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Leader of the Council Councillor Claire Kober

Stephen Greenhalgh
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
Greater London Authority
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25 February 2013

Dear Stephen,

Open letter from Cllr Claire Kober, Leader of Haringey Council

I know from residents across Haringey that unfortunately many feel less safe than they used to. Fear of crime is often most felt by young people living in the borough. Regrettably the fear of crime will often drive wider perceptions which we need to address. People want to feel safe in their homes and businesses. They rightly expect the Police, working with agencies including the Council, courts, probation service and others to achieve this.

A visible Police presence is an important driver of community safety – to deter criminals and anti-social behaviour, and to ensure a speedy response is available to those who wish to report a crime.

I am concerned about the proposals to reduce the availability of front counters across Haringey. The Council well understands the need to save money, but that must not be at the expense of making communities feel less safe. Particularly in parts of the borough dealing with some of the highest levels crime in London. I would urge a very careful rethink of the options available to make the necessary savings, so that a 24-hour counter service can be retained.

I am disappointed about the resources available for neighbourhood policing. Good neighbourhood policing supports community engagement, reduces crime and increases confidence. So I am disappointed that on current plans Haringey will not be benefitting significantly from the increases in neighbourhood policing numbers that some other Councils have seen.

I will continue, on behalf of the community, to make the case for more resources to be available for Haringey.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Claire Kober
Leader of the Council