



Police and Crime Commissioner  
**CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH**

**ACTING POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

# **PRECEPT SURVEY REPORT**

January 2021

Lack including Mental health place enforcing services vehicles fines local  
see help victims especially important Bike theft right support going  
seems hare coursing dangerous driving child abuse using safety  
None keep etc taking think s village feel know cyclists  
Road safety anti-social behaviour Traffic bike driving

## Contents

### 1. Introduction

1. The Policing Protocol Order 2011, which came into force on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2012, states that “*the Police and Crime Commissioner is the recipient of all funding, including the government grant and precept and other sources of income, related to policing and crime reduction and all funding for a force must come via the Commissioner*”.
- 1.2 Section 62 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides that all of the functions of a Police and Crime Commissioner are exercisable by an Acting Commissioner, apart from issuing or varying a Police and Crime Plan.
- 1.3 In Cambridgeshire, police funding comes from three main sources.
  - Central government grant
  - Local council tax (precept)
  - Other grants to support victims of crime
- 1.4 The Police and Crime Commissioner has a statutory duty to set the precept for the Cambridgeshire force area, allowing him to decide the budget and allocate assets and funds to the Chief Constable for the coming financial year.
- 1.5 The Acting Commissioner has committed to engaging with the public regarding the precept decision-making processes. Given the restrictions with regards to the current lockdown (as announced on January 4<sup>th</sup> by the Prime Minister), an online public survey was undertaken in line with this commitment.
- 1.6 This document sets out the actions taken by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in light of this commitment and analyses the public response to the survey.
- 1.7 On 17<sup>th</sup> December, the Government settlement included an ability for Police and Crime Commissioners to increase the policing part of council tax to £15 per year (or £1.25 per month) in 2021/22 (based on a Band D property).
- 1.8 A document explaining the proposed precept increase was published on the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner’s website at <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/consultations-surveys/>.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 2020/21 has been an exceptionally challenging year with police officers, volunteers and staff working tirelessly to help keep people safe, whilst responding to the usual demands for service.

Thanks to the contribution people have made to policing through their council tax over the last two years and the government's national police officer recruitment programme (often referred to as the "uplift programme"), officer numbers in Cambridgeshire have continued to grow – from 1,425 in March 2018 to 1,559 expected by March 2021. The Chief Constable has used that growth to increase neighbourhood teams from 57 officers in 2018 to 132 today.

- 2.2 Whilst government funding for Cambridgeshire is increasing for 2021/22, it is ringfenced to pay for the additional "uplift" officers expected. A complex organisation such as a police force with its range of functions (many not visible to the public) and infrastructure to support it, inevitably has other cost pressures that need to be funded. Before asking the public to pay more for policing it is absolutely essential that savings from the existing budget are found wherever possible. The Chief Constable has identified savings of £5.1m from its collaborated services shared with other forces, from administrative and "back office" functions, such as ICT and HR and from remodelling the neighbourhood policing model.

- 2.3 In order for the Constabulary to continue to improve and to adapt to new demands, the Chief Constable needs to continue to transform the way services are delivered. Therefore, he has identified through a very rigorous planning process, additional support that the Constabulary will be able to provide to the public increasing the effectiveness of his officers and staff, if the Commissioner sets the full precept as expected by Government. These include:

- **Additional call handlers** – most incidents start with a call from the public therefore it is vital this is as efficient and effective as it can be with more police staff undertaking this function where possible;
- **Vulnerability Support Team** – the vulnerability agenda (which includes areas such as Domestic Abuse, Mental Health, Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery, Concern for Safety calls for service and Missing from Home reports) is a huge area of policing. Early identification of vulnerability from the initial call for service has proven to be vital in assessing risk, together with the effective response and supervision of each incident. A new Vulnerability Support Team would be located across the County and within the Demand Hub, not only to assist in identifying risk right from the initial call, but additionally to support and guide officers and staff throughout the investigation.
- **Digital, Social Media Contact Desk** – new legislation comes into being in 2021 whereby the police are required to monitor and respond to on-line contact between the public and the Constabulary via such

digital channels as social media. It has been seen throughout the pandemic that the public have increased their use of webchat, on-line reporting of crime and intelligence, and to seek advice and guidance. This new service will not only monitor and respond to on-line correspondence but will also be able to pro-actively issue messages regarding incidents, demand surges, information and guidance and preventative messages to reduce demand and importantly increase public confidence and satisfaction with the service. By encouraging demand into the digital space, officers will be able to respond to public concerns more effectively and thus increase visibility of frontline resources.

