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Parish Council Chair

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**Our ref:**  
**Your ref:**

25 July 2018

**Re: Current position regarding Police and Community Support Officers (PCSO) in Test Valley**

Dear Sir / Ma'am,

I am writing to you to provide an update about the current PCSO numbers that we have in Test Valley district. Over the last few months we have seen a rapid reduction in the number of PCSOs that we have in the district particularly in the southern part of Test Valley.

The reason for this is due primarily to our PCSOs being successful in joining not only Hampshire Constabulary but other surrounding police forces as police constables.

We have also had a couple of our PCSOs leave as they have secured employment with outside agencies and we are about to have one of our PCSOs go on a career break.

For Test Valley district we should have an establishment of 20 PCSO, due to the reasons explained above the actual number of PCSOs that we have available is 13.25. (2 of those are currently on maternity leave)

In September we are losing 3 more PCSOs as they start their training to be police officers. There is also 1 further PCSO awaiting a start date to be a constable with Surrey police.

I am concerned with the rapid reduction in PCSO numbers and have raised my concerns with our senior commanders but at the same time I am pleased for those individuals being successful with their career plans.

Steps will be taken to fill these vacancies but that can't occur until a review of neighbourhood policing that is being conducted by the Constabulary is complete.



This review is being undertaken to prepare us for potential future budget reductions as the current government funding arrangements penalise us as a force. The Police and Crime Commissioner will be considering options to best utilise the funding that he can secure through the council tax precept.

I know that the current PCSO staffing situation will be concerning to you and your communities and as soon as I am able to (following the neighbourhood policing review) I will be requesting PCSOs to be redistributed from other areas of the constabulary and also new PCSOs to be recruited to fill the vacancies.

On a slightly more positive note our neighbourhood police officer numbers are remaining static. The district should have 16 police constables and we currently have 13. 1 police constable is joining us in September and I am hopeful that there will be another couple joining us later in the year.

Policing our communities has never been more challenging but we will do our very best to focus on the issues that carry the greatest degree of threat, harm and risk.

Yours sincerely

Chief Inspector Kory Thorne  
Test Valley District Commander  
Hampshire Constabulary



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