



Morecambe Town Council
Morecambe Town Hall
Marine Road
Morecambe
LA4 5AF.

Contact: David Croxall
Telephone: 01524 422929
Email:
Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP,
Minister of State for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice and Victims,
2 Marsham Street,
LONDON.
SW1P 4DF

22nd October, 2015

Dear Mr Penning,

Re: Reform of Police Funding Arrangements in England and Wales

The Town Council has asked me to write to you to raise its concerns regarding the Government's proposed changes to the way funding is awarded to Police and Crime Commissioners along with further reductions to the police budgets expected as part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Town Council believes that the proposed changes to the way funding is allocated to forces will leave Lancashire Constabulary unable to keep the residents of Morecambe safe and urges the Government to review this situation immediately.

Lancashire Constabulary has delivered savings effectively and in line with previous Government requirements, and the Town Council remains concerned that the expected level of funding cuts cannot be met without detrimentally affecting the well-being and safety of residents throughout Lancashire, but particularly within Morecambe.

Independent inspectors reviewed Lancashire Constabulary and this week announced that the force was outstanding in the way it has dealt with cuts to date. Indeed, the Inspectors named Lancashire Constabulary as one of only five forces in the country who were outstanding in their approach and said:

"Lancashire Constabulary has looked ahead and made difficult choices well and helped to protect frontline policing as much as possible."

This implies that Lancashire Constabulary know how to manage cuts and manage them well. However, the Town Council agrees with the Constabulary's view that this doesn't mean that it can continue to cut away at the very fabric of the force and still deliver the same level of service to the public. The Town Council believes that is just not possible.

The formula review takes away 13% of Lancashire Constabulary's budget if implemented as proposed. In addition, further cuts of 20 to 45% are expected as a result of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). This equates to between £131m and £161m of cuts over ten years as Lancashire Constabulary have already made or identified savings of £74m to meet previous budget cuts. This will be equivalent to a reduction of half of the operational budget in a decade between 2010 and 2020 and could lead to a reduction in officer numbers from 3611 in 2010 to 1699 by 2020.

The implementation of the Funding Formula proposals along with the forthcoming CSR will have a devastating effect on Policing in Lancashire and may risk the viability of the service and put the people of Lancashire at risk. This is not acceptable and the Town Council respectfully requests that on the basis of the above facts that the proposals within the Funding Formula be reversed.

The Town Council looks forward to your response to this very worrying situation and trusts that the Government will reconsider its position.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Croxall', written in a cursive style.

David Croxall

Town Clerk

c.c. Rt Hon David Morris, MP for Morecambe and Lunesdale
Mr C. Grunshaw, Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner
Mr S. Finnigan, Chef Constable, Lancashire Constabulary