



Dorset Police and Crime Panel

Working for our Communities

Scrutinising & Supporting the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/police-and-crime-panel

Chairman: Mike Short MBE

c/o Dorset County Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

E-mail - Fiona D King f.d.king@dorsetcc.gov.uk Tel 01305 224186

Statement from Mike Short, Chair of the Dorset Police and Crime Panel, following the announcement from Dorset Police and Devon & Cornwall Police of a proposal to merge the two police forces

As a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) we will of course follow developments on this issue with extreme interest. At the moment the key line in the Chief Constables' press release is "one avenue now being explored further is the possibility of a full merger between the two forces uniting Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police into one police force".

It is important to note that before any such change would come into being there is a whole raft of consultation to be undertaken at both the national and local level, and there is currently no (known) timeline. The Dorset PCP is one of the organisations that will have input into this debate/proposal.

In the meantime, the role of the Dorset Police and Crime Panel is to seek assurance from the Dorset Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) that:

- The voice of the people of Dorset will be sought as part of any future merger process.
- Any impact on frontline policing in Dorset will be unmasked.
- Cost benefits will be exposed.
- Improvements through merger will be demonstrated.

In time we will request a business case from the Dorset OPCC, detailing the justification and any improvements/drawbacks for this proposal. Following this, we will give a coherent, unified response to the Dorset OPCC in order to inform this important policy debate.