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Neighbourhood Policing and Partnerships
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Dear Mr Caundle

Support for the Licensing Scheme within Melcombe Regis

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the selective licensing scheme within the Melcombe Regis Ward.

Dorset Police are actively involved in the Melcombe Regis area and are a committed partner to the Melcombe Regis Board arrangements. We clearly recognise the benefits that the introduction of a selective licensing scheme will bring to the area, and the positive implications it will have in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, improving the quality of life for local residents, supporting and maintaining health and well-being for local people and improving the living environment for the community. Through these key benefits we also recognise that wider improvements are likely to be gained, particularly for local businesses and tourism.

As an area of high deprivation and higher than average crime levels we have implemented a range of measures to support the local community and drive the work of the Melcombe Regis Board. Dorset Police currently contribute towards the funding of a community worker, and we have played an active part in supporting the introduction of community safety accredited officers within the area through the CSAS scheme, by providing accommodation, training and logistical support. Financial support has also been provided to the scheme from the Police & Crime Commissioner for Dorset – Mr Martyn Underhill.

Our commitment to Melcombe Regis has also resulted in the introduction of a dedicated Police Officer from our Neighbourhood Policing team who works closely with partners in delivering wider problem solving within Melcombe Regis. Through the introduction of the national 'Police Now' initiative we are also dedicating two 'Police Now' officers into Melcombe Regis. One will be focused on the neighbourhood policing issues within the area, and the other will focus on the emerging drug and

violent crime issues that are linked to the 'County Lines' drug networks. Dorset Police have committed these officers to Melcombe Regis for two years and we will continue to play an active part in supporting the regeneration of the area, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and improving the quality of life for local residents and people visiting the area for work or travel.

Moving forward we are keen to develop more inclusive partnership engagement to support regeneration and would hope that funding realised from the licensing fee could be reinvested to improve the look and feel of the area and help design out crime through effective landscaping and urban design. We would also welcome re-investment in services for young people and diversion schemes aimed at those affected by alcohol and substance misuse.

In conclusion we are confident that the introduction of the selective licensing scheme will lead to a range of improvements to the Melcombe Regis area, and vitally support the quality of life and health for the local people, help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and improve the levels of satisfaction for residents, businesses and visitors to the area.

Yours sincerely


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Caroline Naughton
Superintendent