2016.

In December 2015, we received positive news from the Home Office that no further cuts would be made to police funding, reducing the savings requirement we were working to deliver. This provides us with the opportunity to lift the police officer recruitment freeze we have had in place for two years and to revisit our plans around match-funded PCSOs. It is

important that we continue with our plans to re-design our services to respond the change in demand we now face.

The deployment of PCSOs plays an important part in the local policing review as we revise our workforce mix to ensure you have the best balance of police officers and support staff, and in the right locations to meet demand.

Details of the updated Suffolk Local Policing Review are attached.

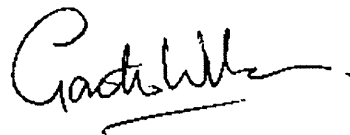
We have had to make some difficult decisions but want to reassure you extensive demand analysis and consultation with partners, communities and staff has been undertaken to inform the re-design, which has been guided by the fundamental aim of protecting communities and enhancing services whilst achieving savings and improving efficiency, and delivering the Police and Crime Plan. The important message for our communities is that Suffolk Constabulary will continue to respond to you in an emergency and your safer neighbourhood teams will continue to serve you locally, supported by the neighbourhood response teams and enhanced investigation teams.

Finally, we are both confident that the new policing model will continue to provide a high quality service and we will of course continually review how the model is operating. We are committed to listening and if you would like to discuss the content of this letter or have any questions about the proposed changes then please do not hesitate to contact the Review Team on 01473 613560 (email suffolkchangeteam@suffolk.pnn.police.uk).

Yours faithfully



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Dear Councillor

A series of changes to Suffolk Constabulary's local policing model have recently been announced which will help deliver significant savings required by government, whilst improving the efficiency of our services. These changes will be implemented on April 1 2016.

Our deployment of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) plays an important part in this local policing review as we revise our workforce mix to ensure you have the best balance of police officers and support staff, and in the right locations to meet demand.

Details of the updated Suffolk Local Policing Review are attached.

We're confident that the level of police officers and PCSOs in the county will provide the service that the people of Suffolk need, however the Constabulary is inviting parish and town councils to join with other town and parishes to jointly fund a PCSO if they wish. These PCSOs would provide additionality to your town/parish and could carry out services such as agreed between yourselves and the Constabulary, focussing on the issues that your council considers to be important.

The cost of a PCSO is around £32K per year and can be funded by more than one party working together, e.g. neighbouring councils may wish to consider clustering to fund an additional PCSO for their area. Based on the cost of a fully funded PCSO being £32K, if those funding a PCSO had 1000 rateable dwellings, it would cost each dwelling circa £2.66 per month to fund a dedicated PCSO for their area.

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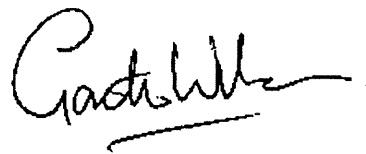
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