

Matthew Scott Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner



Newsletter
December 2018

PCC helps Kent Police to secure first tranche of Brexit contingency funding



On a recent appearance on the BBC's South East Sunday Politics Show, Matthew Scott announced that he has helped Kent Police secure a first instalment of funding to help meet the costs of planning for Brexit, worth £850,000.

Costs are already being incurred for planning for the various contingencies that might be necessary post Brexit in March 2019.

The PCC has built a strong network of supporters for the bid; Dover MP Charlie Elphicke co-ordinated a joint letter signed by a majority of Kent MPs in support, and the Dover Task Force, which includes a variety of interested parties including the Port of Dover

and Eurotunnel sent a letter of support too.

This funding covers the initial planning costs only, and for 2018/19. The vast bulk of the total money – up to £19.5m – covers all scenarios post Brexit and the manpower required to support Kent County Council and Highways England to keep the county roads moving. This is currently being assessed by

the Home Office.

Matthew welcomed the news as a step in the right direction but emphasised that he had helped Kent Police get the funding in place before any problems start – not after the event.

He said: 'This is not about Project Fear either. This is about two things – making sensible and responsible plans for our future, and reminding everyone that issues such as Operation Stack and major disruptions on our strategic road network are national, not local challenges. Let's hope that more funding, as well as the money Kent County Council has bid for, is awarded for 2019/20.'



PCC's inaugural Blue Light Jobs Fayre hailed a huge success

More than 300 people attended Matthew Scott's inaugural Blue Light Jobs Fayre.

Police, fire and ambulance staff joined forces for the special event at the Dartford Campus of North Kent College to showcase various jobs opportunities with the emergency services. Organised by the elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent and open to the general public, as well as college students, it was a key event in promoting the careers available, as well as advising on the pathways to get into them.

Mr Scott said: 'I was delighted to welcome more than 300 people to my first Bluelight Jobs Fayre in Dartford. A number of agencies said that it was the best recruitment event they had exhibited at for some time.

'I am tremendously grateful to my team for all the effort they put in, to North Kent College for hosting, and to all the agencies and charities for coming together.'



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Violence Reduction Challenge advisory panel meets in Medway

The Violence Reduction Challenge is Matthew's response to the emerging issues we are seeing nationwide with crime, whether it be county lines, gangs, drugs, domestic abuse, sexual violence and public order.

He has brought together organisations from across Kent's public and voluntary sectors to look at the causes of violence and propose long term, meaningful solutions. It also acknowledges that violent crime is a very diverse crime type with 55 cate-

gories, which includes everything from pushing and shoving to malicious communications, as well as stalking, rape and murder.

In December, his advisory panel met in Chatham to discuss rehabilitation, information sharing and collaboration amongst other work being done to tackle violent crime.

A Violence Reduction Challenge summit will be convened in February with the first report to be published in the spring.

PCC welcomes plan for total ban on the use of police cells as a place of safety

This month Prof Sir Simon Wessely published his [Independent Review of the Mental Health Act](#).

Matthew, who sat on the review panel, stated: 'I am delighted that the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act has recommended what Police and Crime Commissioners and many others have wanted for some time – that police cells should not be used to keep someone safe when they are detained under the Mental Health Act.'

'It was a privilege to be on the Advisory Panel and Chair the Policing working group.'

'People experiencing mental ill health need the right care from the right person at the right time. That also

means the right place.

'And whilst police officers will and do always do their best to help, this care is better provided in a health setting not a police cell, and by trained professionals not police officers.'

'Members of the public rightly want the police out fighting crime, not picking up the pieces for other agencies.'

'I hope that with these reforms, and the extra investment the Government is putting into crisis services, we can get people the care they need and reduce demand on policing.'



What is a Police and Crime Commissioner?

Matthew Scott was elected Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in May 2016.

His role is to set policing priorities for the county, by consulting with the public and putting together a Police and Crime Plan.

He then holds the Chief Constable of Kent Police to account for the delivery of that plan. He sets the council tax precept for policing, is responsible for the overall policing budget, and com-

missions services for victims of crime and funds community safety projects.

Mr Scott also serves as the national Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' portfolio holder for Performance, and also as the portfolio holder for Mental Health.

He lives in Swanley with his wife and young daughter, is a fan of cricket and football, enjoys real ale and is a keen musician who has played in cover bands across the South East.

Get in touch

To raise an issue with Mr Scott or to invite him to a meeting or event please visit the OPCC website: www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/contact-us

Please note that the PCC cannot interfere in operational policing or demand that the Chief Constable changes how he uses his policing resources. Equally, his office (the OPCC) cannot provide updates on how a crime is being investigated.