



Mr Evan Morris,
Cheshire Police and Crime Panel,
C/O Cheshire East Council
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach, Cheshire
CW11 1HZ

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Cheshire Constabulary Headquarters
Clemonds Hey
Oakmere Road
Winsford
CW7 2UA

Date: 23rd February 2023

Sent via email:
evan.morris@CheshirePoliceAndCrimePanel.org.uk

Our Ref:
PCC/20220223

Your Ref:

Tel:
01606 364000

Email:
PCC@cheshire.police.uk

Dear Evan

Many thanks for your letter dated 3 February 2023 which you sent following the Panel's endorsement of my precept recommendation. May I take this opportunity to thank you and the Panel for your support which will help Cheshire Constabulary maintain its excellent performance and keep the people of Cheshire safe.

I acknowledge the Panel's concerns about the cost of living crisis and the impact that increases in council tax bills will have on many families across the county. As was explained at the meeting itself, I did not take this decision lightly, but I was able to report that over 70% of the public consulted on my proposals showed their support for an increase of at least £15 for a Band D property (equating to £1.25 extra per month). To put that in context, more than two thirds of the properties in Cheshire are in Bands A-C, meaning a majority of the local population will pay less than a £1.25 increase in the policing element of their council tax.

Cheshire Constabulary has always worked collaboratively with its partners across Cheshire to ensure that the money being spent is maximised as much as possible. Where opportunities arise for efficiencies or transformational working practices, I will work with the Chief Constable to identify ways in which we can work differently to benefit the people we serve. The Constabulary has a proud record of working with other blue light services to seek efficiencies and work more effectively and this will continue. This will also include working with wider parties across the County to provide more effective and better services for the public. We already work very closely with local authorities on initiatives funded through the monies secured by my commissioning team, most recently the Safer Streets initiative, and work closely with the third sector to provide additional support to the most vulnerable members of our communities. This ensures a greater focus on the needs of the victim and utilises the skills and knowledge that other organisations can bring to our work.

I am very aware of the need to adopt a collegiate approach to the cost of living crisis and am working with the Leading Cheshire and Warrington Leaders Group, as well as partners such as a local foodbank to ensure that we can support the most vulnerable in our communities whenever we can.

I have already mentioned the Safer Streets work which my office has secured funding for, which is an excellent example of the collaborative approach to responding to violence against women and girls. The new Strategic Policing Requirement has added 'violence against women and girls' as a new threat type and I will therefore be working closely with the Chief Constable, local authorities and others on how we can address this risk. Under the new Serious Violence Duty, my office is leading work with partners in the four local authorities to help identify the key issues locally and develop a strategy to tackle those issues with a collaborative approach. Violence against women and girls is likely to feature highly in that emerging strategy.

On your final point about when I next consult with the public on the precept for 2024/25, I can confirm that I will consult on options which fall below the referendum level, as I did this year.

Yours sincerely



John Dwyer
Police & Crime Commissioner