

## **Proposals of Essex's Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable**

'Council notes with dismay the proposals of Essex's Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to:

- Cut the number of Police and Community Support Officer (PCSO) posts in Essex from 250 to 60, of whom just seven will be deployed across Epping Forest and Brentwood
- Withdraw from dealing with matters such as long-term neighbourhood disputes, low level anti-social behaviour and parking issues
- Close and sell Epping Police Station without putting in place alternative local facilities
- Close and sell Ongar Police Station without putting in place alternative local facilities
- Sell the already closed Waltham Abbey Police Station without putting in place alternative local facilities
- Close the front counter at Loughton Police Station

Council notes these proposals will mean the nearest police front counters for Epping Forest residents will be in Harlow, Chelmsford and Basildon.

Council regrets the absence of discussion and consultation in advance of the changes being announced and condemns the inadequate nature of the feedback questionnaire, which does not address the main concerns arising from the proposed changes.

Council resolves:

- to communicate these concerns to the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner
- to assess what impact the withdrawal of the police from matters such as long-term neighbourhood disputes, low level anti-social behaviour and parking issues will have on the council, especially the Community Safety Team, and North Essex Parking Partnership
- to work constructively with the police and other local organisations such as town and parish councils to identify possible alternatives to the closure of local police stations (e.g. co-location).'

**Proposed by: Councillor J M Whitehouse**

**Seconder by: Councillor B Surtees**