- **Digital Media Investigators (DMIs):** nearly 90% of all investigations have some sort of digital footprint. The complexity of crime and the ever-increasing advances of digital technology place an ever-increasing demand on officers, not only within the specialist areas of investigation, but right across the policing service. We have seen cyber and on-line crime increase and during the pandemic the exploitation of vulnerable people has been difficult to combat. The investment of additional DMIs will enhance the Constabulary's ability to deal effectivity with these types of investigation and importantly free up time to support victims.
- **Cyber, On-Line Prevention Officers-** Scams, on-line fraud, vulnerable people being duped into handing over large sums of money, often hard to recover, are on the increase. Again the pandemic and future projections indicate that this type of crime is on the rise. These additional police staff will support Neighbourhood Officers and Staff, link into the Cyber Crime Directorate and provide a liaison point for local charities to work together to combat this type of crime.
- **Continuous Professional Development Units** – these have already been established in our policing districts to support frontline officers. Many of our “response” officers have less than two years’ service and the units are there to help support their development. Police staff support in the units will help the development of officers and also enable the Sergeants and Inspectors to spend more time supervising incidents and investigations.
- **Diversity Coordinator** – a workforce reflecting the communities the Constabulary serves has been high on the agenda for several years. This additional resource will work alongside the Positive Action Team and within communities to build trust and confidence to encourage and support applications to be officers from minority, under-represented communities. In addition, the resource will work internally to support officers and staff alongside the existing staff support networks, to ensure those recruited are supported and encouraged to progress within the Constabulary.

It is worth noting that all of the above are police staff roles that directly support the public or support our officers in making them more effective.

For 2021/22 the government have said Police and Crime Commissioners can raise the precept by £1.25 a month (£15 a year) for a Band D property, with proportionate amounts across the other bands.

If the precept part of the council tax is raised by the full amount, this will raise a total of £72.3m and ensure that the Chief Constable can continue to improve the Constabulary, making best use of its officers and staff whilst also providing additional services. The ambition is to change from a policing service in Cambridgeshire that is externally assessed as “Good”, to one that is “Outstanding”.

### **3. Outline of the survey**

- 3.1 The online public survey was undertaken by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), on behalf of the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.2 The survey, which was provided via the online platform, Survey Monkey, was launched on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January for 2 weeks until Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January.
- 3.3 Entitled ‘*Cambridgeshire residents asked for their views on police funding*’, the online survey asked for people’s views on an increase of £1.25 per month (based on a Band D property) to council tax which would enable the Chief Constable to implement a number of improvements to the service the public receive.
- 3.4 The survey also included a number of questions seeking the views of the public with regards to policing and crime enabling a ‘temperature check’ of what issues local people are concerned about and how safe they feel living in Cambridgeshire. The responses to these questions will help provide an evidence base for the incoming Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan. An analysis report regarding these responses will be provided in due course.
- 3.5 Members of the public without access to the internet were offered the opportunity to provide their views via telephone.

### **4. Summary of the survey activity**

- 4.1 The survey was launched and communicated to the public via the following methods:
  - A press release containing a link to the survey and wider background was distributed to all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough media;
  - Social media posts on the Commissioner’s Facebook and Twitter accounts signposting to the press release, wider narrative and survey link;
  - Distributed through the Commissioner’s Ecops account (c. 20,000 subscribers);
  - Shared with countywide Comms colleagues through the Warn & Inform Comms group;
  - Disseminated via partnership networks;

- Shared with hard to reach representative groups.

