

Regional Restructuring of Police Forces

A recent report in respect of the current structure of the police service in England and Wales identified severe shortcomings in relation to the capacity of existing forces, particularly those numerically smaller in size, to deliver the 'Protective Services' (e.g. Serious, Organised Crime and Cross Border Crime; Counter Terrorism and Extremism) to an appropriate level. The Home Secretary is therefore seeking to reduce the number of police forces in England and Wales to achieve, amongst other things, a minimum strength in each force of at least 4,000 officers.

Questionnaire

There is clear central support for a policing structure that revolves around neighbourhood policing teams within BCUs and work is already being undertaken nationally in this respect. However, the report also highlights a requirement for a more efficient, integrated platform above this level. Having submitted initial proposals, Essex Police and Essex Police Authority have now been asked, by the Home Office, to look at the three options below in more detail. In addition to this, Essex Police, together with Essex Police Authority, have agreed to assess the potential for Essex to remain as it is as a 'Stand Alone Strategic Force'.

- A Regional Force made up of the six police forces
- An East/West option, which means Essex would merge with Norfolk and Suffolk and Hertfordshire would merge with Beds and Cambridgeshire.
- A North/South option, which would put Essex with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire would merge with Norfolk and Suffolk.
- Essex as a Stand Alone strategic force

We want to hear your views on the proposed regional restructuring of police forces. It is important to note that any option eventually selected will have to provide the following:

- The development of local and neighbourhood policing
- The provision of protective services to national standards
- The organisation of affordable support and strategic development

Consequently, when completing the questionnaire, these requirements should be taken as read.

Please use this form to let us have your comments on each of the four options and submit it no later than **MIDDAY on FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 2005**

Your Details

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address One	<input type="text"/>
Address Two	<input type="text"/>
Town	<input type="text"/>
County	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>

OPTION ONE: A REGIONAL FORCE
(Essex/Bedfordshire/Cambridgeshire/ Hertfordshire/Norfolk/Suffolk)

Q1. Will the creation of a Regional Force affect you?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q2. Are there any potential problems or advantages for you, your organisation or the people you represent that you can foresee in having a single Regional Force?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q3. Do you see the creation of a Regional Force affecting partnership working in the county? (if you are a member of the public responding to this, your relationship with the police)

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of the above, please give your reasons below



OPTION TWO: AN EAST/WEST SPLIT
(Essex/Norfolk/Suffolk and Bedfordshire/ Cambridgeshire/Hertfordshire)

Q1. Will the creation of 2 forces on an East/West basis affect you?

Yes ☐ No ☐

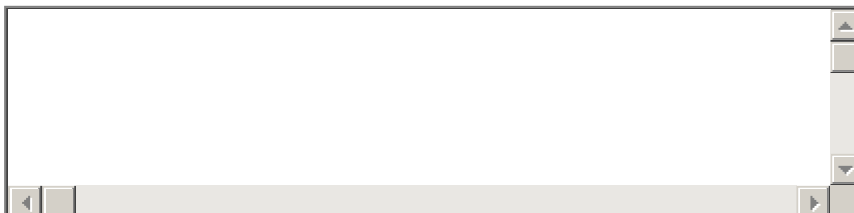
Q2. Are there any potential problems or advantages for you, your organisation or the people you represent that you can foresee in having 2 forces divided on an East/West basis ?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Q3. Do you see the creation of an East/West split affecting partnership working in the county? (if you are a member of the public responding to this, your relationship with the police)

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of the above, please give your reasons below



OPTION THREE: A NORTH/SOUTH SPLIT
(Essex/Bedfordshire/ Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire/Norfolk and Suffolk)

Q1. Will the creation of 2 forces on a North/South basis affect you?

Yes ☒ No ☐


Q2. Are there any potential problems or advantages for you, your organisation or the people you represent that you can foresee in having 2 forces divided on a North/South basis?

Yes ☒ No ☐

**Q3. Do you see the creation of a North/South split affecting partnership working in the county?
(if you are a member of the public responding to this, your relationship with the police)**

Yes ☒ No ☐

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of the above, please give your reasons below



OPTION FOUR: Essex as a Stand Alone strategic force

Q1. Will Essex remaining as it is affect you?

Yes ☒ No ☐


Q2. Are there any potential problems or advantages for you, your organisation or the people you represent that you can foresee in Essex remaining as it is?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Q3. Do you see Essex remaining as it is affecting partnership working in the county? (if you are a member of the public responding to this, your relationship with the police)

Yes ☒ No ☐

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of the above, please give your reasons below



Submit