

# Message from Tim Passmore, Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk

## April 2021



As your Police and Crime Commissioner, setting the budget is one of my most important responsibilities. I must ensure that the Chief Constable has the resources he needs to provide an efficient and effective police service for the people of Suffolk.

This year the Policing Minister gave PCCs the ability to raise the policing element of the precept by up to £15 a year for a Band D property. I opted for this maximum increase and my decision was supported by the Police and Crime Panel, the scrutiny body which holds me to account.

I really do appreciate how difficult this past year has been for everyone, especially those whose livelihoods have been affected by the pandemic. However, this pandemic has also shown just how important policing is to us all. I take no pleasure at all in increasing the policing element of the precept but if we

are to continue to improve policing in the county it really is absolutely necessary.

I have worked closely with the Chief Constable to agree how this additional funding will be allocated. The Chief Constable's plan will focus the precept investment in three key areas: Investigations and protecting vulnerable people, to keep us safe and ensure criminals are brought to justice; modernisation and transformation, to enable better agile working and ensure the Constabulary is equipped to deal with the challenges it faces and public engagement, making it easier to contact the police and have a say in policing across Suffolk.

Suffolk is a relatively small force and the fourth lowest funded, per head of population. This increased investment in policing will deliver 25 additional officers and 27 police staff, which with

the additional officers from the government's Operation Uplift, will increase police numbers in Suffolk to over 1,300, the highest number for over ten years. This will be instrumental in ensuring the Constabulary continues to be efficient and effective, and able to deal with modern day policing challenges.

Last year's extra money for policing from the council tax was used wisely and the increased focus on organised crime groups, violence and county lines and illegal drug use has produced some impressive results. There is a page on my website which sets out exactly how last year's precept was allocated and the impact that it has had. I will be doing the same this year to show you exactly how your money will be spent in this coming financial year.

Tim Passmore