A full list of all channels is provided at Appendix 2.

4.2 Media coverage of the survey is listed in Appendix 2.

4.3 Internally, Officers, staff and volunteers within Cambridgeshire Constabulary were engaged through internal channels and given the opportunity to comment.

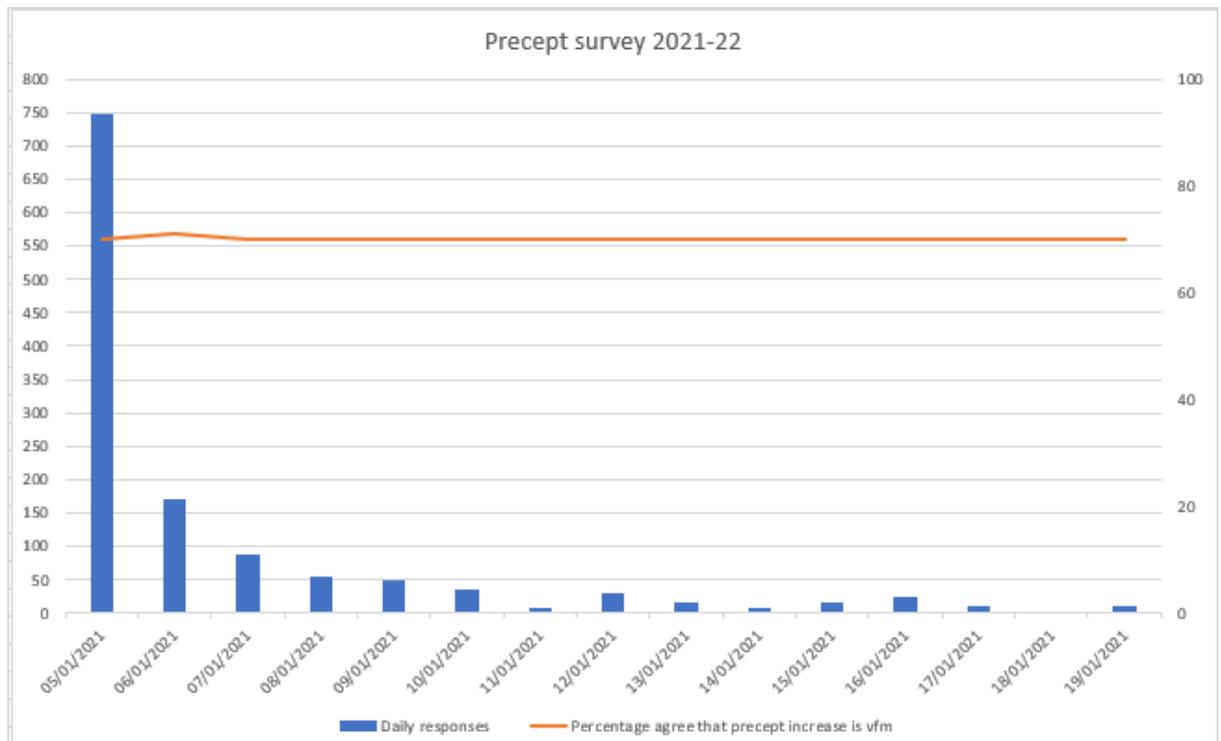
A full list of the engagement tactics used to communicate the precept to the public can be found in Appendix 2.

## 5. Analysis of survey responses

5.1 A total of 1,270 people responded to the survey. Of these 70.06% agreed that the proposed increase was value for money.

5.2 All respondents were via Survey Monkey with no telephone calls received.

5.3 Rates of return per day:



5.3 Public comments:

There were 912 comments provided in response to the precept question:

## Funding

Policing is funded by you as taxpayers - from general taxation via grants provided from the Government, and your local council tax.

The Government has given Police and Crime Commissioners the ability to increase the policing element of council tax by £1.25 per month (£15 a year) for an average Band D property.

