



07 August 2006

### Joint Message from the Chief Constable and the Chairman of the Wiltshire Police Authority

Dear Colleague

Following recent announcements by the Home Secretary to suspend further action in support of police force amalgamations, there remains a need to improve our capability in a number of key areas. These include: Counter Terrorism, investigating Major and Serious Crime, preparing Civil Contingency Plans and Roads Policing. These areas of policing are collectively known as 'Protective Services', as detailed in the report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, *Closing the Gap – Review of the 'Fitness for Purpose' of the Current Structure of Policing in England and Wales*.

Early planning has indicated there are improvements we can make in terms of how we use and structure our resources. This planning has established five key areas for development:

- **Local Policing:** the effective organisation of our resources to ensure we have a set of teams able to deliver a variety of services namely Neighbourhood Policing, investigation of crime and other incidents and responding promptly to calls. We may see some changes to the makeup of our existing teams over the forthcoming months but our priority remains one of ensuring the best countywide coverage by working not only from our existing 23 police stations but also reinforced by up to a further 30 new contact points established by Neighbourhood Teams out in the community.
- **Major and Serious crime:** the threat and impact of serious and major crime is a real issue across the entire country. We need to invest in this service to ensure that we continue to investigate all such crime in an effective and efficient manner.
- **Contact Management:** we acknowledge that this is an area which needs improvement and investment to enable the public to access a wide range of our services either by way of telephone, internet or via personal face to face contact.

- **Response:** reorganising our response services from local police stations and supporting departments across Wiltshire, to ensure that they integrate with local policing and give an effective, flexible and rapid response to situations that arise across the county.
- **Maintaining reassurance to the public:** improving access to our services through the expansion of Neighbourhood Policing Teams. By April 2007, 91 teams will be in place across the County, each consisting of a lead Police Constable, assisted by other Constables, a number of Police Community Support Officers and members of the Special Constabulary. In total, in excess of 550 officers and staff, including an additional 200 PCSOs, will be dedicated to policing local communities. This exceeds our current commitment.

We do not anticipate receiving any funding to help deliver these changes but we are convinced that this is our best route to maintain and improve our effectiveness across all aspects of policing.

Over the coming weeks and months we will be holding various events where you will be able to learn more detail on the plans and progress to date.

Yours Sincerely



Martin Richards  
**Chief Constable**



Bertie Woolnough  
**Police Authority Chairman**