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01:34 Saturday 06 July 2013

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Cash-strapped Cambridgeshire police could expand force mergers

Written by RAYMOND BROWN

A chief constable is gearing up to collaborate with more neighbouring constabularies to save cash, minutes of a secret meeting have revealed.

Cambridgeshire police's lead officer Simon Parr, who has already merged some services with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, believes further teaming up with other forces may be needed.

Minutes of the meeting obtained by the News said: "It was reported that even by working on as many collaborative ventures as possible this would not achieve the required level of savings to meet the financial challenge.

"The Chief Constable indicated that any further collaborative work undertaken would need to have careful sequencing to ensure that this did not cut across other work.

"Additionally, any collaboration activity would need to be generic as it would need to be able to accommodate further partners in the longer term as this would be the only way to achieve the necessary level of savings."

A force spokesman said: "We are working with local, regional and national partners to maintain the momentum on collaboration.

"It will be ensured that any work not only enables the budget to be balanced, but also successfully contributes to the delivery of an efficient and effective police service while protecting local policing.

"We will consider any option which could produce savings and resilience."

And the minutes revealed the three forces have pulled out of collaborating procurement and ICT.

The spokesman said: "We are still looking to collaborate procurement and ICT, however it is not yet clear who that collaboration will be with and how it will work.

"Cambridgeshire has saved around £4 million in collaboration with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire in the last three years and a total of £14 million through collaboration and other measures.

"We still have a further £20 million to £25 million to save in the next four years and are looking at ways to achieve that now.

"While at its heart collaboration is about saving money it must also deliver equal or improved effectiveness and resilience for forces compared to what they could



Cambridgeshire Chief Constable Simon Parr

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deliver on their own.”

Shaun Ryan, chairman of Cambridgeshire Police Federation, which represents rank-and-file officers, said: “The positive on this report is that they are looking towards and quite rightly so areas that could be collaborated to deliver potential savings first.

“We would look to support and work with the constabulary in that endeavour rather than see the quality of the vital service my members provide to the people of Cambridgeshire fall due to any unnecessary cuts to policing within the county.”

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Pedestrian

07/07/2013 11:53

I think we've had this conversation before on another thread, TheObserver? I still say you couldn't have pushed it (the complaint) far enough. If an officer was deemed rude to you (even if they weren't, or you were lying your head off!) I can assure you that they WOULD get carpeted. I'm not against you here and I'm taking your story at face value, but I'm not quite sure why you expect the Police to help with replacing your paperwork. Sure, it's a pain, but a crime number is all that the various institutions require. If, say, the Passport Office service was a bit substandard, there's nothing the Police can do about that. I appreciate you obviously weren't happy, but you shouldn't tar every officer with the same brush. It's none of my business what you do for a living but I bet there's the odd duffer (who is tolerated) in your profession too? And the Police is one of those jobs where everyone in the pub thinks they know more than the people actually doing it!

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TheObserver

07/07/2013 10:11

@Pedestrian,I did make a complaint, then I received a card offering COUNSELING ! Didn't help with replacing passports, visa cards and personal effects. Sure, I replaced my BMW M5 series with an RR Evoke, but that hardly is the point.

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stivian

07/07/2013 08:34

Whilst they are merging, and cutting back the numbers for, the firearms teams, SOCOs and traffic; there will still be a Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constable in each of the three forces. Jobs for the boys?

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Mike1

06/07/2013 21:35

@TheObserver. I think you need an axe to deal with that chip on your shoulder.

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Pedestrian

06/07/2013 19:36

TheObserver - if you weren't happy you should've made a

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