\* 9.

Do you think an increase of £1.25 per month would be value for money?

Yes

No

Of the 70.06% that agreed the proposed increase was value for money, the following comments are representative of the feedback received:

- 'If this is enough that would be great.'
- 'The increase is minimal if it helps secure further funding to support frontline and visible policing.'
- '£1.25 per month may be value for money but depends entirely how it is spent.'
- '£50 per household is a more realistic figure than £15.'
- 'More constabulary for more money. We would pay double for this.'
- 'I would pay £5 a month more.'
- 'This is the second time my council tax goes up. Last time it went up about £10 and the policing actually got worse. I am happy to pay my shares but also think the community might benefit from an improvement in the management and the methods used to tackle crimes.'
- 'Central gov should be funding not homeowners / occupiers through secondary Tax.'
- 'The VFM question is difficult to answer without knowing the context behind where that extra £1.25 will be being spent. If it is going to be used in a way which will add value to and help prime prevention than I am sure most people will be willing to pay this.'

Of the 30% who disagreed that the proposed increase was value for money, the following comments are representative of the feedback received:

- 'I think crime is a nation-wide problem that central government need to address on a massive scale, they need to be dealing with it nationally not putting it on individual communities with shoe string budgets.'
- 'ANY increase should not exceed that of inflation. It has been a difficult year for everyone, any increase is unwelcome.'
- 'Our council take is £3K annually, we do not get value for money.'

- 'I don't know how you use the resource you have. Whilst £1.25pm per household is negligible, if it's to be used for example to provide for more random mobile speed cameras, or time-wasting domestic violence work then it's poor value in my opinion. Conversely, I would happily pay more if I thought it might go towards real improvements rather than 'easy' options.'

In response to the question: 'Would you like to suggest a different amount per month?', 173 commented (19%) indicated they would be willing to pay more than £1.25 per month.

## 6. Demography of respondents

6.1 Demographic data collected, and presented below, demonstrates a range of people participated and engaged in the survey.

Gender								
Male: 53.28%	Female: 41.12%	Prefer not to say: 4.9%			Non-binary or gender fluid: 0.35%	Other: 0.35%		
Age								
-18: 0.52%	18-24: 1.57%	25-34: 6.3%	35-44: 8.92%	45-54: 13.65%	55-64: 21.52%	65+: 41.03%	PNTS: 6.47%	
Ethnicity								
White English	72.5%	White Welsh	1.31%	White Scottish	2.1%	White Northern Irish	0.44%	
White British	8.49%	White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.26%	Any other White background	3.77%	White & Black Caribbean	0.18%	
White & Black African	0.0%	White & Asian	0.35%	Asian or Asian British	0.44%	Any other mixed or Multiple ethnic background	0.35%	
Indian	0.35%	Pakistani	0.18%	Bangladeshi	0.09%	Chinese	0.35%	
Any other Asian background	0.35%	Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	0.09%	African	0.18%	Caribbean	0.0%	
Any other Black, African or Caribbean background	0.0%	Arab	0.0%	Prefer not to say	6.74%	Other	1.49%	
Do you have a long standing illness, disability or infirmity?								
Yes				21.37%				
No				70.67%				
Prefer not to say				7.97%				
Location by Police District								
Huntingdonshire			20.52%			East Cambridgeshire		9.26%

South Cambridgeshire	20.7%	Cambridge City	13.1%
Peterborough	24.28%	Outside	0.44%
Fenlands	9.61%	No permanent residence	0.9%

## 7. Conclusion

- 7.1 A total 1,270 people responded during the survey period. Demographic data collected demonstrates a wide range of people participated and engaged in the survey, of a makeup representative of the area as a whole.
- 7.2 912 respondents also made additional comments (Q10 -Would you like to suggest a different amount?). The comments have helped to inform the Commissioner's proposal in line with government advice.

