



Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner **STAFFORDSHIRE**

Foreword

by Matthew Ellis, Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner

This business case has been developed by independent experts and sets out opportunities to bring more financial stability and more frontline investment to two of Staffordshire's critical public services.

Successfully delivering these proposals would mean the professionals in policing and the fire service could get on with the job of keeping people safe with more certainty for the future than they've had for a long time and without the shadow of more and more upheaval for years to come.

The business case which has been developed over the last twelve months recognises their invaluable work in difficult circumstances. It reflects the financial demands faced by each service as well as the changing nature of crime, harm and the emerging threats we expect them to deal with.

At the heart of this proposal is providing a more stable environment for both where new investment can be made in frontline services and we can develop further, across both of the services the excellent work fire professionals have done to prevent harm in the first place.

More, now than ever, we need to invest in frontline policing and frontline fire services on the streets across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The principles and detail in this business case will support more frontline resources by redirecting at least £3.6million of the overall budgets towards delivery of services at the sharp end.

An important aspect of making that happen is governance and strategic decision making and the report concludes that the separate governance arrangements currently in place for each service make these opportunities more difficult to achieve legally and practically.

This has been recognised nationally and the law has been changed to allow Police and Crime Commissioners to bring the governance and budget holding for the fire service in their area alongside the governance they already have of policing.

For that to happen, the specific circumstances in their area have to be assessed thoroughly through the development of an independent business case by experts. It is that 150 page document which follows this introduction.

There must also be a consultation seeking the views from interested parties and the public and then, following all of that, experts nationally will advise the Government to approve or not approve the proposals.

I think this is an opportunity we should embrace because the services provided by these two emergency organisations would become more resilient and even more effective into the future if we do.