

# Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

## Agenda

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>Friday 12th September 2025</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>1st Floor Committee Room, Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG</b>

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The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and in the report.

### **PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT**

#### **1. Apologies**

Members are reminded that, in accordance with governance procedure rule at Part 3 paragraph 2.6, Panel Members, or their constituent authority, may nominate substitute members of the Panel in the event that the appointed representative(s) is/are unable to attend the meeting. Advance notice of substitution should be given to the host authority wherever possible. Members are encouraged wherever possible to secure the attendance of a substitute if they are unable to be present.

#### **2. Code of Conduct - Declaration of Interests. Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached.

#### **3. Public Participation**

To receive questions from members of the public. A total period of 15 minutes will be allocated for members of the public to speak at Panel meetings. Each member of the public shall be limited to a period of up to 5 minutes speaking. At the Chair's discretion the period made available for questions and statements may be extended.

In order that an appropriate answer to the questions can be given, the deadline for indicating a wish to speak or for submission of questions is 3 clear working days before a meeting of the Panel. The Chair has the discretion to waive the 3-day rule for issues deemed to be urgent.

In response to questions or statements the Panel may choose to agree to either provide an agreed verbal response, that will be minuted or to provide a written reply to a questioners chosen address.

Those wishing to ask a question or make a statement should register by email to: [martin.r.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:martin.r.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk) or send the question or statement by post to:

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel  
Democratic Services and Governance  
c/o Municipal Buildings  
Earle Street  
Crewe  
CW1 2BJ

A list of those speaking or asking questions at a meeting of the Panel will be drawn up by the Panel's Secretariat in order of receipt. Copies of questions and statements will be circulated to all Panel members in advance of the meeting and will be made available to the public attending the meeting. Copies will also be available on the Police and Crime Panel's page of the Cheshire East Council website.

Nobody may submit more than one question or make more than one statement at the same meeting, but a supplementary question, related to the subject raised in the question /statement, will be permitted for clarification at the discretion of the Chair.

Those speaking or asking questions will not be permitted to address any issue that is the subject of a current or proposed complaint by them against the Police and Crime Commissioner. They are also advised that reference to an issue that could become the subject of a future complaint by them could prejudice the Panel's consideration of that complaint.

The Panel will not accept a question or statement if:

There is insufficient detail to enable a proper response to be provided.

It is not about a matter for which the Police and Crime Panel has responsibility.

It is potentially defamatory, frivolous or offensive against named individuals.

It is substantially the same question which has been put at a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel in the last six months.

It requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 8)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2025.

5. **Chair's Announcements**

6. **Panel's Work Programme (Pages 9 - 10)**

To consider the Panel's Work Programme.

**10.00 am THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING PART OF THE MEETING**

7. **Welcome to the Commissioner and Commissioner's introduction**

8. **Commissioner's Progress Report on the Police and Crime Plan - April to August 2025 (Pages 11 - 22)**

To consider the Commissioner's progress report on the Police and Crime Plan.

9. **Commissioner's Draft Annual Report (Pages 23 - 36)**

To consider the Annual Report.

10. **Questions submitted in advance to the Commissioner (Pages 37 - 40)**

11. **Overview and Scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

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**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL****Minutes of a meeting of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**  
held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at Ellesmere Port Library**PRESENT**

Councillors:

Cheshire East: Cllrs David Brown, Russell Chadwick and David Jefferay

Cheshire West & Chester: Cllrs Mike Jones, Keith Millar and Sam Naylor

Warrington: Cllrs Kuldeep Dhillon and Bob Hignett

Independent Co-optees: Professor Barry Godfrey, Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells and Miss Yasmin Somani

Officers: Mr Brian Reed and Mr Martin Smith, Cheshire East Council

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Michael Fry and Andrea Wall (Halton) and Cllr Judy Snowball (Cheshire East).

Cllr Russell Chadwick substituted for Cllr Judy Snowball.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26****RESOLVED**

That Cllr Judy Snowball be appointed as Chair of the Panel for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26****RESOLVED**

That Miss Yasmin Somani be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Panel for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

**4. CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. RELEVANT AUTHORITIES (DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS) REGULATIONS 2012**

No declarations of interest were made.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public wished to speak at the meeting.

**6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025 be approved.

**7. MEMBERSHIP OF CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 2025/26**

The Panel noted the membership of the Panel for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Mrs Gemma Shepherd - Etchells and Cllr Keith Millar were appointed as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively of the Complaints Management Sub – Committee. The Secretariat were asked to consult Panel members over the remaining membership of the seven-person sub-committee.

**8. PANEL ARRANGEMENTS: PROCEDURE RULES**

The Secretariat outlined relatively minor proposed amendments to the Panel's Procedure Rules, noting that these aimed to clarify the position in relation to the resignation of an independent co-opted member.

It was noted that the urgency powers contained in the Procedure Rules had not been used during the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Procedure Rules attached as Appendix I to the report, be adopted.
- (ii) That the Head of Democratic Services be given authority to make such changes during the year to the Procedure Rules as he considered necessary to give effect to the wishes of the Panel.

**9. APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells had been appointed to the Panel in 2022 following a rigorous recruitment process, her three year term of office would be expiring on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

The Panel recognised the very significant contribution that Mrs Shepherd – Etchells had made to the work of the Panel, this had included chairing the Complaints Management Sub Committee. Noting the contribution that she had made, and that she was willing to serve a second three year term, the Panel agreed that Mrs Shepherd – Etchells should be reappointed.

