

Council Meeting, 23 July 2015

Notice of Motion - Fair funding for Devon and Cornwall Police

This Council notes that:

- The current Home Office funding formula systematically disadvantages Devon and Cornwall with its inbuilt bias favoring metropolitan areas.
- Further spending cuts are inevitable over the life of this Parliament and Devon & Cornwall constabulary will continue to be hit harder than other forces if this is not addressed.
- The existing funding formula does not recognise the additional policing burdens created by:
 - Having the largest number of tourist visitors of any force area in the country.
 - The rurality and associated levels of deprivation, particularly in Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay areas.
 - High levels of vulnerability resulting from higher levels of mental health issues, an elderly population and low income families.
 - Little account taken of our relatively high levels of violent crime, sexual offences and public order offences.
 - Additional burdens created by having the longest length of coastline with numerous ports and harbours associated with human trafficking, slavery and illegal movement of goods.

Beyond the police funding formula issues, Government only provides 61% of total funding for policing whereas the national average is 68%. If Devon and Cornwall were simply to be funded to the national average we would require an additional £12m to be added to our budget.

Devon and Cornwall Police resources are stretched to the limit and the unfairness of the national allocation of funds is creating significant additional problems.

- Community Policing is at risk if this funding crisis is not resolved.

The Home Office is due to consult on a new funding formula in the coming months.

In light of the above, this Council agrees to:

- Write to the two MP's that represent the Torbay Unitary Authority, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Home Secretary, advising of the concerns raised in this motion.

Proposed by Councillor Doggett

Seconded by Councillor Darling (M)