



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Newsletter

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

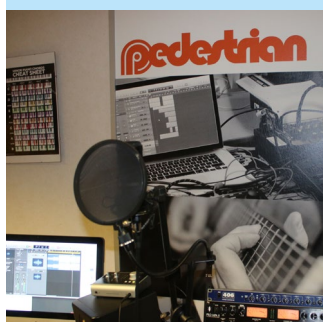
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Police budget for 2023-24 to sustain policing for Rutland

The 2023/24 budget for policing Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland focusses on giving police officers the training and equipment that they need to keep us all safe. It includes a £620K transfer from the Commissioner's Reserve budget to the force and aims to lay the foundations for a sustainable future.

Rural policing has been transformed, with the launch of a dedicated team of rural officers equipped with specialist kit to help police remote and off-road locations. These officers are supported by a highly proactive team of 4,000 residents across Leicestershire and Rutland who are signed up to WattsApp groups and alert systems. The team is also now launching a "Volunteers

on Horseback" scheme to help keep an eye on more remote rural areas.

The budget also includes provision for maintaining the current number of officers, which is 35 more than the 297 recruited through the Uplift programme. New vehicles, including hybrid models, have been added to the fleet increasing police visibility.

I remain committed to strengthening local policing which is why areas earmarked for investment are also designed to deliver greater efficiencies. These key areas include better technology, support mechanisms and systems to give Leicestershire Police more time with communities to prevent crime and arrest criminals.

New police front desk in Rutland

A few weeks ago, I was honoured to join Geoff Thompson, the High Sheriff of Rutland, to open a new police enquiry desk in Oakham – part of my commitment to improve police visibility in Rutland.

Based at Rutland Police Station in Oakham, the office will be open from 10am until 4pm, Monday to Friday, and will enable people to report crime or any concerns they have in their communities.

Being able to see and talk to a police officer matters a great deal to our communities. Rutland has been the only county in the



country not to have a public facing enquiry desk, so I've pushed very hard for this. I've listened to local people who feel very strongly about the need for a contact point to meet officers in the heart of the community and this new facility is the result.

This latest improvement will help to reassure residents that we are working hard to deliver the responsive service they expect. It also represents excellent value for money, eliminating rental costs and providing a secure base in the long-term.

Powerful road safety campaign launches to help protect young lives

A hard-hitting programme to increase the safety of young drivers and road users and curb anti-social behaviour got underway thanks to grant funding worth £5,704 that I allocated to support the delivery of The Road Revolution Programme.

The project aims to overhaul present road safety education to make it more impactful for young people aged 13-19. Youngsters will be engaged in a way they understand which is fun but also covers serious issues through discussion and debate and prompts them to think about their behaviour in and around vehicles.

The programme team will also research incidents that have happened in the local area to highlight those to the young audience and really hit home that these incidents do and can happen in their neighbourhoods. Additionally, the programme will address community concerns around the anti-use of motor vehicles by focusing on educating young people as drivers, road users and pedestrians.

This is a hugely exciting project promising to explore serious issues around road safety in a way that leaves a deep impact on young people and prevents them from becoming either a victim or perpetrator of crime.

To view the video on the project and how the funds they receive are being used visit: <https://youtu.be/Bcf65Vzzvow>



Supporting the Neighbourhood Watch & Parish Councils



Being a parish councillor myself and having been a Neighbourhood Watch member in the past, I know that both organisations can do vast amounts to keep our communities safe. That is why I have given a firm commitment to support both.

Most recently, I have funded a full time post within the Leicestershire Police to improve and maintain relations between the police and Neighbourhood Watch groups.

I know from my own experience how important parish and town councils, and Neighbourhood Watch groups are to the communities they serve. I have met several of these bodies in Rutland to discuss problems in their

communities, but I recognise that more needs to be done to support them in keeping their villages and towns safe. That is why I am putting more resources into supporting these organisations.

For instance, I was delighted to work with Uppingham Town Council to find improved space for the town's police office so that residents could make appointments to meet officers there rather than have to travel to Oakham.

And since I believe in leading from the front, I went out with the Coalville NHW to join a litter pick on the Palitoy Estate. If you are on a parish council or Neighbourhood Watch group, let me know what you are up to and I will try to come along to help out.

STICKERS CUT TRAILER THEFT

In response to a recent spate of horse and agricultural trailer theft, I have provided highly visible stickers which ask anyone seeing that trailer on the roads between the hours of 10 pm and 5 am to report it to the police swiftly.

I personally delivered a bundle of the in-demand stickers to R&R Country in Thorpe Arnold for the company to distribute amongst its customers.

Criminal gangs, opportunistic thieves target rural communities. As one of my key priorities is to tackle rural crime, I was pleased to provide these trailer stickers which have proved effective elsewhere. It is a simple and cost-effective way of deterring would-be criminals.



New project empowers girls at risk of crime

Young girls at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of crime are being empowered to switch direction through music, art and media. I have provided a grant worth £19,750 to creative charity Pedestrian Limited for its *We Are Here* project.

Over a 20 month period, the *We Are Here* project will provide face-to-face sessions for girls aged 10 to 16 who are already working with youth justice services. The aim is to increase their self-confidence and self-belief, build up resilience, develop their communications skills, encourage teamwork, and increase their ability to think before acting to protect them from being drawn into crime.

To view the video on the project and how the funds are being used visit: <https://youtu.be/EqBLSRUWLAI>



Out and about

Every week, I spend a full day out of the office meeting people and organisations out in the community to find out what really concerns local people.



Keep in touch

Please do not hesitate to get in touch at any time using these contact details:

Email: opcc@leics.police.uk | Telephone: 0116 229 8980
Website: www.leics.pcc.police.uk

Please note we are unable to take details of crimes or incidents.

If you need to contact the police please either call 999 if it is an emergency, or dial 101 if it is a non-emergency.

You can also keep up to date with my day to day work via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and my weekly blog.



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