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Police and Crime Commissioner
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Councillor Tudor Evans OBE
Leader of Plymouth City Council
Labour Councillor for Ham Ward

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10 September 2018

Dear Mr Underhill

Proposed Merger of Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police

You will be aware that Plymouth City Council has had significant engagement with the above proposal, through Member briefings, the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel and the Council's Cabinet. We have been asked by our Cabinet to express to you our severe reservations about the proposed merger, and to draw to your attention ten key issues. They are summarised below and relate to the proposal's failure to adequately address:

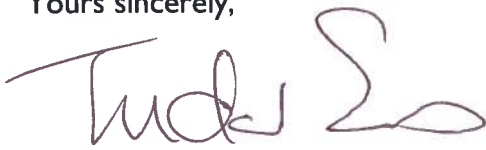
- i. Essential practice of providing key stakeholders with full details of the proposed merger until the engagement period has concluded. This raises considerable alarm about the lack of transparency and failure to disclose key facts that would enable informed feedback from stakeholders;
- ii. Opportunities to formally consult with key stakeholders such as Local Authorities on a process that directly impacts local areas and local communities;
- iii. financial modelling sufficient to justify the proposal, or to demonstrate value for money to citizens;
- iv. How the proposed additional 430 police officers or staff will be funded and allocated as a result of the merger;
- v. The impact assessment of the merger, specifically with respect to equalities and diversity, and as a result of any potential rise in council tax payments on the city's most vulnerable residents;
- vi. Whether any increase in revenue to the proposed merged force will be reinvested back into the city's policing offer;
- vii. Whether policing resources will be committed to meet the specific needs of urban areas such as Plymouth, given its status in the force area, and how Plymouth's policing model will be affected;
- viii. Whether the merger will result in further reductions in neighbourhood policing, specifically Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and neighbourhood beat managers (NBMs);

- ix. Whether the city will remain a Basic Command Unit within the new force, and what commitments are made to the visibility of senior police staff and the Police and Crime Commissioner in the city within a greatly enlarged force area;
- x. The failure to reference any intention to improve the condition and use of the police estate in Plymouth in line with the ambitions of a modern police force.

Our Council is considering this matter at its meeting of 17 September 2018, and will be asked to support a motion calling for a re-assessment of the proposed merger timetable to allow the City Council and other key stakeholders to review a business case that fully addresses the issues above, prior to its submission to the Home Office.

We look forward to your response to the issues that we have raised, and to your early consideration of a request, subject to the outcome of our Council Meeting, to properly align the business case submission timing with good stakeholder consultation practice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tudor Evans', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE
Leader of Plymouth City Council

cc.

Shaun Sawyer, Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police

Martyn Underhill, OPCC Dorset

James Vaughan, Chief Constable of Dorset Police