



PRESS INFORMATION

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Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary Merger

Having considered the outline business case for a possible merger between Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary, members of Bedfordshire Police Authority agreed to commence a programme of consultation to evaluate public opinion on the concept. Bedfordshire Police Authority members did not wish to take a decision of such magnitude without asking local residents for their views.

However, Hertfordshire Police Authority members, independently considering the same report, voted to defer taking a decision on their preferred option until further collaboration and joint working opportunities have been considered.

This means that consultation will not take place in either county and the proposals for a merger between the two forces will not be taken any further forward at this time.

Peter Conniff, Chair of Bedfordshire Police Authority, said: "We fully respect the decision of our Hertfordshire colleagues, who felt that they wished to examine other options in more depth. We will now work with the joint collaboration team, plus other forces and partners in Bedfordshire, to explore projects that will bring about significant savings and protect the provision of local policing.

"Our overriding objective at all times is to ensure the delivery of an effective local policing service for our residents. The options in the business case considered today will undoubtedly help us to make financial savings and develop new ways of working in the future.

"We have always made it quite clear that for a merger to be considered in more depth it would need the approval of both police authorities and we are pleased to have had the opportunity to consider the different options which have been presented."

ENDS

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