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Dear *Chris*,

Earlier this year I contacted you with details of a budget for Essex Police that would allow the Chief Constable to recruit more officers.

Today, I am pleased to be able to say that there are more police officers serving the county than this time last year and more on the way.

Essex Police has grown in the last year and now has a strength of 3062, full time equivalent (FTE) officers serving the people of Essex. The force aimed to reach 3,003 officers (this includes 3 officers funded by Epping Forest District Council) during the current financial year (2018/19), so the good news is that the Chief Constable and his team are ahead of plans and are seeing a range of good quality and enthusiastic people joining the force.

Further investment is continuing including plans to establish 23 dedicated teams in town centres working alongside Essex Police's existing Community Policing Teams (CPTs).

There are plans for further growth and during the forthcoming year Essex Police will bring officer numbers up to 3,218. This will see officer establishment having grown by 368 officers in total over 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Importantly, Essex Police is also growing its operational police staff by 32 people. They will provide essential and specialist capabilities such as securing civil injunctions against those causing serious harm.

People across the county have told me that they want more visible policing and that they are prepared to pay more for it. The phased expansion will get the Force near where it needs to be to deal with the level of demand we are experiencing.

The increase in officers will make a real difference to our towns and communities. Our vision for Essex is that safe and secure communities are the bedrock on which we build success and wellbeing for all. One of the priorities in my Police and Crime Plan is more local, visible and accessible policing. This boost in resource will deliver that for the people of Essex.

Leadership is an important element and the Town Centre Teams will be led by a sergeant with one in each of the 10 Community Policing Teams (CPTs). Building on local knowledge, they will be focussing on tackling violence, protecting the vulnerable, providing a better service to victims and of providing visibility by increasing local community engagement, working closely with local partners, businesses and retailers and reducing crime and antisocial behaviour.

The towns benefiting from a new team have been identified through careful analysis of calls for police service, reported crime and antisocial behaviour in each area along with the population of each town. This has enabled us to prioritise the areas where we know they will have the most impact on crime and disorder. With the 10 sergeants and 58 constables this will see 68 officers dedicated to these town centres. Plans are for the officers to be in place by summer 2019.

Overall increase in officers in Essex

2018/19 Investment for Additional Police Officers	
Investment Area	Officers FTE
Local policing (includes Local Policing Teams and Community Policing Teams)	127
Operational Support Group	25
Cyber Security	1
Total – Operational Policing	153

2019/20 Investment for Additional Police Officers and Staff		
Investment Area	Officers FTE	Staff FTE
Town Centre Teams	68	0
Information Management	0	11
Gangs	19	11
Children/Young People	20	0
Business Crime	3	1
Roads Policing Unit	21	0
Crime & Public Protection	20	3
Local Policing Teams	50	0
Serious Crime	7	6
Gypsy, Traveller and Rural Engagement Team (GTRET)	7	0
Total – Operational Policing	215	32

Increase in officers in Epping Forest

As a result of the extra funding in 2018/2019 and planned additional funding in 2019/2020, in the policing district which includes your area of Epping Forest there will be 31 extra officers. These have been allocated as detailed below:

- As a result of the 2018/2019 precept increase there are now an additional 10 officers in local policing in the Brentwood and Epping Forest District.
- Your council have also fully funded 3 officers.
- As a result of the 2019/2020 precept increase local policing in the Brentwood and Epping Forest District, which includes your area, will also benefit from a further increase of 14 officers.
- We will also be introducing Town Centre Teams, and in total the teams in Districts which include your area will have 6 PCs and 1 sergeant. 2 of these will be specifically for Loughton and another 2 will be specifically for Waltham Abbey. The table below contains the numbers of police constables and sergeants in each team.

District	Town	PCs	Sergeants
Epping and Brentwood	Loughton	2	1
	Brentwood	2	
	Waltham Abbey	2	

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in making our county a safer place.

Yours sincerely,



Roger Hirst

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

P.S. To help keep our communities engaged and informed about developments I have also recently started a regular public newsletter. If you would like to receive these, please sign up here: <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/>