**RESOLVED**

That Mrs Gemma Shepherd – Etchells be appointed for a second three year term, with her term of office running to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2028.

**10. CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL BUDGET 2025/26**

**RESOLVED**

That the proposed budget for 2025/26 be approved.

**11. PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel noted the work programme for 2025/26.

Cllr Mike Jones noted that at previous meetings of the Panel he had requested that the issue of Police culture be added to the work programme, this had not happened, he asked that this oversight be rectified.

**12. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO THE COMMISSIONER**

One question had been submitted in advance to the Commissioner; this had been included with the Panel's papers for the meeting.

**13. WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONER AND INTRODUCTION BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Deputy Chair welcomed the Commissioner and his Team to the meeting.

#### **14. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

The Commissioner briefed the Panel on a range of issues, including his new style scrutiny meetings, the next phase of the programme of Citizens' Assemblies and his SWAP Summer Support Fund. He also paid tribute to the work of volunteers across the Constabulary. The Commissioner congratulated Detective Sergeant Dave Thomason who worked in the Constabulary's Harm Reduction Unit who had recently been awarded the Kings Police Medal.

#### **15. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Panel members asked the Commissioner a number of questions, including the one that had been submitted in advance of the meeting. Details of all questions asked of the Commissioner and his responses can be found on the Police and Crime Panel page of the Cheshire East Council website.

[Questions asked of and issues raised with the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner during the 25-26 Municipal year](#)

**Cheshire Police and Crime Panel****Work Programme 2025/26****Formal meetings of the Panel:**

21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (reserve date, should meeting be necessary)

10<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Informal meetings with the Commissioner**

17<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (Delamere House, Crewe)

12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (venue in Cheshire West and Chester to be confirmed)

**Issues raised by Panel members for consideration at future meetings:**

- Update on “Right Care, Right Person”
- Operation of Police Custody suites, including policy on intimate searching
- Police training
- Violence against women and girls
- Restorative justice
- Progress with implementation of recommendations from Angiolini Inquiry
- Use of technology, including rollout of AI
- Police culture

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# Police & Crime Plan

Progress Report to the Police & Crime Panel

April - August 2025



**Cheshire**  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner





# Priorities 2024-28

Reduce crime | Prevention and intervention, ensuring the public has an accessible and responsive police service

Listen to the public | Locally informed policing priorities. Support for victims and survivors of crime

