

A budget for a truly local policing service



The Covid-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges for policing. I want to thank Cheshire's officers, staff and volunteers, and all key workers, who have worked tirelessly to keep us safe. I also want to thank the vast majority of residents who have acted responsibly during this crisis to protect our NHS and save lives.

The budget for this coming year will allow for continued investment in our community policing model, which has allowed us to deliver a dedicated Police Constable, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and Police Community Base for each of our local communities in Cheshire. I'm proud that we're the first police service in the country to deliver this enhanced service to our residents.

It will allow us to recruit an additional 88 officers and lift the number of PCSOs fully-funded by Cheshire Police to 200. This is integral to our plans to make Cheshire safer and to embed a truly local policing service that is connected with our communities.

To deliver safer roads for Cheshire, I have budgeted for significant investment to further reduce death and serious injuries, including plans to roll-out a further eight average-speed schemes on our most dangerous roads.

The budget will also help to ensure residents of Cheshire get the service that they deserve, with increased resources for our Control Room, where our staff handle 999 calls and non-emergency calls from the public, and additional funding for training to improve outcomes for victims of crime.

This follows a public consultation with Cheshire residents on policing priorities, in which 68% of respondents told me they were willing to pay an extra £1.25 per month over the next 12 months (for the average Band D property).

When the government announced its provisional funding settlement for Cheshire late last year, the

Chief Constable advised me that, without this precept increase, Cheshire Police would be unable to maintain its existing level of service and would be unable to meet the additional operational demands and pressures that we face.

Whilst I believe any additional funding should come from the government, not the local taxpayer, I have listened carefully to the views of the public, to the Chief Constable and to government announcements.

Policing has not yet recovered from years of cuts to central government funding, which saw Cheshire Police having to make £60m of savings and saw our officer numbers hit a historic low of 1,919 in 2014/15.

However, I am proud to have invested in our frontline in a sustainable way, with Cheshire still having one of the lowest local precept charges of all police services nationally.

At the same time, I have ensured my own office costs are amongst the lowest nationally and have reduced the average yearly spend on expenses by 67% compared to the previous Commissioner.

I believe this budget will provide the Chief Constable with the resources needed to deliver an effective service, in light of growing demands on policing both in terms of volume and complexity. I thank all those residents who took part in the consultation and will continue to work, on your behalf, to make Cheshire safer.

David Keane
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Cheshire



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What will the budget fund?

- An additional 88 police officers to help keep Cheshire safe
- Ensure at least 200 PCSOs across Cheshire to help deliver a truly local policing service
- Investment to prevent death and serious injuries on our roads, including plans for further average-speed schemes on Cheshire's most dangerous roads
- Further investment in the Force Control Centre to improve the service for callers to 999 and 101
- Increased resource for the investigation of serious and organised crime that causes the most harm in our communities
- Further investment in the recently-developed Stalking and Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Team



Council tax bands for policing

The Government announced on 17 December 2020 that Cheshire Constabulary would receive £219.8 million to fund local policing in 2021/22.

However, this figure assumed that the precept would be raised by £1.25 per month for the average band D household.

In January 2021, I launched a public consultation to ask local residents their views on police funding and policing priorities for the next year. More than two thirds (68%) of the 2,282 respondents said they would be willing to support an increase to the precept to maintain our existing service and to address the public's priorities.

Therefore the precept will rise by £1.25 a month for an average Band D property. Further information about how much police precept you'll pay depending on your council tax band can be found [opposite](#):

2021/22 police precept by council tax band

Band	£	Band	£
A	150.29	E	275.54
B	175.34	F	325.64
C	200.39	G	375.73
D	225.44	H	450.88

Where does the funding come from?



Funding	£
Government grant	122,215,000
Council tax precept	85,832,000
Other income & specific grants	34,368,000
Total funding and income	242,415,000

Want to know more...



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