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Rt Hon Amber Rudd
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
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Your Ref:
Our Ref RH LG 20170519
Date: 19th May 2017
Enquiries to: Lucy Gordon
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Dear Home Secretary

I hereby request your approval of my proposal for Joint Governance of Police and Fire & Rescue services in Essex under my office as Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, as detailed in the completed Local Business Case which I am submitting to you along with this letter.

Strategic alignment between the emergency services will allow closer collaboration, and commitment to longer term joint projects. We have the opportunity to improve economy, effectiveness and efficiency and so enhance public safety, the bedrock on which we build wellbeing and prosperity for all in our area.

The work we have done in preparing the Local Business Case has already led to an increase in areas of successful collaboration, and I am keen to maintain this momentum. Our active consultation with partners has won the support of all of the Tier One Local Authorities in the area, Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Thurrock Borough Council, and of the Members of Parliament in the county. The Police and Crime Panel and Essex Fire Authority have also been kept informed throughout in order to facilitate the proposed new governance arrangements. We have held a constructive dialogue with the representatives of employees, officers and members of the services. Essex is well placed to take a lead in introducing a new joint governance model for Police and Fire & Rescue and improving the way these services are delivered.

The comprehensive public consultation we have undertaken has been a successful process and has been acknowledged as meeting the industry standards for good practice.

Throughout the process we have made it clear that joint governance and better collaboration are not only about economy, effectiveness and efficiency but also improvements to community safety, and the public response has favoured our preferred option.

Essex Fire & Rescue workforce is currently going through a programme of cultural change, and I believe it is important to ensure officers and staff do not experience a prolonged period of uncertainty. With this in mind, I would ask you to consider this Local Business Case and support it, so as to provide by order that Joint Governance may be implemented on the 1st October this year.

I very much appreciate the support of your team and am open to any enquiries in the meantime.

Yours sincerely



Roger Hirst
Police and Crime Commissioner