## Appendix 1

### Survey documents

- Online Survey Monkey content

#### **Have your say on policing priorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

As your Acting Commissioner, it's important for me to understand your views about crime and how it is being tackled in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

It is my responsibility to set the policing part of council tax each year and this year, in line with government guidance, I am asking for views on an increase of £1.25 a month (based on a Band D property) to council tax that would enable the Chief Constable to implement a number of improvements he has identified. These include:

- Additional call handlers
- Additional support for responding to calls for service from the vulnerable
- Cyber, online prevention officers
- Digital Media Investigators
- Increased capacity for handling digital contact from the public
- Additional support for the development of frontline officers

I would be very grateful if you could spend a few moments completing the below survey.

Your responses will help to inform the next Police and Crime Commissioner, elected by you in May 2021, of your views and make sure the next Police and Crime Plan reflects these.

The survey looks into the areas of policing people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough would like to see their Constabulary prioritise. All information collected and answers submitted will be anonymous in line with our privacy policy.

This questionnaire should only take a few minutes.

## Have your say on policing priorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

\* 1. On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being very unsafe and 10 being very safe, how safe do you feel in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough?

A horizontal slider scale from 1 to 10. The scale is marked with '1', '5', and '10'. A white circular knob is positioned at the '1' mark. A grey rectangular button is located at the right end of the slider.

OK

2. In the box below, please include a few words about why you answered in the way that you did

A large, empty grey rectangular box for providing a written response.

\* 3. Please rank the following issues according to how you believe the Constabulary and its partners should prioritise them

- Anti-social behaviour
- Theft and Burglary
- Public order (i.e. rioting, harrassment and fighting in public)
- Wildlife crime (including hare coursing)
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Counter Terrorism
- Organised Crime and County Lines
- Hate Crime
- Cyber Crime

4. Are there any other issues, which Cambridgeshire Constabulary deal with in partnership with other agencies, that you feel are important?

## **Have your say on policing priorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

### **Quality of service**

Cambridgeshire Constabulary is currently graded as “Good” by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in all areas in its independent reviews.

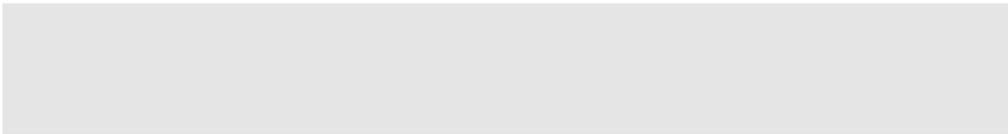
\* 5. Have you had contact with the Constabulary?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

\* 6. What do you think Cambridgeshire Constabulary does well?



\* 7. What do you think Cambridgeshire Constabulary could improve on?



\* 8. Cambridgeshire Constabulary is recruiting more warranted officers thanks to the Government's investment in 20,000 more police officers nationally. What issues do you think the Constabulary should focus on? Please pick a maximum of three.

- 
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging with schools and young people     | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting victims and the vulnerable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investigating crime                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Tackling organised crime              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood policing                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Public contact and communications     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road safety                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Crime                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preventing crime and anti-social behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> Preventing terrorism                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing reoffending                       |  |

## Have your say on policing priorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

### Funding

Policing is funded by you as taxpayers - from general taxation via grants provided from the Government, and your local council tax.

The Government has given Police and Crime Commissioners the ability to increase the policing element of council tax by £1.25 per month (£15 a year) for an average Band D property.

\* 9.

Do you think an increase of £1.25 per month would be value for money?

Yes

No

10. Would you like to suggest a different amount per month?

## Have your say on policing priorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

### Equality and diversity

It is important to understand the policing priorities of all of our communities living and working in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. You are not obliged to answer the following questions however it would allow us to analyse which issues are impacting which communities.

