



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME
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The Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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Our Ref: LG/ek
Reply to: Lorne Green
Direct Dial: 01953 424455
25 October 2018


Dear Minister

I am writing to you on a matter of urgent necessity which has the real potential of impacting seriously on public safety in Norfolk.

The Norfolk community has become alarmed at the prospect of its police service having to find £5.6m of unanticipated and unbudgeted funds to pay additional police officer employer's pension contributions over the next two years. Many cling to the hope found in the Home Office statement to the effect that your Ministry is 'working closely with forces to understand the impact this change will have and are in discussions with police leaders about mitigating the impact on the front line. The Government is committed to continuing to ensure police have the resources they need to do their vital work and the Home Secretary has been clear that he will prioritise policing at the next spending review'.

Norfolk cannot afford to wait for the next spending review. Even with the extra flexibility of a £12 increase in the council tax for next year, we still must find an additional £1m just to balance the budget. To add on an additional £2.2m for the next year, and a further £3.4m in 2020-21 can only mean cutting police services drastically with consequent impact on public safety.

This unwelcome news comes only a few months before I am required to present my budget and tax precept proposals for next year to the Police and Crime Panel. We are 10 years into our strategic collaboration with Suffolk Constabulary and savings are virtually exhausted. Since austerity began in 2010, to the end of this year, Norfolk Police will have made annually recurring savings of nearly £37m (our budget is £154m). We have a minimum level of reserves. Demands on the police and the complexity of those demands, continue to increase. The last resort for the Chief Constable would have to be a reduction in local policing just as we reach full

establishment following agreement on the Norfolk 2020 local policing model. Since staff costs by far are the largest part of our budget, £5.6m threatens 110 police officer positions.

Our Government traditionally has been recognised as the party of law and order. Norfolk desperately needs the Government's understanding now to help us assure public safety in our county.

The people of Norfolk await your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lorne Green', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lorne Green
Police and Crime Commissioner