

POLICE MERGER PLANS

THE people of Essex are being urged to have their say in the potential merger of Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, through a 12-week consultation that started on February 16 and ends on Wednesday, May 10.

The new Policing and Crime Act 2017 offers the opportunity to transform local fire and rescue working, enabling police and crime commissioners to become the fire and rescue authority where a strong local case is made. The Government has also created a statutory duty to collaborate.

Police and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst said: "Together we have developed a local case for Essex to strengthen our emergency services, improve joint working and deliver significant savings. We have an opportunity to share knowledge, back-office services, make better use of estates and help protect vulnerable people in joined-up ways.

"The resources freed-up by this would be reinvested in front-line services and enable both emergency services to better protect the people of Essex."

To give your views, please visit www.essex.pcc.police.uk/LocalCaseForChange or contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner by emailing pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk.