# Funding for Policing and Fire & Rescue Services

**1. Funding for Policing and Fire & Rescue Services**

**Message from Roger Hirst, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex**  
  
This survey is to gather your views on what you think of investing in both Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.  
  
We want to see less crime in Essex. With your support, we have invested in Essex Police. By March 2022, there will be more than 700 more police in Essex than there were in 2016.  
  
This investment in Essex Police has been used to prevent crime. Incidents of burglary, anti-social behaviour and theft have all fallen in recent years and drug driven violence is starting to show a decline too.  
  
We know we need to do more. We hear it loud and clear as we talk to communities across the county. During the summer we spoke to more than 1000 people across our county to develop our new Police and Crime Plan. They supported our ambition to get crime down, focus on prevention, protect the vulnerable and support victims. To achieve this, we need to complete our programme of investment and ensure that our Chief Constable and his officers have the support and resources needed to get crime down.  
  
By investing in Essex Police, you will help us to do more to prevent crime, have stronger neighbourhood policing and an even stronger focus on tackling drug driven violence and gangs. It will also help us support the victims of crime and protect those most vulnerable from becoming victims.  
  
Our Fire and Rescue Service is also doing a great job, preventing harm, protecting those most at risk and providing an effective response to incidents.  
  
Essex County Fire and Rescue Service is working hard to increase its Fire Protection Capability to provide an effective response to the increased risk identified in the Grenfell Tower inquiry. It is also focused on improving its capacity to effectively prevent fires, investing in training resources for our firefighters, recruiting and retaining our on-call firefighters and ensuring that prevention is at the heart of everything it does.  
  
Additional investment in the above areas would allow the Service to do more for the communities we serve.  
  
We know that there are financial challenges and that any increase in funding must be judged carefully, however, we also know that families, communities and businesses want safe and secure communities where they can live their lives safe from harm and where businesses can thrive.  
  
Thank you for your time completing this survey. It will really help us when it comes to setting our budgets and the Council Tax precepts for policing and fire and rescue services for next year.  
  
Roger Hirst  
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex  
  
All responses from this survey will be collated and summarised as part of the final report. Individual people will not be identified, and your name will not be mentioned in any reports that we write for this purpose. You don’t have to take part if you do not want to - this is a voluntary activity.

**Under the Data Protection Act we have a legal duty to protect any information we collect from you. The information will only be used for the purposes of informing our policing and fire and rescue service strategy and how to fund it. The data will not be kept longer than is necessary to do so, up to a maximum of five years. We will not share your personal details with any other agency unless we have concerns that you or another individual may be at risk of harm or if it is required by law. We do not collect personal information for commercial purposes.**  
  
**If you choose to provide your contact details so we can keep you informed of the work of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, we will store your details and where necessary share your details with third parties for this purpose.**

### **1. Do you live, work, study or travel in Essex? \***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

**2. Investment in policing**

**Overall Essex has the second lowest level of funding per population of any area in England and Wales.**

### **2. Would you like to see more investment in policing in your community?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | Maybe |

### **3. Would you like to see Essex Police receive more funding to invest in getting crime down, prevention, protecting the vulnerable and supporting victims across our county?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | Maybe |

### **4. Would you be prepared to invest more in policing to help improve the service provided?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | Maybe |

**3. Policing precept**

### **5. The Council Tax for policing is approximately one-tenth of a total Council Tax charge and is often referred to as the ‘police precept’. There are eight bands of Council Tax depending upon the value of your property. Police Council Tax 2021/22 Council Tax Band Police Council Tax Precept for 2021/22(£) A 139.02 B 162.19 C 185.36 D 208.53 E 254.87 F 301.21 G 347.55 H 417.06 The Band D Council Tax for policing in Essex for 2021/22 is £208.53. How much more would you be prepared to contribute to support more investment in policing? Please select the answer you would support.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Up to £5 per year |
|  | Up to £10 per year |
|  | Up to £15 per year |
|  | Up to £20 per year |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Up to £25 per year |
|  | Up to £50 per year |
|  | Up to £75 per year |
|  | Other amount (please specify):   |  | | --- | |  | |

### **6. How important do you feel that extra investment is in each of the 13 areas listed below? Please rank them in order of importance with number one being the most important and 13 being the least important.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Counter terrorism | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Crime prevention | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Supporting victims | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Serious and organised crime | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Road safety | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Cyber/online crime | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Tackling gangs and drug related violence | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Protecting the vulnerable | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Domestic abuse | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Local neighbourhood policing | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Tackling anti-social behaviour | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Promoting volunteering | |  | | --- | |  | |
| Engaging with the public | |  | | --- | |  | |

### **7. Is there anything else you would like to say about the policing precept?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**4. Investment in fire and rescue services**

