



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1st November 2017

Labour councillors welcome police station decision

Bexley's Labour Group of councillors have welcomed the news that the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) have taken the decision to retain Bexleyheath Police Station.

In their response to the consultation, Bexley's Labour councillors called on MOPAC to retain the station in its current location, citing the need for a main front desk in Bexleyheath town centre and the impact on police response times if the station were to be located to Sidcup.

As well as responding to MOPAC, Cllr Daniel Francis, Leader of Bexley Labour Group also wrote to Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and the Home Secretary outlining the Labour Group's concerns over the future of policing in the borough.

The letter to the Home Secretary asked her to ensure the London Mayor receives additional funding in the forthcoming funding settlement.

In making this representation, the councillors were mindful that:

- The Metropolitan Police Service has had to make £600 million pounds worth of savings since 2010, and will be required to find another £400 million pounds in savings by the end of the decade.
- As a result of the Government's new funding formula, London's £1.90 billion grant from Central Government in 2017/18 could fall in future years.
- The Government is going to lift the public sector pay cap for the police and prison officers. Bexley's Labour Group welcomes this additional pay for hard working police officers but recognise that the Government has not supplied any additional funding towards this pay rise.

Cllr Daniel Francis, Leader of the Labour Group said "We are delighted that MOPAC has reconsidered their proposal to close Bexleyheath Police Station. We are however mindful that the Mayor is having to take a number of extremely tough decisions regarding the future provision of policing in London.

We are very concerned that the Government has made unprecedented cuts to policing budgets, and will continue to force additional cuts to London's policing through funding settlements over the years ahead. We therefore hope that the Home Secretary ensures adequate funding is provided in order for local services, police numbers and police stations to be retained, that the Mayor's office requires additional funding in the forthcoming funding settlement.