Modernise | Tech and innovation to power a fit for purpose policing estate

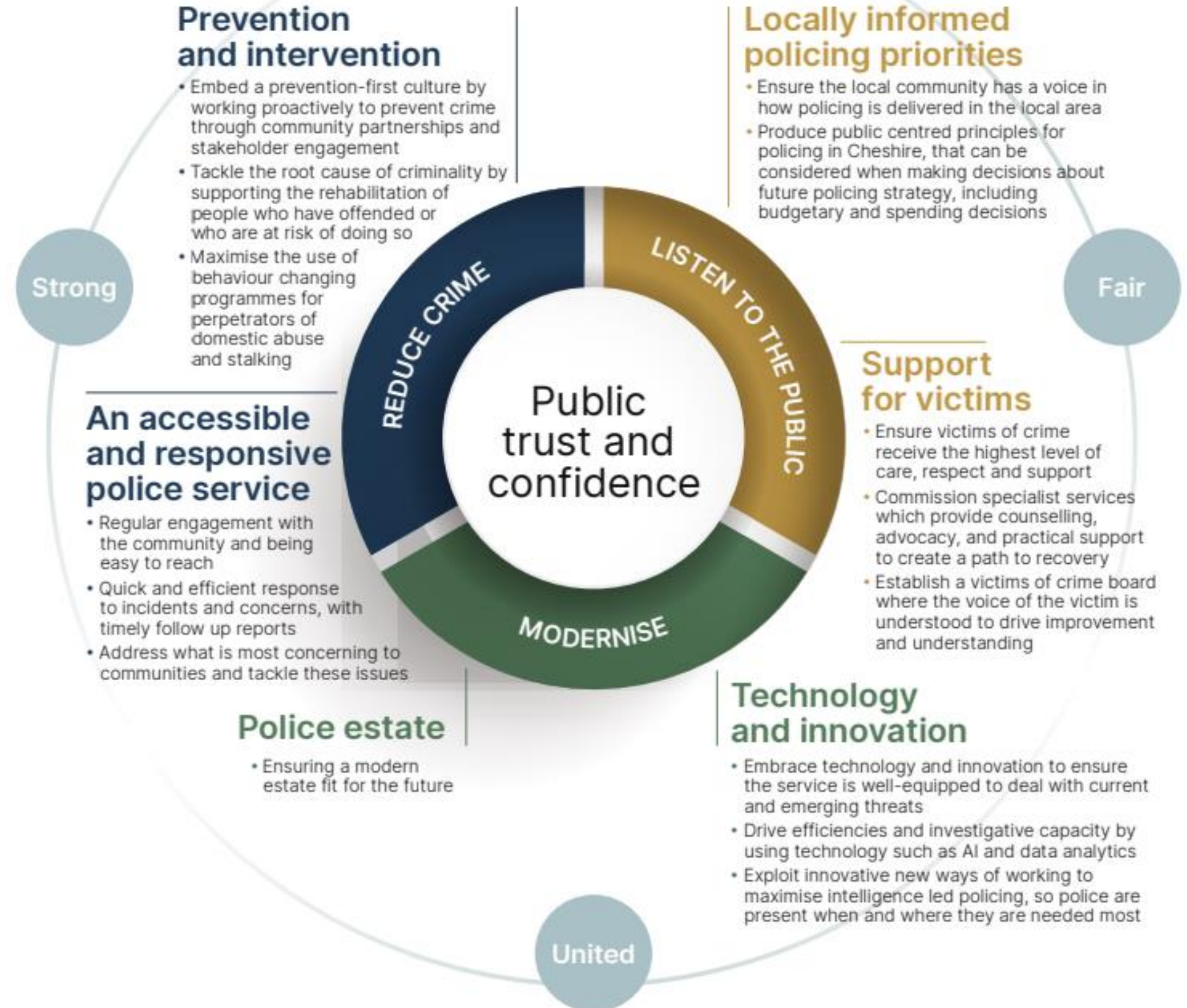


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Commissioner





# Plan on a Page



**Cheshire  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner**



Reduce crime

# Scrutiny & performance

Quick and efficient response to incidents and concerns, with timely follow up reports



Quarterly performance reviews

Publicly accessible and recorded meetings held throughout the year

Deep dive sessions including neighbourhood policing, support for victims, violence against Women & Girls and custody

Performance data [here](#)

My questions [here](#)



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Reduce crime

# Focus on prevention

Embed a prevention-first culture by working proactively to prevent crime through community partnerships and stakeholder engagement	✓
Tackle the root cause of criminality by supporting the rehabilitation of people who have offended or who are at risk of doing so	✓
Maximise the use of behaviour changing programmes for perpetrators of domestic abuse and stalking	✓

DA Pilot Halton

Sports plus activity for at-risk children

Pilot of Arts interventions

Ex-offenders into employment

Community Payback plus

Safer Streets Summer 2025





Listen to the public

# Support for victims

## Victim Support Services (2024/25):

- Cheshire CARES: 21,341 referrals; 20,865 supported.
- RASASC: 2,209 new referrals; 3,027 supported.
- Remedi Restorative Justice: 576 referrals; 289 supported.
- Remedi Hate Crime: 2,121 referrals; 1,029 supported.
- 2Wish (Bereavement): 35 death referrals; 162 individuals supported.

Ensure victims of crime receive the highest level of care, respect and support	✓
Commission specialist services which provide counselling, advocacy, and practical support to create a path to recovery	✓
Establish a victims of crime board where the voice of the victim is understood to drive improvement and understanding	✓



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Listen to the public

# Support for victims (cont)

Working with the Local Criminal Justice Board, developing a meaningful way to learn from people with lived experience, by creating a Victims of Crime Board – anticipated in the next six months.

Thematic scrutiny session focused solely on support for victims. *Read the report here*  
Victim Needs Assessment for victims of sexual abuse, used for sourcing service provision.

Launched the SWAP Fund to support victims and prevent crime using money seized from criminals.

Partnered with Savera UK to provide specialist support for victims of honour-based abuse, FGM, and forced marriage.



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Listen to the public

# Citizens' assemblies

Ensure the local community has a voice in how policing is delivered in the local area	✓
Produce public centred principles for policing in Cheshire, that can be considered when making decisions about future policing strategy, including budgetary and spending decisions	✓

My plan:  
Nine areas  
Multiple sessions  
Fully representative  
Expert speakers  
Debate & discussion

- Crewe, Runcorn, & Widnes assemblies delivered.
- Macclesfield planned for Sep/Oct
- Award-winning
- First PCC to host such events



Listen to the public

# Engagement

Regular engagement with the community and being easy to reach



Address what is most concerning to communities and tackle these issues



My interactive engagement map [here](#).

Additional engagements include:

- A multi-faith at Chester Cathedral in June 2025
- A community clean up day in Orford with 10 asylum seekers
- Community walkabouts in Crewe and Runcorn



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Modernise

# Technology

Embrace technology and innovation to ensure the service is well-equipped to deal with current and emerging threats	✓
Drive efficiencies and investigative capacity by using technology such as AI and data analytics	✓
Exploit innovative new ways of working to maximise intelligence led policing, so police are present when and where they are needed most	✓

Developing a joint IT strategy with the Constabulary to challenge long-standing approaches and encourage more agile, digital-first practices.

Funding for an AI tool that improves stalking identification during a victims initial Police contact.

Looking to explore wider use of drones to tackle issues impacting on our communities such as anti-social behaviour and e-bikes





Modernise

# A modern police estate

Ensuring a modern estate fit for the future



Wilmslow police station opened and is set to become one of the most energy-efficient and sustainable police buildings in the UK.

- Up to 90% reduction in energy consumption compared to conventional buildings.
- A strong statement to maintaining a visible and effective police presence in Wilmslow and surrounding areas.

Planning permission granted for an out-of-town deployment base in Crewe.

- Construction commencing in the autumn.
- State of the art facilities for officers and staff, in an environmentally-friendly building.
- A town centre presence will be retained in a new facility in the town centre



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Commissioner**





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# Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

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**Date of Meeting:** 12 September 2025

**Report of:** Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services  
Cheshire East Council

**Subject:** Police and Crime Commissioner's Draft Annual Report

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## 1. Report Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the Panel's responsibilities in relation to consideration of the draft of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report.

## 2. Recommendation

2.1 Recommended that:

- (i) The Panel reviews, and if seen as appropriate makes recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner on the draft of his annual report.

## 3. Background information

- 3.1 One of the responsibilities of Police and Crime Panels is to review, make a report, and if it wishes make recommendations on a draft of the Commissioner's annual report. The Commissioner must take account of any comments or recommendations and respond back to the Panel.
- 3.2 A draft of the Commissioner's Annual Report is attached as an appendix to this report.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications.

