



Mr John Dwyer
By email

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel
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Dear Commissioner,

POLICE PRECEPT 2023/24

Thank you for attending this morning's meeting of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel and for presenting your proposed Precept. The Panel are also grateful for the presentations made last Friday, when members met informally with you, your Finance Officer, and senior Police colleagues.

As its Chair, I can formally confirm that at this morning's meeting the Panel voted to support your proposed Precept. All Panel members recognised that an increase in Council Tax bills for the coming year will pose challenges for many families across the county. As you will be aware, a majority of those Panel members who voted, supported a proposal to veto your Precept because it was seen to be too high. The necessary two thirds majority was not reached, and the veto therefore not triggered.

The Panel did agree to make a number of recommendations which it asks that you consider. In making these recommendations the Panel is mindful that it is important that the Cheshire Constabulary work as efficiently as possible to maximise the benefit of the budget made available to them. The Panel would specifically request:

- You ensure that the Police increase collaborative working with other agencies and that they look afresh at how they can adopt transformational working practices, so that the Cheshire public can be assured that every pound paid in Council Tax that goes to the Police is being spent wisely.
- You encourage the Police to adopt a collegiate approach to support the public during the current cost of living crisis, working with other agencies when appropriate.
- You ensure that the Police continue to adopt and develop a collaborative approach with partners to reduce violence against women and girls.

The Panel would also recommend that when consulting with the public over levels of the Police precept for 2024 /25, a wider range of options is offered, including ones below the level that would trigger a referendum.

Yours sincerely,

Evan Morris

Evan Morris MBE
Chair, Cheshire Police and Crime Panel