11. Age group

Under 18

45-54

18-24

55-64

25-34

65+

35-44

Prefer not to say

## 12. Ethnicity

- White English
  - White Welsh
  - White Scottish
  - White Northern Irish
  - White British
  - White Gypsy or Irish Traveller
  - Any other White background
  - White and Black Caribbean
  - White and Black African
  - White and Asian
  - Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background
  - Asian or Asian British
  - Other (please specify)
- Indian
  - Pakistani
  - Bangladeshi
  - Chinese
  - Any other Asian background
  - Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
  - African
  - Caribbean
  - Any other Black, African or Caribbean background
  - Arab
  - Prefer not to say

13. Do you have a long standing illness, disability or infirmity?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

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14. Are you?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary or Gender fluid
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe (please specify)

15. Which area of the county do you live in?

- Peterborough
- Fenland
- East Cambridgeshire
- Huntingdonshire
- Cambridge City
- South Cambridgeshire
- No permanent residence
- I do not live in Cambridgeshire
- Prefer not to say

16. Do you Consider yourself to live in an area which is

- Urban
- Rural
- Prefer not to say

## Appendix 2

### Survey engagement activity

- media coverage is provided below:

Date	Media	Link to coverage
05/01/2021	BBC Radio Cambs	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0918qkm">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0918qkm</a>
05/01/2021	Peterborough Telegraph	<a href="https://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/crime/peterborough-residents-asked-how-much-they-are-willing-pay-support-police-funding-3085903">https://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/crime/peterborough-residents-asked-how-much-they-are-willing-pay-support-police-funding-3085903</a>

- A summary of the survey engagement activity undertaken is provided below

Date	Format	Further details
05/01/2021	Radio	RB announces that survey will be launched the afternoon of 05/01 on Jeremy Sallis show, BBC Cambs Radio
05/01/2021	Press release	Survey press release issued inc. link to survey. Press release was sent to local and regional news, CSPs, APPC, MPs, Police and Crime Panel secretariat
05/01/2021	PCC Website	Website updated to inc. link to survey
05/01/2021	Ecops	Ecops message sent to c. 20,000 subscribers inc. link to survey
05/01/2021	Social Media	Facebook post announcing the survey and inc. link to survey
05/01/2021	Social Media	Tweet announcing the survey and inc. link to survey
06/01/2021	Email	Bespoke email sent to representative groups and individuals who have

		<p>attended our roundtables with link to the survey and asking that they share it with their network.</p> <p>Representative groups inc. but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community First Peterborough</li> <li>• Countryside Watch</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch</li> <li>• NFU</li> <li>• CAPASP</li> <li>• Voiceability</li> <li>• Healthwatch</li> <li>• Kite Trust</li> <li>• Youth Panel</li> <li>• Huntingdonshire Businesses Against Crime</li> <li>• Little People UK</li> <li>• Huntingdonshire Community Group</li> <li>• Gladstone District Community Association</li> <li>• Stop Hate UK</li> <li>• Speak Out Council</li> <li>• Cambridge University Jewish Society</li> <li>• Cambridge Chinese Centre</li> <li>• Compas</li> <li>• Lighthouse Project (Ely)</li> <li>• Light Project (Peterborough)</li> </ul>
06/01/2021	Verbal update in a meeting and follow up email	Warn and Inform members informed of the survey at group meeting an email circulated within the group encouraging them to share it with their network with survey link inc.
06/01/2021	Email	Bespoke email sent to Mike Brooks (Constabulary Speedwatch coordinator) with link to the survey to be shared to the Speedwatch network
06/01/2021	Social Media	(TWITTER) Retweeted Peterborough Telegraph

		post promoting survey - with a link to the survey
06/01/2021	Social Media	(FACEBOOK) shared link to Peterborough Telegraph article - with link to the survey
11/01/2021	Verbal update in a meeting	Survey promoted by RB at pre-standing East Cambs Cllr briefing
13/01/2021	Social Media	Facebook post reminding followers of the survey and inc. link to survey
13/01/2021	Social Media	Twitter post reminding followers of the survey and inc. link to survey
15/01/2021	Email	Survey reminder, inc link to the survey, within the body of a follow up email sent to East Cambs Cllr briefing attendees

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