

General Election 2017: Police to guard polling stations in Tower Hamlets to stop voter intimidation

From the [Essex Echo](#)

Essex Police's chief constable Stephen Kavanagh vowed to keep residents safe after the "vile challenge on our lifestyle" which left seven people dead in London at the weekend.

He said: "Following the awful event of the weekend we are looking at all of the events where people will be gathering, whether that's on the coast, whether that's market places, and that will include the polling stations.

"We do need people to go out there and use their democratic mandate for whatever purpose they want, but I think when you see this type of vile challenge on our lifestyle, more than ever people need to go out there and vote and we will do our very best to try and keep them safe."

In an interview with BBC Essex's Sadie Nine, Mr Kavanagh said the attack on London Bridge and Borough Market showed public events are becoming increasingly vulnerable.

Mr Kavanagh, who once worked in the Met's anti-terror squad, also pointed out that subsequent raids and arrests have taken place in Barking and Dagenham, just miles away from London's border with Essex. *Those boroughs of Greater London still retain Essex in their address as well.*