

From: Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Essex <PFCC@essex.police.uk>

Sent: 30 November 2020 15:45

Subject: Precept Survey

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Dear Colleagues,

Over the last three years we have secured substantially more funding for policing and been able to increase funds locally to increase the number of police officers.

By March 2021 there will be 519 more officers in Essex than there were in 2018, 384 of them as a result of the increase in the local Council Tax precept and efficiencies achieved by Essex Police, and 135 from the national police uplift programme.

Taking into account recent investments in technology and improved efficiency this will make Essex Police as strong as it has ever been.

We've seen a reduction in recorded crime over the last year, with over 9,000 fewer offences recorded and, importantly, fewer victims of crime between September 2019 and September 2020, compared to the year before. Even before COVID we were seeing significant reductions in burglary, theft and anti-social behaviour.

We want to ensure policing priorities in Essex reflect the needs of the communities they serve. Previously we asked residents what their priorities were, and their answers were reflected in the recent Police and Crime Plan Extension which you can read here: <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/20200625-Police-Crime-Plan-Extension-DMH-V.04.pdf>

We have invested heavily in local, accessible and visible policing, have reduced anti-social behaviour, helped protect vulnerable children and adults from harm and reduced serious harm on our roads working with our partners at the Safer Essex Roads Partnership. We are tackling gangs and organised crime as well as helping to break the cycle of domestic abuse. Together we have made significant progress against the priorities residents told us they wanted Essex Police to focus on and we know we need to do more to reduce domestic abuse, violence in our communities and drug driven violence.

The fire and rescue service in Essex does not have the same level of need for investment as Essex Police but does face several challenges including providing fire protection that can respond to the outcomes of the Grenfell Tower inquiry, training needs and continuous on-call firefighter recruitment.

We know that this is a difficult financial time for residents and any plans to increase council tax must be considered very carefully. That's why it's so important that people take part in the survey and have their say.

The survey will be open until Sunday, December 20th at midnight. Here is a link <https://essexpfcc.limequery.com/933948?lang=en>

As well as promotion in the media, we will be advertising on our social media channels as well as using advertising on digital screens in outdoor public spaces, newspapers and targeted audio advertising. The survey is online but alternative COVID safe provision is being made on request for those who would prefer to complete the survey another way.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Hirst
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

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