Dear Clerk to the Council,

**Re: Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge**

On 16th January 2025, Cumbria Constabulary launched its Neighbourhood Policing Pledge that committed the Constabulary to the provision of ten individual pledge priority areas to further support communities and the Constabulary in the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing.

The second Pledge relates to the provision of visible and accessible Neighbourhood Policing Teams that are committed to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and to improve public confidence. One aspect of this will be the requirement for local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to engage better with local council representatives. Specifically, the Pledge commits the Constabulary to, ‘Twice yearly virtual meeting within each NPT locality with parish and town councils’.

Cumbria Constabulary currently operates six Neighbourhood Policing Teams, three in Cumberland and three in Westmorland. Every Neighbourhood Policing Team is made up of smaller geographical ‘localities’, with each allocated at least one dedicated Community Officer. In total there are currently 33 localities within the force.

Unfortunately, in a such a large county with over 250 parish councils it is not possible to dedicate local police officers to attend monthly parish councils direct, except in the most exceptional of circumstances, as to do so would detract from operational requirements for those officers.

Cumbria Constabulary have worked with Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) to identify those Parish Councils that best fit within the 33 Neighbourhood Policing Team localities, and they have pooled them together for us with the intention that a couple of representatives from each council can attend twice yearly virtual meetings with their locality-based officer(s). In the case of a few parishes that do not clearly sit within any one locality it may be preferable for parish representatives to attend more than one locality meeting.

For CALC to assist Cumbria Constabulary further in this Pledge commitment, we would be grateful if you could, at your earliest opportunity, inform CALC of the two council representatives that you wish to attend your local virtual meeting. Once we have these details, we will then be able to schedule meetings in line with our Pledge commitment.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working closer with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

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T/Ch. Superintendent Andy Wilkinson

Neighbourhood Policing Strategic Lead