#### **5. Equality implications**

5.1 There are no specific equality issues related to this report.

#### **6. Contact information**

<b>Name:</b>	Martin Smith
<b>Designation:</b>	Registration and Civic Services Manager
<b>Local Authority:</b>	Cheshire East Council
<b>Telephone:</b>	07596 064905
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:martin.r.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk">martin.r.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk</a>



Dan Price  
Cheshire  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner

# Annual Report 2024/25





“ This year wasn’t about warming the seat.  
**It was about getting things done.**

It’s been a year of forging relationships, listening and delivering on some big promises.

Dan Price

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When I stood for election and in my Police and Crime Plan, I made clear promises: to listen to the public, modernise policing and reduce crime. This report shows how I’ve started to turn those promises into action.

I’ve launched citizens’ assemblies, the first Police and Crime Commissioner to do so; rolled out new tech to keep people safe and secured record levels of funding for victim support.

I’ve pushed for and been successful in bringing about legislative change; invested more in youth programmes and increased visible policing across Cheshire. And we’ve done all of this while keeping a clear focus on what matters most – working together and making our communities safer.

Cheshire is the safest place to live in the North West. We’ve got more police officers than we’ve had in over a decade and we’re leading the way nationally on stalking prevention and domestic abuse interventions.

This report isn’t just a list of achievements, it’s a snapshot of progress. It shows what happens when we bring partners together, challenge the status quo and stay focused on outcomes.

There’s more to do and I’ll keep you updated regularly.



Dan Price  
Cheshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner







## Dan Price's first full year report as Cheshire's PCC

Dan Price stepped into the role of Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in May 2024 and hit the ground running. By early 2025, he launched a clear, ambitious Police and Crime Plan that will guide his term through to 2028. This first annual report covers the period from April 2024 to March 2025 and shows what progress he's made in a short amount of time.

## The Plan: Three pillars. One mission.

Dan Price's strategy is built on three clear commitments:

- Listen to the public
- Modernise
- Reduce crime

It's about action. Bringing partners together, amplifying the public's voice and making Cheshire's communities safer, stronger and more connected.



## Cheshire: A county leading the way

In February, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) released its latest PEEL inspection report with the results speaking volumes. Cheshire Constabulary has either improved or held strong across every area of policing. Most notably, the force was rated 'Outstanding' in protecting vulnerable people and managing offenders and suspects. That's not just good, it's exceptional.

PEEL Report: **Outstanding results**

### PEEL 2023–2025: An inspection of Cheshire Constabulary

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
Protecting vulnerable people Managing offenders	Police powers and public treatment Preventing crime Developing a positive workplace Leadership and force management	Responding to the public Investigating crime		

View the report here:  
<https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/peel-reports/cheshire-2023-25/>

## ONS Crime Survey: Safest in the North West

The March 2025 crime report from the Office for National Statistics confirmed that Cheshire is the safest place to live in the North West. The county has the lowest crime rate out of all police force areas across the region.

## More officers. Increased visibility

Cheshire now has more than **2,400 police officers**, the highest the county has had. And thanks to a £3 million Government grant, 48 more officers will be visible in our neighbourhoods in the coming year, boosting neighbourhood policing and community presence.



# Listen to the public

## Real voices. Real impact.

### Dan Price's three pillars:

### Listening.

### Modernising.

### Reducing crime.

Dan Price isn't just talking about change, he's delivering it. His Police and Crime Plan is built on three powerful pillars that are already reshaping policing across Cheshire.

Dan Price promised community-led policing and he's ahead of the game. In 2024/25, he launched **citizens' assemblies** in Crewe, the first of nine across Cheshire. He is the first police and crime commissioner to hold them and they've already earned a **Certificate of Excellence** from the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards.

“I never knew about the specialist units so that's been really insightful. It's been brilliant, really enjoyed it.”



Dan Price welcomes correspondence into his office. In the period of this report, more than 500 emailed or written queries were logged and actioned.

He's been out and about, travelling across the whole county meeting residents, businesses, faith groups, councillors, MPs and partners.

See where Dan's been



### Supporting victims: £1.2 million invested

Dan Price's office secured over **£1.2 million** from the Ministry of Justice and Home Office to support victims and witnesses. Here's where that money went:



Helped over **3,000 people** affected by sexual abuse.



Delivered restorative justice, hate crime and youth support programmes.



Supported nearly **21,000 victims**.



Engaged **1,400 young people** and held the 'Big Conversation' focusing on the themes of community safety and ASB; hate crime; online safety and sexual harassment.



Ran the Appropriate Adult programme for vulnerable suspects (jointly funded with the Constabulary).



# Modernise

## Smarter tools. Safer communities.

Dan Price is pushing boundaries with tech-driven policing:

### Cheshire CARES Pathway

A new website helping domestic abuse survivors find local support.

### Cyber resilience scheme

Free advice for businesses to fight cybercrime.

### AI for stalking detection

A first-in-the-country tool being developed in 2025

### DyTASK

A smart patrol planning tool targeting anti-social behaviour and violence hotspots.

### Hollie Guard

2,000 safety app vouchers distributed to vulnerable people.



## Wilmslow's new police station

During 2024 – 25 construction took place on this new building. It's leading the way in sustainability and will be the UK's first police station to meet **Passivhaus** standards as well as the first public building in Cheshire.





