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June 4, 2013 4:59 pm

## Chief calls for West Midlands and Staffordshire police to join forces again

Plans, which were scrapped earlier this year, for two West Midland police forces to share services should be revived in the wake of the terrorist attack in Woolwich, a police chief has claimed.

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West Midlands and Staffordshire police were looking at combining their armed response teams, dog support and training as well as tactical planning and road policing.

However, Staffordshire backed out of the plans in March saying it was not the 'right thing' for the county.

Today, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones said he hoped the plans would still go ahead – and insisted they would help the response to a major incident like the attack on Drummer Lee Rigby last month.

The proposals were first mooted back in 2011 in a move which, it was hoped, would save the forces £650,000 a year. But it was also feared that the changes could mean increased response times to incidents and that staff may resist the proposals.

Mr Jones told the Express & Star: "A collaboration between the forces would mean we would be in a better position to respond to the big incidents like Woolwich.

He added: "We are still looking at this but Staffordshire had reservations about certain elements but I hope this is an area they will look at to ensure both counties have appropriate resilience to be able to respond to these rare incidents.

"Once something like this happens we need to be able to reassure the community that we can respond as quickly as possible."

He said the plans would see the forces 'working more closely and efficiently together'.

However, his counterpart in Staffordshire said any joint working would only go ahead if it would benefit people living in the area.

Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis said: "Following a review I recently commissioned, the Chief Constable Mike Cunningham looked at historic ongoing proposals to develop joint services with Staffordshire and West Midlands forces in armed response, dog support and training, tactical planning and roads policing.

"The review found the operational case is not strong enough to support these original collaboration proposals. It found few significant benefits either financial, resilience or service improvement wise for Staffordshire people that warrants collaboration in these areas with West Midlands Police force.

"I am all for collaboration but it must be the right fit and the benefits must be very strong for Staffordshire people".

## **Comments for: "Chief calls for West Midlands and Staffordshire police to join forces again"**

Me

June 5, 2013 2:50 am

It's not just policing Stafford's backing out of.. they want to create an autonomous region...yet they want to pay for it using other people's money. Stafford's the English equivalent of North Korea.. with full government backing right down to the pro-Stafford propaganda constantly bombarding more important stories. I'm sick of reading about how the sun shines out of Stafford's rear yet just how little Stafford wants to do with anyone else unless it's on Stafford's terms.

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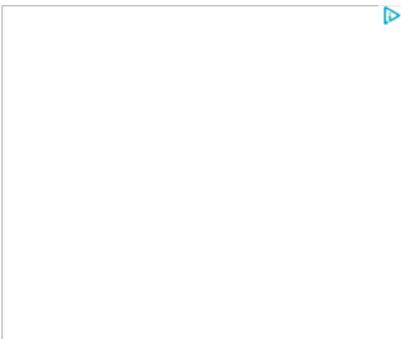
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