



## Trust in the Police has risen according to data released by the PCC

The PCC's annual policing survey shows that residents of Kent rate their confidence level in the force as 6.4/10, compared to last year's 6/10.

Residents were asked to score their trust level on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being not at all and 10 being very much. 63% scored their trust as 6 or more, with only 25% rating it 4 or under. Again, this is an improvement on last year when 57% of respondents scored 6 or above and nearly 32% ranked their trust level as 4 or under.

Matthew Scott says, *"There is encouraging news in these results. It shows the changes embarked on are beginning to yield results with feelings of safety and trust rising. The Chief Constable and I are working together to improve communication with victims and witnesses, and to improve investigations so that more crimes are solved."*

Thank you for filling in the survey. This year a record 6767 of you did.

For full details go to:  
[www.kent-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk)

Trust in police has risen in the last year

Councillors approve PCC's budget

Chief Constable contract extension

Recruitment

Visits

## Highlights from Survey

- Trust in policing up to 6.4/10
- Victims of crime rate their confidence level 5/10, up from 4.5/10 last year
- Feeling of safety where you live up to 7/10 from 6.3/10 last year
- 55% of the population have been a victim or a witness to antisocial behaviour. Most do not report to the police or the relevant authority.

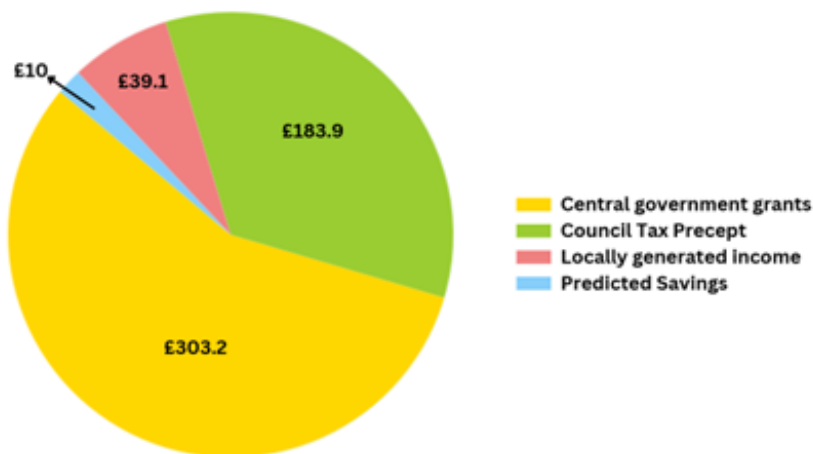
# PCC's budget approved by councillors

Matthew Scott has had his budget proposal unanimously approved by councillors. Following a public consultation, the PCC suggested an increase in the council tax police precept was necessary to protect the current level of police provision. It will mean an additional £14 a year for a Band D property, which is equivalent to £1.16 a month or just under 4 pence a day. This will help raise a total of £183.9m, but even with this increase and Government funds of £303.2m, Kent Police will have a shortfall of around £10 million.

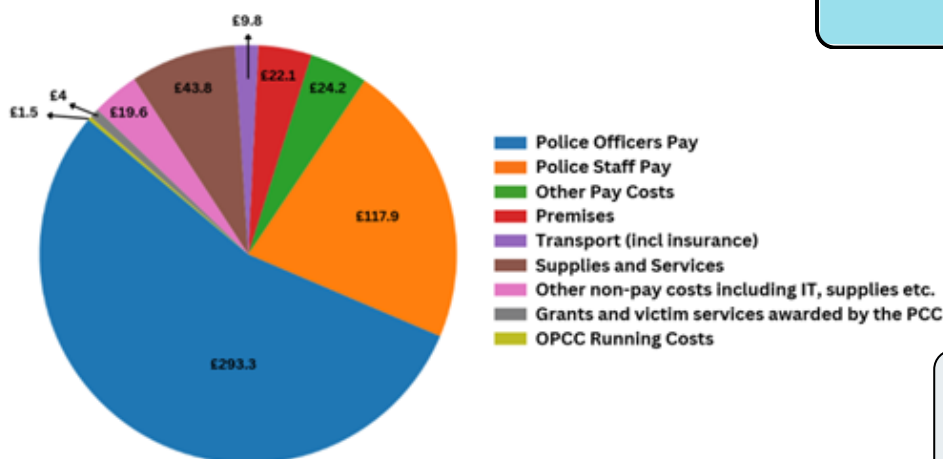
Before Christmas the PCC asked residents for their views. Nearly 77% said they would either be happy to pay an extra £14 (for a Band D property) or said they were not happy, but understood it was necessary to sufficiently fund Kent Police. 23% said they were not happy and would accept a significant reduction in service.

The pie charts here show where our money comes from and how we spend it. (£ millions)

**Total Financing £m**



**How is that money spent? £m**



Matthew Scott said, "This is never an easy request to make, but policing is facing serious financial pressures. I am grateful for the uplift in the core grant fund the government has agreed to pay, but even with this and an increase to the council tax precept, we will still have to make significant savings. Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation."

[contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk](mailto:contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk)  
[kent-pcc.gov.uk](http://kent-pcc.gov.uk)

# Chief Constable contract extension

## PCC agrees to extend Kent Police Chief Constable's tenure

Matthew Scott, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, has supported a request from the Chief Constable, Tim Smith, to extend his contract for two years.

Mr Smith was promoted to the rank of Chief Constable in December 2022 with his contract to run until December 2027. He will be in post until December 2029.



In order for this to take effect, Mr Smith will retire from the force on 28 February, and return on 1 April. Mr Scott has appointed Deputy Chief Constable Peter Ayling to serve as Temporary Chief Constable during this period.

Matthew Scott said, *"Over the past two years, Mr Smith has delivered improved performance, following difficult HMICFRS inspections, cut waiting times for people contacting our Force Control Room, implemented the new Neighbourhood and Divisional Policing Models and crucially, helped to cut crime. I look forward to working with him to make our county safer and further improve outcomes for victims of crime."*



Congratulations to all the newly qualified officers who "passed out" last month (left picture) and welcome to the new recruits of both officers and PCSOs who will join their ranks soon (right picture).



# Visits around Kent and Medway



We've been out on patrol with beat officers around Kent and Medway, in Chatham, Herne Bay, Maidstone, Rochester, Snodland and Folkestone. Thank you for coming to speak to us and do let us know if you think the increased patrols are making a difference.

[www.kent-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk)



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