### **8. The Commissioner also sets the precept for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS). There was no increase in the precept for ECFRS last year, which remained at £73.89 on a Band D property. This was in recognition of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic was having on the economic climate, and to ensure that no further financial burden was placed on the residents of Essex. Next year, ECFRS faces several financial challenges which will increase its costs. To reduce risk across the county, improve our prevention activities and keep you even safer, ECFRS would like to invest further in: • an improved Fire Protection Capability to respond to the increased risk identified in the Grenfell Tower inquiry, • operational training resources for firefighters and staff • on call resources to help retain and recruit more on call firefighters. This investment is expected to cost £1.5m. We would like your views on the level of investment you would like to see in 2022/2023. Which of the four statements below best reflects your view?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | I do not want to see any increase. |
|  | An increase of 2%, which equates to an annual increase of £1.47 for a Band D property. This would raise an additional £0.94m which would fund inflationary cost pressures but would mean that increased capability would have to be funded through increased productivity and efficiencies. |
|  | An increase of 3%, which equates to an annual increase of £2.21 for a Band D property. This would raise an additional £1.42m. This would fund the inflationary cost pressures and further investment of £0.48m allowing the service to start a phased investment programme in the areas identified above. |
|  | An increase of 5%, which equates to an annual increase of £3.69 for a Band D property. This would raise an additional £2.38m. This would fund the inflationary cost pressures and would allow the service to make an additional investment of £1.44m in the areas identified above. |

### **9. Is there anything else you would like to say about the fire and rescue services precept?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**5. About you**

The following questions will help us to see how feedback may vary between different groups of the population and ensure we've heard from a diverse and representative range of people. Your answers will be kept completely confidential and won't be collated with any information that makes you identifiable.  
It is voluntary to disclose this information. If you choose not to answer these questions, it will not affect your participation.

### **10. To which gender identity do you most identify?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Male |
|  | Female |
|  | Non-binary |
|  | Prefer not to say |
|  | Prefer to self-describe (please state)   |  | | --- | |  | |

### **11. Which age group do you belong to?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | 12 and under |
|  | 13-16 |
|  | 17-18 |
|  | 19-25 |
|  | 26-40 |
|  | 41-64 |
|  | 65+ |
|  | Prefer not to say |

### **12. To which of these ethnic groups do you consider you belong?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **White** | |
|  | English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British |
|  | Irish |
|  | Gypsy/Irish Traveller |
|  | Any other white background |
| **Mixed/multiple ethnic origins** | |
|  | White and Black Caribbean |
|  | White and Black African |
|  | White and Asian |
|  | Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background |
| **Asian/Asian British** | |
|  | Indian |
|  | Pakistani |
|  | Bangladeshi |
|  | Chinese |
|  | Any other Asian background |
| **Black/African/Caribbean/Black British** | |
|  | African |
|  | Caribbean |
|  | Any other Black/African/Caribbean background |
| **Other ethnic group** | |
|  | Arab |
|  | Any other ethnic group |
|  | Prefer not to say |

Any other background not covered (please specify)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **13. Do you consider yourself to have a health condition, disability or impairment? Please tick all that apply.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | No impairment |
|  | Hearing impairment/deaf |
|  | Visual impairment/blind |
|  | Deaf blind |
|  | Mental health needs |
|  | Physical impairment |
|  | Learning difficulties/disabilities |
|  | Autism spectrum disorder |
|  | Prefer not to say |

Other (please specify)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **14. Are you employed by an emergency service in a paid for or voluntary role?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | Prefer not to say |

### **15. If yes, is it?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex |
|  | Essex Police |
|  | Essex County Fire and Rescue Service |
|  | East of England Ambulance Service |
|  | Prefer not to say |
|  | Other (please specify):   |  | | --- | |  | |

### **16. Do you live in Essex?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

### **17. If the answer to the above is yes, which district do you live in?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Basildon |
|  | Braintree |
|  | Brentwood |
|  | Castle Point |
|  | Chelmsford |
|  | Colchester |
|  | Epping Forest |
|  | Harlow |
|  | Maldon |
|  | Rochford |
|  | Tendring |
|  | Uttlesford |
|  | Thurrock |
|  | Southend |
|  | Prefer not to say |

### **18. Please tell us your full home postcode – this information will be used to find out which areas we receive responses from and to identify any local issues. Your postcode will not be used to identify you as an individual in any way or shared with anyone else.**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **19. Where did you hear about this survey?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Local newspaper |
|  | Local radio/television |
|  | Facebook |
|  | Twitter |
|  | Instagram |
|  | PFCC Newsletter |
|  | Local authority |
|  | Referred by a friend/colleague or family member |
|  | Other (please specify):   |  | | --- | |  | |

**6. Thank You**

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. The survey closes at midnight on Sunday, December 5th but may be extended until midnight on Sunday, December 19th to ensure any paper copies that have been completed have time to reach us. We will make the results available on our [website](https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/) early next year. If you would like to keep up to date with the work of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex please sign up for our regular newsletter [here.](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKPFCC/signup/11686)