



David Keane
Police & Crime
Commissioner
for Cheshire

**To: All Parish & Town Council Chairpersons
in Cheshire**

Stockton Heath Police Station
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Stockton Heath
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Date: Tuesday 12 January 2021

Our Ref:
PCC/20210112

Your Ref:

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Dear Chairperson

2020 was one of the most challenging years in living memory and I know that many of us are anxious about the future. The pandemic has shown us just how important policing and other key public services are when it comes to protecting our communities.

I believe it's now more important than ever that we understand the public's view of policing. As key representatives of our communities, I want Parish and Town Councils to be a part of that conversation. I have launched an online consultation to find out Cheshire residents' priorities for policing and community safety. As well as asking residents what their top priority for Cheshire Police is, I want to know how safe residents feel in our communities and what your views are on police funding.

I am currently consulting with Cheshire residents following the release of the Government's Provisional Police Funding Settlement which sets out local police budgets for the next financial year. Funding for Cheshire Police has been cut significantly by the Government over the last decade. Cheshire Police has made more than £60 million of savings during this time, whilst striving to ensure this vital service remains effective.

During this period, I've maintained my commitment to bring back real community policing to Cheshire. With the support of Parish and Town Councils and the public, I have been able to increase officer numbers to ensure every community in Cheshire has its own dedicated Police Constable and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has made the future financial position for policing even more challenging. The extra funding that the Government boasts about in its Provisional Police Funding Settlement is dependent on local residents paying more in council tax (£1.25 a month for the average Band D property) over the next year.

The Chief Constable has advised me that without this 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. As your voice in policing, I want to hear your views on this proposal and I want to know what your policing priorities are for the coming year.

Please may I request that you take the time to complete a short survey and have your say here: <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/siam/surveylanding/surveylogin.asp?sk=160759151682>

The online consultation (which closes at midnight on Sunday 24 January 2021) will be supported by virtual public engagement sessions that I will hold with Chief Constable Darren Martland during

the next two weeks. They will provide residents with the opportunity to talk to us directly about their views on both community safety issues and the precept.

The virtual public engagement events will take place on the following dates:

- Saturday 16 January, 1pm-2.30pm
- Tuesday 19 January, 6.30pm-8pm

If you would like to attend one of the virtual sessions please email your name and address, the date of the session you'd like to attend and your question for the Commissioner or Chief Constable to pcc@cheshire.pnn.police.uk. Please note that registration for each session closes 24 hours before it takes place. The link to join the sessions will be emailed to those registered shortly before each session.

Questions can also be submitted by those unable to attend the sessions to pcc@cheshire.pnn.police.uk using the subject title 'question'. You can also call the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on 01606 364000 to register your interest to attend the virtual sessions or to submit a question.

Please may I request that you share this letter with your Parish/Town Councillors for information?

Yours sincerely



David Keane
Police & Crime Commissioner