One of the first new initiatives that Dan Price launched was his **SWAP Fund**, taking money and assets seized from criminals and giving it back to the community to deliver projects for good. By the end of March 2025, **58 projects** had been awarded money of up to £5000 each, with **£200,000 provided in total - the largest amount committed by a Cheshire PCC.**

During October, Dan Price brought together MPs, the National Farmers Union (NFU), farmers and rural communities to call upon the Government to change the **legislation on GPS thefts from rural equipment**. Legislation is changing this autumn.

At the start of 2025, in partnership with Active Cheshire and Cheshire Community Foundation, Dan Price funded **11 projects to deliver innovative sports programmes** aimed at tackling serious youth violence, anti-social behaviour and inequalities.

He also set up a pan-Cheshire sports partnership to better equip children with 'purposeful activity' to reduce serious violence and exploitation. As well as this, he co-chairs the national sports violence partnership

In March he launched his **ex-offenders scheme**, working with probation, the Department for Work and Pension (DWP) and businesses in Cheshire to get those on probation into meaningful employment. By the end of the calendar year, he will have matched the first **100 people** with new careers.

# Reduce crime

## Action that counts

At the start of his term, he announced £1m funding he had secured from the Government to deliver **extra 'hot spot' patrols in areas across Cheshire**, to tackle anti-social behaviour.

<b>8</b> hotspots targeted	<b>10,573</b> patrol hours	<b>68</b> arrests	<b>208</b> stop searches
<b>10</b> firearms seized			

As well as commissioning services for victims, Dan Price also commissions services to help prevent crime. One of these is <b>Queensberry AP</b> which delivers youth violence and exploitation intervention, particularly around county lines drug supply, working directly with young people and families.	<b>1:1</b> school interventions	<b>28</b> schools and <b>249</b> young people reached
	<b>164</b> Young people	<b>1:1</b> mentoring with high risk young people





# EVERY 30 SECONDS

In the UK a domestic abuse related call  
is made to the police

#LoveShouldNotHurt

Breaking  
the Cycle

of Domestic Abuse

## Tackling domestic abuse

**Domestic  
abuse makes  
up 19% of all  
recorded  
crime in  
Cheshire\*.**

Dan Price secured £1.4m in funding from the Home Office during his first year in office, one of the highest amounts in the country. This was put into the following key areas:

**CARA (Cautioning and Relationship Abuse)**, targeting domestic abuse offenders who meet specific criteria to be issued with a conditional caution. Domestic abuse workers have been deployed in custody suites encouraging perpetrators to engage with behavioural change programmes.

**Engage and Reset** - This intervention initiative delivered two perpetrator programmes one which engaged the whole family in a behaviour change programme and the other aimed at young people who are displaying problematic behaviours towards parents. The programmes have seen almost **3,000 people engaged** with support between April 2024 and March 2025.

During 24-25, Dan Price has been working on a multi-agency pilot focussed on Halton, where the issue of domestic abuse is the second highest in the country. This will aim to reduce reoffending, make victims and children safer and support families to stay together, where appropriate.

\*For the 12 months to end of September 2024

## Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee

**Dan Price promised more boots on the ground  
and he's delivering.**

In January it was announced that Cheshire would receive £3m to boost neighbourhood policing. As a result, **48 more officers** will be deployed in the county.

In addition, in his Police and Crime plan, he promised to provide a named contact, either police officer or PCSO, for an area contactable through a direct email address. 2025 will see this going live through the Cheshire Police website.

## Leading on stalking prevention

Cheshire records an average of **10 stalking offences a day**, but it also leads the country in charge rates. The Constabulary's **Harm Reduction Unit**, funded by Dan Price, is setting the standard, and as a result, **Jess Phillips**, Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls visited to hear first-hand about its success.





# Scrutiny and accountability

As Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, Dan Price works on behalf of the public to make sure Cheshire Police is delivering the high standards it expects and deserves.

Arrangements	Purpose	Activity	More information
Public Scrutiny Board	The main 'holding the force to account' meeting with the PCC and Force Senior Leadership Team.	Regular meetings, up to 10 a year, held in public. Recorded and published online.	<a href="http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-the-commissioner-does/scrutiny/scrutiny-board">www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-the-commissioner-does/scrutiny/scrutiny-board</a>
Joint Audit Advisory Committee	Provides assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable on the effectiveness of the governance, risk management and internal control arrangements.	The Committee meets a minimum of four times a year with timings determined by the deadlines for publishing a draft and final statement of accounts.	<a href="http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/commissioner-and-office/transparency-and-information/accounts-and-audit/joint-audit-advisory-committee">www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/commissioner-and-office/transparency-and-information/accounts-and-audit/joint-audit-advisory-committee</a>
Joint Management Board (JMB)	<p>A joint governance arrangement which enables the PCC and Chief Constable to make decisions of significant public interest regarding policing, crime and community safety.</p> <p>The PCC may also take management decisions outside of such meetings.</p>	JMB is held monthly, and the decisions that have been made can be found online.	<a href="http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-the-commissioner-does/making-key-decisions">www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-the-commissioner-does/making-key-decisions</a>
Police and Crime Panel	<p>Provides checks and balances in relation to the performance of the Commissioner.</p> <p>The panel comprises 10 local councillors reflecting the political makeup of Cheshire's four Local Authorities, along with three independent co-opted members.</p>	The panel is administered by Cheshire East Council, with all agendas, webcasts and correspondence with the PCC publicly available. It is meeting with the PCC around six times a year as well as additional informal meetings.	<a href="http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-the-commissioner-does/scrutiny/cheshire-police-and-crime-panel">www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-the-commissioner-does/scrutiny/cheshire-police-and-crime-panel</a> <a href="http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and-democracy/your_council/cheshire-police-and-crime-panel.aspx">www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and-democracy/your_council/cheshire-police-and-crime-panel.aspx</a>
Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)	Brings together criminal justice organisations at police force area level to support joint working and improve services.	Meetings of the Board are held quarterly.	
One-to-One meetings with the Chief Constable	Enables the PCC to undertake a regular dialogue with the Chief Constable to discuss strategic matters and current issues.	Meetings are held weekly.	
Dealing with complaints, including complaints against Chief Constable	The PCC is responsible for handling and recording complaints against the Chief Constable. Should any complaint require investigation, this will be a matter for the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).	Police complaint statistics for 2024/25 are available via the IOPC website.	<a href="http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/contact/compliments-and-complaints">www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/contact/compliments-and-complaints</a> <a href="http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/contact/police-complaint-review">www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/contact/police-complaint-review</a>
Out of Court Resolution (OoCR) Panel	Decides whether the method of resolution is appropriate, or if the case would have been better in court. This is based on a review of the information available at the time of the OoCR.	The panel meets quarterly and reviews around 320 cases each year.	<a href="http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-the-commissioner-does/scrutiny/out-of-court-disposals-scrutiny-panel">www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-the-commissioner-does/scrutiny/out-of-court-disposals-scrutiny-panel</a>
Custody Cohesion	The Custody Cohesion Scrutiny Panel (CCSP) supports the delivery of safe and effective police custody and increases scrutiny, transparency and performance within custody.	The panel meets once a month.	



