

Dear Colleague,

You will be aware of the enormous pressures being placed on all public sector funding and the predicted cuts in the coming years that have been announced in recent weeks.

Hertfordshire Police Authority is no exception and has already had its Government grants reduced by £2m for this year prompting an immediate review of our current spending.

The anticipated shortfall over the next four years could be as high as £26m.

Hertfordshire has a high performing police force that has delivered excellent results and we are keen to maintain these standards. The Authority has also strongly supported the growth and development of Neighbourhood Policing in the county and will continue to do so and do all it can to maintain the level of frontline policing for Hertfordshire.

However, we are now facing unprecedented financial challenges and need to take steps to minimise the impact on policing in the county.

At its meeting on Friday 16 July, the Police Authority will be considering an 'Options for Change' paper. There are three main options for discussion and these are outlined in the attached Executive Summary. They are:

- Independence with preferred collaboration partner plus a savings programme requiring major internal cuts
- Extended collaboration plus a savings programme requiring significant cuts
- Full and voluntary merger plus a savings programme requiring cuts

Bedfordshire Police Authority is also considering the paper on the 16th.

I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you that, if the Authority decides to move forward with the option to merge, no final decisions will be made on the 16th, and the Authority will undertake extensive public and stakeholder consultation over the coming months to inform its future decision.

If supported by the public and both police authorities, it would then need the approval of the Home Secretary before any final agreement is made.

The full report that is being presented to our meeting will be available on our website - www.hertspa.org <<http://www.hertspa.org>> – from 10.00am tomorrow morning (Friday). The meeting is being held in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Hertford to ensure that members of the public and our stakeholders who wish to attend and hear the debate are able to do so.

I shall write to you again after the meeting but, in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Nagler JP DL

Chair, Hertfordshire Police Authority