

A budget that increases police officer visibility



I am pleased that I have been able to set a police budget for 2020/21 that will see increased investment in neighbourhood policing to provide a more visible police presence across Cheshire.

Over the next year, all of Cheshire's 122 policing communities will be assigned their own named police officer that is dedicated to tackling issues in each area. The new neighbourhood officers will work alongside the PCSOs already dedicated to each policing community to develop strong links with local residents and tackle emerging issues before they become more serious.

We know that a visible policing presence not only provides reassurance, it can also prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and this investment, along with the extra funding from Government as part of their uplift programme, will see police officer numbers in Cheshire rise to their highest level since 2010.

I have been able to invest in these officers as part of my budget thanks to Cheshire residents who have, once again, supported an increase in the policing precept to invest in neighbourhood policing.

This year's precept consultation received the largest response we've ever had with two thirds of respondents agreeing to a small increase. This is testament to local peoples'

passion and commitment to policing and community safety in Cheshire.

When I was out talking to residents in our communities many of them told me that they wanted to see increased investment in frontline policing to increase police officer visibility.

As result, the policing precept – the element of council tax that pays for policing – will rise by an average of £10 per year, which is less than 20p per week, to help fund this year's budget.

Whilst I still believe that funding for policing should come from the government, not the local taxpayer, I have listened to the Chief Constable and the public and increased the precept by a small amount to keep our communities safe.

Please be assured that I will continue to represent your views on policing and crime and will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure Cheshire remains one of the safest areas in the country to live, work and visit.

David Keane
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Cheshire



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Priority Developments

- A named, face police officer for every community in Cheshire.
- Increased investment in Cheshire Constabulary's force control centre to provide an improved service for callers to 999 or 101.
- Further investment in 'pro-active' operations to tackle county lines drug activity and other serious and organised crime.
- Funding to support the development of the approaches used by Cheshire's Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit to support victims whilst managing the risk posed by perpetrators.
- Further support for Cheshire's Women's Centres to support survivors of domestic abuse.
- Improved occupational health for police officers and staff with a particular focus on mental health.



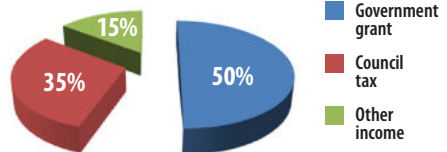
Council tax bands for policing

The Government announced on 22 January 2020 that Cheshire Constabulary would receive £207.8 million to fund local policing in 2020/21. This is an estimated £14.8m increase of funding to cover unavoidable pressures on policing of which the Government assumed £4.8m would come from local taxpayers through a £10 increase (for the average band D property) in the policing precept. Earlier in January, I launched a public consultation asking local residents if they would be willing to agree to a precept increase of up-to an extra £2 per month (£24 per annum). More than 2,500 Cheshire residents and local businesses responded to this consultation with 63 per cent agreeing to this increase. Despite this, the Government set a £10 cap to increasing the policing precept. Therefore the precept will rise by 4.99 per cent which, on average, equates to a £10 per annum rise.

2020/21 police precept by council tax band

Band	£	Band	£
A	140.29	E	257.20
B	163.68	F	303.97
C	187.06	G	350.73
D	210.44	H	420.88

Where does the funding come from?



Funding	£
Government grant	114,968,000
Council tax precept	79,995,000
Other income & specific grants	34,231,000
Total funding and income	229,194,000

Want to know more...



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