

West Yorkshire Police Authority

Collaboration is the way forward in Yorkshire and Humberside

Police mergers off!

Many of you will be aware of the Home Secretary's wish to amalgamate forces, to strengthen the delivery of protective services - such as counter-terrorism and extremism, serious organised and cross-border crime and public order. On 21 March the Home Secretary told us of his decision to merge all the four forces in Yorkshire and Humberside to form a regional police force.

West Yorkshire Police Authority has always believed that a regional police force was not in the best interests of the people of West Yorkshire, and that West Yorkshire Police already provide a satisfactory level of protective services to its public. Two out of the other three police authorities also oppose the merger.

Police authorities, councils and other stakeholders were given until August 11 to submit official objections to the merger, but this process has now been halted.

The Police Authority based its objection on a number of factors, including the inevitable performance deterioration caused by restructures, concerns about estimated costs and savings of the merger and the absence of adequate governance and accountability structures below the regional level. Of biggest concern was the expected increase in the amount

every West Yorkshire council tax payer will pay each year for policing, as the amount needed to rise towards the average paid across the region.

Now that we know we can progress other ways to improve protective services, we can concentrate on working jointly with neighbouring forces to reap the benefits of combining resources, without the upheaval and distraction of a full-blown merger.

Police authorities within the region had already commenced talks to establish a Joint Committee that would bring

members from all four authorities together to oversee this collaborative working.

In the meantime, the message from the Authority and West Yorkshire Police is that it is business as usual. Just as we took steps to guard against restructure activity getting in the way of day to day policing, the Police Authority will make sure with the Chief Constable and his team that these discussions don't interfere with the improvements we have promised in the way local communities are policed.



Consultees at a recent event in Kirklees.



Keep up to date

The Authority's Beatcrime website enables you to be more informed about crime in your local area, simply by punching in your postcode.

Information for the crime types that people have told us are important is displayed on a map of your local area. Charts show how the levels for these crime types have changed over the past two years. Finally, there are links to other sites that will help you find out how you can avoid being a victim of crime, join a neighbourhood watch scheme, or find the details of your local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

If you would like more information about the ways in which the public can influence local policing or would like to make any comments, please visit the Authority's website: www.wypa.org or contact us on (01924) 294000.

and get involved

Public meetings are planned for the Autumn in each district so that you can tell us what the priorities for the police should be for 2007/08, and give us your views on other policing matters. Events finalised so far are:-

- Wednesday 13 September The Ramada Bankfield Hotel, Bingley, 6.30pm
- Tuesday 19 September Wakefield Town Hall, 6.30pm
- Tuesday 3 October Leeds - venue to be confirmed
- Tuesday 10 October Huddersfield University, 6.30pm

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 requires every police authority to produce a local policing summary each year and distribute it to council tax payers. This edition of Your Police includes the local policing summary for 2005/06 in the centre four pages.

The aim of the summary is to provide the public with information showing how the police force has performed over the past year, what its priorities are for the next year and details of how to contact the police in your local area.

We'd like to know what you think of it. So, please - complete the survey, cut it out and return it to us in an envelope (no stamp needed).

Tell us what you think

The first five questions relate to the presentation of the information in the 'Your Policing Summary,' in the centre four pages of this issue of Your Police.

<p>Q1. What is your overall opinion of the local policing summary?</p> <p>Excellent <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Good <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Fair <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Poor <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Very poor <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Q2. Would you say that you found the information contained in the local policing summary useful?</p> <p>Agree <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Disagree <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Q3. Would you say that that you found the information easy to read and understand?</p> <p>Agree <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Disagree <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Q4. Was the balance between force-wide and local policing information...?</p> <p>About right <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Too much force-wide information <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Too much local information <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Q5. I would like to read more about... (tick as many of the options below that apply)</p> <p>What the Police Authority is doing <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Planned changes to local policing <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>How the police budget is spent <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Local initiatives and successes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	

The next four questions will help us see how Neighbourhood Policing is impacting on all our communities in West Yorkshire.

<p>Q6. Have you met a member of your Neighbourhood Policing Team?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Q7. Do you feel the police are now dealing with the things that matter to people in your area?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Q8. Would you prefer the arrangements for contact points to be fixed e.g. every other Monday from 4pm to 6pm or more flexible?</p> <p>Prefer fixed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Prefer more flexible <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I have no preference <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Q9. Over the last 12 months, do you think the level of visible patrol (car and foot) has ...?</p> <p>Increased <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Stayed the same <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Decreased <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Demographic Information This is confidential

Knowing your postcode will help us to understand how well your area is being policed (please fill in the boxes below)

-

<p>Age</p> <p>16-24 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>25-34 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>35-44 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>45-54 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>55-64 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Over 64 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Ethnic Group</p> <p>Asian or Asian British <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Black or Black British <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Chinese <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mixed Heritage <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>White <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other Ethnic Group <input type="checkbox"/></p>
---	--

Do you have a long-term health problem or disability which limits your daily activity or the work you can do?

<p>Gender</p> <p>Male <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Female <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
--	--

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY (NO STAMP NEEDED) TO:

Freepost RLXZ-JXEK-ZAYJ
WYPA
Wakefield WF1 1DL