

# Essex Police NewsLine

Police to consult with communities on future plans

By Kate Batson

More officers on the front line, improved face to face contact and an improved police service are at the heart of a review of the Essex Police structure.

Essex Police Authority with Essex Police is currently in consultation with local partners and the public about the structure of the police service in the county.

There are a number of options for future changes for the service after a review on structure and policing style by the police authority.

The review seeks to improve the performance of the police service for the benefit of the public.

The aims of the review are to prevent and reduce crime, increase detection rates, and make a positive impact on anti-social behaviour in the county by increasing police officers on front line duties by March 31, 2006, using existing resources.

Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers and Chief Constable Roger Baker said in a joint statement: "This consultation process will give us vital feedback from the public. We will work together with communities to give the public what they want, an increased presence of officers on the streets and communities feeling reassured.

"We are also in consultation with our local partners who we want to continue to work with in the future."

At present Essex Police has nine police divisions and is considering three new options together with the police authority.

These are:

- four police divisions
- five police divisions, or
- six police divisions

These new options aim to increase officers on the front line and address making the best use of our skills and capabilities to deal with all incidents in the county 24-7.

Mr Chambers and Mr Baker added: "We are one of the safest counties in the country, but we can always get better. We have always strived to be the best, but this review has identified the need for increased visible policing and this will not be possible unless one of the three new options outlined in the consultation document is implemented.

"We will be adopting a new fundamental style of policing in Essex and we hope this process will bring with it, essential advice which will help us make our final decision and to improve standards for the benefit of the residents of Essex."

A copy of our consultation document is on our website at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

Police chiefs and authority members will be welcoming feedback from the public at PCCG meetings between now and November 9, 2005.

Anyone is welcome to attend and details of meetings in your area can be found on the authority website at [www.essex.police.uk/authority](http://www.essex.police.uk/authority)

<http://www.essex.police.uk/cms/global/documents/conbvr.pdf>

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