

MP quizzes Government over police reorganisations

THE Government has been quizzed over police reorganisations by a city MP, following concerns about local access to resources.

Mark Lancaster pressed ministers in the House of Commons on Monday over plans to scrap the Milton Keynes Basic Command Unit (BCU).

Following his meeting with Chief Superintendent Nikki Ross on Friday, Mr Lancaster wanted to ensure that Milton Keynes continues to get the resources it needs BCU's are scrapped in Thames Valley.

The proposals would mean services that are based locally, such as intelligence, performance management and the management of serious investigations, would be become shared with the wider force.

Mr Lancaster, whose question centred on the accountability of police to the people, was assured by policing minister Nick Herbert that the introduction of police commissioners would do this.

Afterwards Mr Lancaster said: "I am pleased that the Government is looking to remove a layer of bureaucracy while wholly protecting frontline services.

"However, the changes do pose questions about the smallest BCU, Milton Keynes. If some specialist resources become centrally available, our local officers must retain ready access to them. I support the localisation of the police but we must make sure it is done in the right way so the police can continue to do a fantastic job in this city."

Mr Herbert promised to discuss the concerns with Mr Lancaster and the Chief Constable.

To see the exchange in full go to the Parliament section of this website.