

Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner

Topic: Setting of Precept

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Purpose of briefing

To describe the precept setting process.

Background

The precept is agreed annually usually in late January or early February. When the annual police service budget is known and that includes any central government financial settlements, then the local funding requirement becomes clearer. The precept makes up less than 30% of the overall policing budget and must be agreed prior to the local government precept to enable the local council tax to be set within the legislated timetable.

Current Issues

The Police and Crime Commissioner has been setting the maximum allowed precept over the past few years to optimise the amount of funding available to support delivery of the best possible policing service for the residents of County Durham and Darlington.

Decisions Needed

The OPCVC Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget Report which underpin the proposed precept increase are formally agreed at the OPCVC Executive Board prior to presentation at a Police and Crime Panel. The formal process requires the Police and Crime Commissioner to propose a precept increase to the local Police and Crime Panel by letter and a formal reply to be issued by the Chair of the Panel for the proposed increase in precept.

Partnership Involvement

There is no partnership involvement in the compilation of the OPCVC Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget Report but some of the decisions on the allocation of service funding may be influenced by partner activities.

Police Involvement

The police are deeply involved in the compilation of the OPCVC Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget Report (mainly through the Chief Finance Officer and his team) and some of the decisions on the allocation of service funding will be influenced by police activities.

People to Meet

The Chair of the Police and Crime Panel, Chief Finance Officer and OPCVC Deputy Chief Finance Officer.