# Ethical policing

The issue of ethics in policing is very important to Dan Price. **The Independent Ethics Panel**, made up of seven members of the public, have considered a wide range of ethical issues in policing, most recently on the use of facial recognition technology, the use of tasers, the decision making around armed deployments and the introduction of AI technology to tackle stalking.

These important discussions enable Dan Price to be better informed on ethical considerations as he delivers his Plan.

Find out more



## Our volunteers

Volunteers selflessly give their time to listen to communities, gather views and ensure the Constabulary remains responsive, transparent, accountable and committed to high standards. They cover four areas: Independent Custody Visitors, Call Management Auditors, Police Dog Welfare Visitors and Consultation & Engagement Volunteers.

During the 12-month period of this report, Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) conducted

**138 visits**

across Cheshire's three custody suites - Middleswich, Runcorn and Blacon - engaging with

**985 detainees**

to monitor their welfare and custody conditions.

During the same period,

**15 visits**

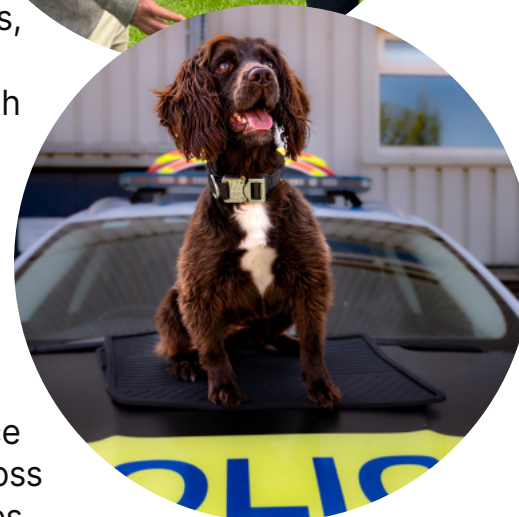
were carried out by Police Dog Welfare Visitors across Cheshire and North Wales, including training sessions and kennel inspections. Volunteers observed and checked a total of **105 dogs**, with **49 individual dogs monitored** - some on multiple occasions.

Additionally,

**17 call audits**

were completed, reviewing **166 calls**. Of these, **53%** were emergency (999) calls and **47%** were non-emergency (101) police calls.

We also have **volunteers who give their time to the Police Museum in Warrington**. They not only help us preserve the heritage of Cheshire Police but also engage the public in its history.



## Strategic Policing Requirement – An eye on the bigger picture

The **Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)** is the UK's national safety blueprint. It lays out the **biggest threats** we face as a country and every police force needs to be ready to tackle them head-on. These include:

- Violence against women and girls
- Terrorism
- Serious and organised crime
- National cyber incidents
- Child sexual abuse
- Public disorder
- Civil emergencies

Whether you're in a city or a rural town, your local force must be equipped to respond to these national challenges.

When Dan Price crafted the Police and Crime Plan, it wasn't just about local issues. He made sure it aligned with the SPR. That means our force isn't just focused on neighbourhood crime, it's also

geared up to take on the big challenges. These could be cracking down on serious organised crime or standing up for victims of violence. These aren't optional extras, they're **core priorities**.

The PCC keeps a close eye on progress. Through **scrutiny boards** and **performance reviews**, he checks whether the force has the right skills, resources and partnerships to meet national standards. For instance, when unrest broke out over the summer, the PCC wanted to know: **Did we support other forces effectively?** The answer? **Yes, and we did it without dropping the ball locally.**

The SPR is about more than just local policing. It's about making sure our force is **ready, responsive, and resilient**, not just for our communities, but for the country.



# Finance: Investing in safety whilst delivering value

2024/25 saw a major boost in funding for policing across Cheshire, £22.2 million more than the previous year. A serious investment in public safety.

## Where did the money come from?

- **Council Tax precept:** Households (Band D) contributed an extra **£12.50 per year**, taking their annual payment to £276.94.
- **Central Government funding:** Increased support from Westminster.

Together, this brought the total budget to **£288.728 million.**

## Smart spending in tough times

With inflation biting and demands growing more complex, the pressure was on to make every pound count. The Chief Constable needed the right resources, not just to protect Cheshire, but to meet national commitments too.

