



## LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

# PRESS INFORMATION

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### **Police Service Needs Support and Trust – Not Cuts**

Leicestershire Police Authority's Chairman, Cllr Barrie Roper, has joined the growing army of people calling for a rethink on the funding cuts which will see 16,000 fewer police officers in England and Wales by 2015.

Echoing the views of Boris Johnson, Cllr Roper said: "I think the events of the last week emphasise the potential dangers of continuing with the planned reductions in funding. This is not the time for cuts, which will lead to fewer people with fewer resources.

"I have seen police officers and staff working tirelessly to keep control of our City's streets and thankfully, due to their diligence, we have not had to tolerate the type of violence and mayhem suffered elsewhere.

"Everyone has pulled out all the stops to literally keep the peace, and they deserve our support and trust – and an appreciation of the thankless task they have fulfilled, which has kept residents and businesses safer as a result.

"I fully believe that the Police Service has the talent and ability to tackle these issues, if only they can be given the opportunity."

There have also been fresh calls for the plans to abolish police authorities in favour of directly elected police and crime commissioners to be discarded. Opponents, including senior Liberal Democrats, say that members of the public will not understand why millions of pounds should be spent on the new system at this time.

Cllr Roper, who has previously told of his concerns at the plans, said: "The world has moved on since the idea was first put forward. Surely now is a good time to take stock and reconsider. Every possible penny should be invested in keeping our officers and staff, not electing Commissioners. The Government plans to spend £130million on setting up the new system, while the elections alone will cost £50million – every four years. Personally I would rather see a few more officers. I also think that the taxpayers would agree.

“For safety’s sake I call upon all those who say that the cuts won’t make a difference to look at the events of this week – and think again.”

ENDS

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