

## Questions to the Commissioner

February 2025

1. We have heard you speak of your innovative Citizens Assemblies which are now taking place in various areas across Cheshire. I understand that after putting out a Contracts Awards Notice you have now commissioned the companies Think insight and Strategy, an independent research agency, who will work alongside another company, Plus Four Market Research, to deliver these Citizens Assemblies across Cheshire. What is the budget / expected expenditure to deliver each of these assemblies and how many do you expect to hold?
2. 681 hate crimes were recorded during Q2 (July-September 2024), a 20.3% increase compared with Q1, equating to 115 more offences. This was the third quarterly increase in a row. How are you scrutinising what response Cheshire Police are taking to address this increase? There has been national debate over the scrapping of responding to non-crime hate incidents. Do you support this so that there can be more focus on taking action on hate crime or do you see these investigations as beneficial in tackling hate crime more generally?
3. Can the commissioner tell the Panel what the percentage of ethnic background officers in the cheshire constabulary is? If this is not a parallel figure to the percentage of the Cheshire community what steps are you taking to recruit and make this a fair representation?