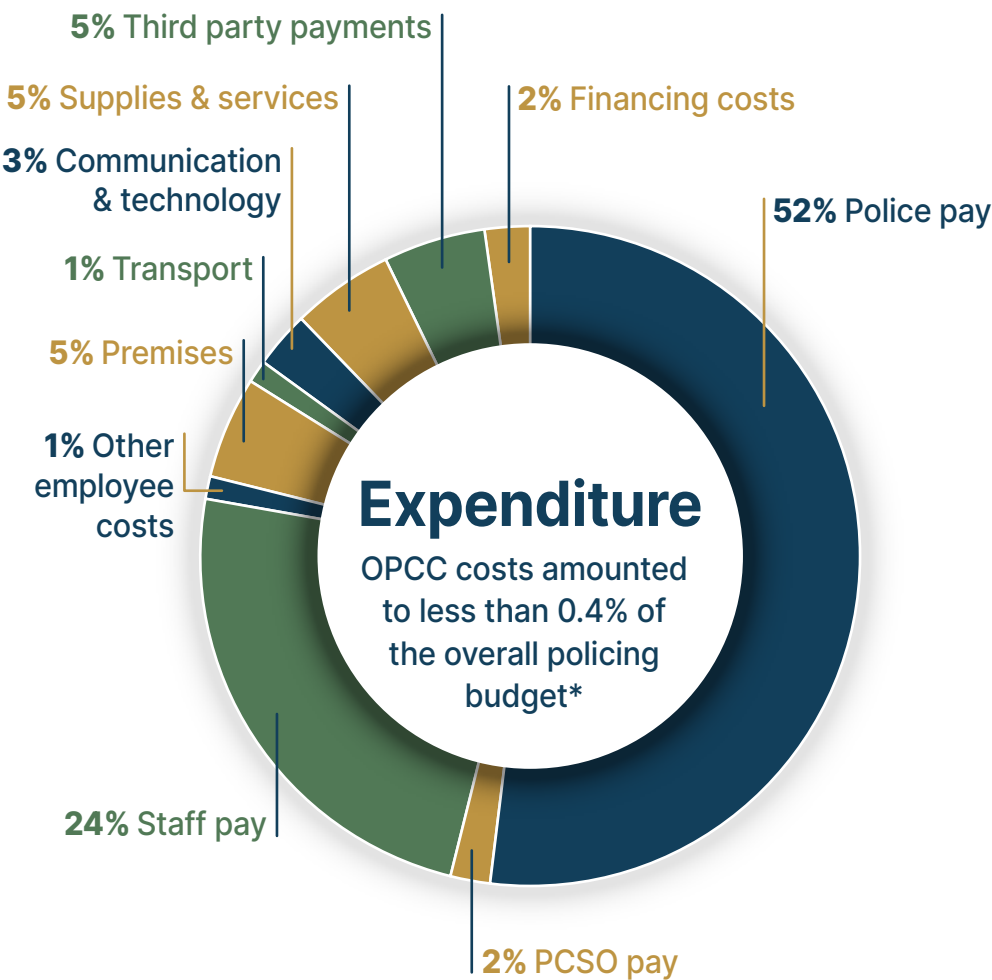
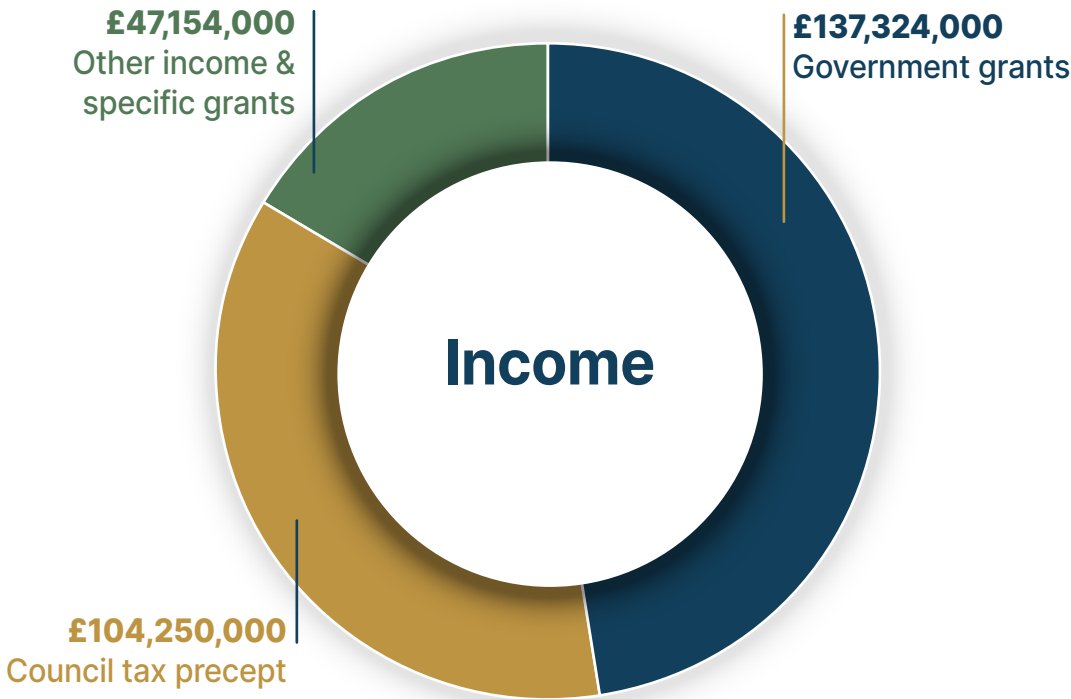
Serious scrutiny was applied to every part of the Constabulary's operations to make sure it was:

- Efficient
- Effective
- Accountable

Savings were found and reserves were reviewed and released where appropriate. This resulted in a strong, maintained service without putting unnecessary strain on taxpayers.

