

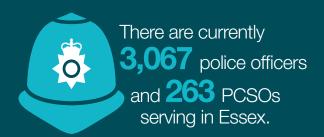
The independent inspectorate has found that Essex Police is one of the leanest and most efficient forces in the country.

This year the Police and Crime Panel have agreed my plans to increase the policing precept, – which is the proportion of your council tax that pays for Essex Police – by 1.99 per cent. This represents an increase of about six pence per week for a Band D property and will raise an additional £1.7million.

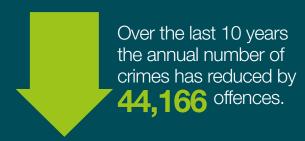
Central government grant funds up to around two-thirds of the overall policing budget, with the other one third coming from the portion of local council tax used for policing and community safety purposes. For 2015-16, we now know that there will be an £8.5m (4.7%) reduction in central government funding for Essex Police. Increasing the precept is the responsible thing to do to lessen the impact of this and to continue to invest in the future. But, inevitably, with less money, Essex Police will reduce in size.

The independent inspectorate has found that Essex Police is one of the leanest and most efficient forces in the country, and we pay less in council tax for our policing than almost any other county. Whilst I regret having to seek this increase in the precept, I believe – facing significant reductions in central government funding – it is the responsible thing to do to help preserve strong and effective policing in Essex.













Essex Police has specialist teams continuing to work to investigate serious sexual crimes.

The reporting of serious sexual offences has risen by 23.3%

This trend has been seen nationally and is partly as a result of more historic offences being reported following several high profile cases.

£1,344,566 cash was seized by Essex Police from criminals between January and December 2014.





Between January and December 2014 Essex Police handled a total of **1,450,244** calls from the public.



84.7% of 999 calls were attended by officers within the standard response time.