

18 February 2021

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak,  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 1AA

Dear Chancellor,

### **2021/22 Financial Settlement for the Police**

As I am sure you are aware on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the Final Police Funding Settlement was published in Parliament. As a result of this there are two areas that I would like to bring to your attention in advance of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) which I presume will take place later in the year.

#### Reverse Civilianisation – Using Police Officers to do Civilian work

In the settlement PCCs were given an additional £415m for the recruitment of new Police Officers under the uplift program and the opportunity to raise a further £288m from local tax payers provided they increased the precept by £15. All other grants were frozen

Whilst I welcome the new funding for Officers under the uplift program I am concerned that no new funding was provided for Police Staff and that any new money provided by Government was ring-fenced for Officers. Modern Policing is a team effort in which uniformed officers only play a part. Surrey has a large number of civilian staff that support officers in their roles. The skills of a warranted officer are very different to those of, for example, a contact centre operative or analyst. Over the years specialist staff have been employed to ensure that officers can spend more time doing what they do best – being on the street and catching criminals – and yet the valuable contribution these staff make does not seem to be recognised in the settlement.

The Treasury is rightly calling for Police Forces to become more efficient and indeed £120m of efficiencies have been targeted as part of the settlement. Here in Surrey we have delivered £75m in savings over the last 10 years and are budgeting for a further £6m in the year ahead. However I am concerned that with all the focus on Police Officer numbers, due to the Uplift Program, future savings can only come from reductions in Police staff. This will mean over time that trained warranted officers will be required to do roles previously undertaken by police staff for which they are ill-equipped and not

really what they joined the Force for in the first place. This “reverse civilianisation” as it is called is also very wasteful not only of resources but also of talent.

Recognising the financial constraints the country is under I would like to ask that this issue is considered as part of the CSR later this year to ensure that resources can be used in the most efficient and cost effective way.

### Police Funding Formula

The other matter which I would like to draw your attention to before the CSR is the Police Funding Formula. For many years the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners has been strongly advocating a review of the Police Funding Formula. I recognise that unforeseen circumstances over the past couple of years have meant that this important review has been delayed. The urgency of going back to this issue in 2021 cannot be understated. The inequity of the current arrangements means that the proportion of Policing costs that falls on local taxpayers through Council Tax ranges from 59% in my own area of Surrey to only 22% in the West Midlands. I urge you to ensure that this inequality will be addressed in a review of the formula as part of the CSR work.

I accept that the Government will have a lot of decisions to make in respect of the forthcoming CSR but if you would like to discuss these matters further please do contact me

Yours sincerely

David Munro  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey**

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