

Police Commissioner Candidate Selection Statement October 2021

Elizabeth Hughes

Home CLP: Ipswich, Suffolk



Background: resident of Ipswich, Suffolk. Previously lived in Feltham (London Borough of Hounslow) and Hulme, Manchester. Strong ties to East Anglia, with extended English family in North Essex. A member of an extended Irish family. Currently serving my community as an Ipswich Borough Councillor (Gipping Ward). Chair Licensing & Regulatory, IBC.



Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself to members throughout Suffolk County.

A political activist, I have sound experience as a candidate at local and national level. I served as a unitary authority Councillor in Hounslow for more than 14 years before moving to Ipswich with my husband in 2017.

What could I bring to the role of Labour Candidate 2021 for Suffolk Police Commissioner?

Police 'run' in our family. My paternal grandfather was a MP during WWII, overseas and in the UK, and my father served in the Metropolitan Police for over thirty years, as a Police Sergeant and as a Police Federation representative. I have two cousins currently serving in the Essex Constabulary and I have friends who are both serving and retired police officers. I am not a stranger to the work that the Police do and the social responsibility that being in this profession carries with it. There is a special camaraderie amongst Police families, and I can bring that knowledge and understanding to this role when interacting with officers.

Experienced election candidate

I have stood in four national elections in East Anglia (Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk) from 2005 through to 2019. I may not have won (which would have been amazing!) but I have gained huge experience and confidence working with my fellow Labour activists, leading campaigns against entrenched conservative incumbents. I enjoy the challenge of contesting public hustings and I have always been able to hold my own and engage positively with local constituents.

I have a lot of life experience pertinent to this role. I lived in Manchester for 12 years during the 1980s where you could not avoid the fallout in the community from the complete collapse of any effective policing strategies in central Manchester, coupled with appalling poverty and extensive and overt drug activity. It was grim. Living in Hulme, I saw what was happening firsthand, but I also saw the resilience of the local communities and the success that could be won when the police built strong relationships and partnerships with local people.

The Police are underfunded. That is a bald statement, but it is one that we are all familiar with. We hear this nationally, regionally and, also, as a 'Councillor, I hear it from the local Ipswich Police. The Police don't have the financial resources, or the people power they require to do the work they and we want them to do. That doesn't mean that they are unsuccessful in the most urgent and serious of cases, but it does mean that when you look at Suffolk's crime statistics, the 'offender identified' rates are not high when it comes to petty crime, ASB and other low noise crime reports. If selected I would promote the role of PCC as that of a 'critical friend', looking to improve and support the Police to improve the service they provide and, if elected, I would strive for a 100% directed use of Police funding.

I believe that effective policing is a two-way covenant between the community that is being served and the Police. I strongly believe that it is important to have a shared vision, achievable key performance indicators, a strong quality culture and firm political leadership. If selected by you as the Labour candidate, these are the core messages I would promote, coupled with an agenda to especially and actively tackle rape and sexual violence against women, violence in the home, modern slavery and the abuse and destruction of the lives of young and vulnerable people sucked into drug dealing and County Lines. Thank you. **Elizabeth Hughes, October 2020**