

# Safer in Kent

News from Matthew Scott: Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner

## Kent Police budget approved

The Police and Crime Commissioner's 2021/2022 budget for Kent has been scrutinised and approved by the Kent & Medway Police and Crime Panel.

Matthew Scott asked the panel to support a council tax rise of £15 a year, or £1.25 per month for an average Band D property, to fund Kent Police.

It's on top of the £10.1 million which comes from the government. The budget will pay for an extra 145 police officers, as well as funding some of the substantial costs incurred as a result of the Covid pandemic. It will also be used to upgrade equipment and IT, which will support frontline officers fight crime and protect vulnerable people.

Matthew Scott said,

*"Whilst it gives me no pleasure raising council tax, I believe this is good value for money for the people of Kent. We are reducing crime, bringing anti-social behaviour down and supporting victims of crime. We are making Kent safer".*



Matthew Scott standing in front of a police car sharing the news about the extra 145 officers

*"We have more Police in Kent now than ever before and they are making a difference. Their work has continued through the challenges of the pandemic and they are doing an excellent job. Thank you to them all".*

The Commissioner launched a consultation in December, which showed more than 75.1% of 3276 people who responded supporting the proposed increase.

Read our [summary report](https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/get-in-touch/consultations/) here or follow <https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/get-in-touch/consultations/>

### What does the PCC do?

- Sets Kent Police's priorities
- Holds the Chief Constable to account
- Decides the budget and sets the policing part of your council tax

- Commissions services for victims
- Runs a custody visiting scheme
- Works with councils and others to prevent crime
- Leads on mental health work for the national Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)

## PCC supports the launch of the new crime prevention taskforce

Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, has welcomed the launch of a new Problem Task Force, aimed at reducing persistent and long-standing issues of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Problem Solving Task Force is a unit of specially trained PCSOs who will work to prevent crime, disrupt offenders and stop serious anti-social behaviour.

It's been funded by the PCC's council tax precept and has already helped bring an end to a county lines drugs ring in Ashford and reduce long-term anti-social behaviour in Ashford.



Find out more here: [PCSO crime prevention taskforce](#)

### Open thank you letter to Kent Police from Matthew Scott

As we all know, this winter's challenges have continued. First we had the new 'Kent variant' of Covid and another lockdown, which our police officers have had to enforce. Then there were the problems caused by the port closures over Christmas and many officers had to work very long hours, some even had to put their Christmas plans on hold and report for duty. I appreciate it was a difficult time for Dover's residents and the Chief Consta-

ble assures me the Kent Resilience Forum is working on a plan to try to prevent such gridlock happening again. The force has also been working alongside other partners to ensure the surge testing in Maidstone runs smoothly and on top of all of this, we've had the heaviest snowfall in years, resulting in road crashes, blocked roads and difficult journeys for everyone. Kent Police has responded brilliantly and its results are impressive. The Chief Constable recently reported to me that across the board, we've seen the number of

arrests rise, the number of suspects being charged increase and more crimes are being solved. There has also been a significant reduction in serious 'county lines' drug gangs, from a high of 90 last summer to under 60 now.

So on a personal level and I'm sure on behalf of the residents of Kent and Medway, can I say a huge thank you to all the officers, staff and volunteers who work for Kent Police Force. You're doing a great job and we are all very grateful.

## Crime prevention advice

### Not all companies are as real as they look.

We are seeing reports of investment scams in Kent. Remember these tips :

- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is
- Avoid investing if you've been "cold called"
- Check the company is registered with the FCA at <http://register.fca.org.uk>
- Only use the contact details listed on the FCA Register #BeScamSmart



**I'm happy to help you or answer questions—please do get in touch with me using the details below**

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