### More officers. More visibility

Thanks to the Police Uplift Programme, Cheshire hit its target of **300 new officers** and added 15 extra in 2023/24 and a further 15 in 2024/25 with extra grant funding. That means police numbers are now at their highest in the county.



\*Compared to 0.7% under the previous Police Authority.



**Dan Price**  
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## Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

### Questions submitted to the Commissioner in advance of the meeting of the Panel on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

- (i) It is now 20 years since the Hunting Act 2004 came into force. This prohibits the hunting of wild mammals with dogs, with some limited exemptions, such as drag hunting. Wildlife organisations, which observe hunt activity, have acknowledged the perseverance of Cheshire Police in pursuing prosecutions for illegal activity and responding to concerns expressed by landowners, livestock owners and the public; there has been an increasingly constructive partnership of police with such organisations to ensure the enforcement of the law. As part of this partnership how could the following be addressed:
1. The increased use of technology, particularly in detecting and prosecuting the practice of 'cub hunting', for which September is a significant month.
  2. The opening of more effective communication channels for wildlife organisations, the public and landowners to engage with the police and to be able to report potential offences immediately in a safer, faster and more effective way. It has been suggested that this could be done by a return to a designated police liaison officer to work with all parties and by assigning a designated WhatsApp channel which is under full observation by the liaison officer during hunt activity.
  3. A 'hunt activity notice' to be issued and publicised in an area where hunt activity is likely to take place. This would allow farmers, landowners and the public to be aware that a hunt was taking place near them and give them time to prepare for any potential consequences that may flow from this

Does the Commissioner agree that these measures would be entirely in keeping with his policing priorities expressed in the Cheshire Police and Crime Plan 2025:

**Reduce Crime / Listen to the public / Modernise** and would align with his overall objective of improving public confidence in policing?

- (ii) The Cheshire Police and Crime Plan 2024-28 states that the Commissioner will “embrace technology and innovation to ensure the service is well-equipped to deal with current and emerging threats, will drive efficiencies and investigative capacity by using technology such as AI and data analytics and will exploit innovative new ways of working to maximise intelligence led policing....”

Does this objective to utilise the most effective systems for modernisation and towards the use of effective AI and intelligence systems include the use of Live Facial Recognition (LFR)? If so, would the Commissioner please comment on the following issues:

1. Under what circumstances is LFR used?
2. How will the public be alerted to its use in public spaces, such as sporting events and lawful protests?
3. How does Retrospective Facial Recognition (RFR) work and under what circumstances is this used?
4. Does Cheshire Police use Operator-Initiated Facial Recognition?
5. Will Cheshire Police seek to use the newest system, currently being developed, Strategic Facial Matcher which is capable of searching a range of databases including custody records and immigration records and the passport database?
6. Will Cheshire Police seek to expand such technology to use fixed infrastructure facial recognition cameras or roving vans, as had started in some UK police forces?
7. In 2012, the High Court ruled that keeping the images of people who faced no further action or who were acquitted after charge was unlawful. How many images are on Cheshire Police’s database? Does Cheshire Police database contain the images of such individuals and can a person request their data or the right to have their personal data deleted if it is held in this way?

8. There are currently no specific laws or regulation covering the use of facial recognition technology, little legislation on the use of biometrics and police forces only have to have regard to compliance with data protection, human rights and discrimination law. What safeguards does Cheshire Police have for its use of such technology, particularly as concerns have been raised across the UK about the technology's accuracy in scanning the faces of people of colour and the potential for discrimination; such concerns have crystallised in the case of Shaun Thompson, who was wrongly identified by LFR and whose Judicial Review will be heard in January 2026.

- (iii) The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it a criminal offence to pursue a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another person, where someone knows or ought to know, that the act amounts to harassment. The Cheshire Police and Crime Panel has expressed great concern about harassment of elected officials in the past and at previous meetings, councillors from across the county have spoken of their own distress and that of colleagues.

The Commissioner's support for the borough's elected representatives who have faced harassment has been much appreciated. This is particularly so in his support for the Cheshire East **Task and Finish Group: Harassment, Intimidation and Abuse of Councillors**, as well as his endorsement of the recommendations of the task and finish group's final report. In the words of the group's Chair, "this is not about silencing free speech. It is about protecting democracy. If we allow abuse and intimidation to go unchecked, we risk a future where no-one is willing to stand for public office". The group's survey of Cheshire East councillors found that female respondents were more likely to feel at risk when fulfilling their roles as councillors either frequently or occasionally (41% female -v- 4% male).

In 2018 the College of Policing's guidance recommended that police forces stop using Police Information Notices (PIN) which had been used to warn individuals who had been the subject of a complaint of at least two incidents of alleged harassment that if it continued, formal police action may follow including a criminal charge. Nevertheless, Staffordshire Police has continued a similar system in which an Early Harassment Notice can be issued in specific circumstances. Further guidance on this is expected from the College of Policing in due course.

As the Commissioner's priorities include a focus on the prevention agenda as well as a keen focus on the scourge of violence against women and girls, and his welcome support for elected representatives, what are his comments on the current Staffordshire Police policy to support complainants and to underline the intentions of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997? Could such a system serve these purposes in Cheshire?