



Reference No: 001/2019

## THE POLICE CRIME & VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM DECISION RECORD FORM

**REQUEST:** For PCVC consideration and approval

**Title:** Police Precept and Budget Proposal 2019/20

**Executive Summary:**

Legislation requires that the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC) agrees their budget and associated precept and basic council tax for the forthcoming year before 1<sup>st</sup> March each year. However before doing so the PCVC must notify the relevant Police and Crime Panel, by 31<sup>st</sup> January, of the precept which they propose to issue for the following financial year.

The PCVC has been informed by the Home Office that 'In 2019/20, we are:

- Providing £7.8 billion next year in Government grants. This is £161 million more than the previous year and protects Government grant funding in real terms.
- Enabling PCCs in England to increase their police precept level for a typical (Band D) household by a maximum of £2 a month without holding a local referendum. If all PCCs in England and Wales increase precept by £24 a year, this will raise up to an additional £509 million based on current forecasts. This would take total precept funding up to around £4.1 billion.
- Providing £143m of pensions funding, which takes in increase in total funding to PCCs to up to £813m.'

The PCVC informed the Police and Crime Panel on by letter dated 21 December 2018 of his intention to use the full flexibility allowed.

The results of engagement with the public in County Durham and Darlington in relation to the level of precept for 2019/20 showed a significant majority in favour of the increase.

The Police and Crime Panel met on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 and the PCVC presented feedback on his proposal. The Panel's letter of response can be found on the website following this link <https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Finance/PCP-Precept-response.pdf>. Response from PCVC back to the panel can be found on the PCVC website following this link <https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Finance/2018-02-08-Letter-Precept.pdf>

The PCVC is aware that this is hard earned public money and is therefore keen to spend the money on the public's priorities. The PCVC feels that this increase is necessary in order to maintain the excellent police force we have here in County Durham and Darlington. Rising costs, plus the looming threat of a new funding formula which would disadvantage Durham further, means it is essential to maximise resources.

The Government provides about 75% of the money spent by the force and the rest of comes through the Policing precept paid by local council tax payers.

The total provisional grant received by Durham in 2019-20 will be £87.577 million. This will have to cover increased costs to the force, including pay awards, pension contributions and general inflation, and also the PCVC's contribution to the growing national Police pension fund deficit.

In 2019-20, the 13.24% increase will mean that the PCVC expects the total amount of money raised through the precept will be £35.6m. When added to the £87.6m received from Government grant, the total budget amounts to £123.2m in 2019-20.

**OPCVC Lead Officer:** Jon Carling

**Contractor Details (if applicable): Not applicable**

**Implications:**

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**(If yes please provide further details below)**

**Decision Required – Supporting Information**

**Financial Implications:** (Must include comments of the PCVC's CFO where the decision has financial implications)

The financial implications of this decision are set out in Executive summary. The decision will ensure that the PCVC meets their legislative requirements in relation with the Police element of the precept and will also ensure that there is sufficient funding available in 2019-20 to fund Durham Constabulary to deliver against the Police and Crime Plan priorities.  
The decision being requested is in line with the statutory requirements of the PCVC and is the first step in enabling the PCVC to meet his statutory obligation in relation the Precept and Budget setting.

**Legal Implications:** (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

Section 39 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 – Police and Crime Commissioners are precepting authorities.  
Section 14 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 – Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for obtaining the views of the community on policing before issuing the first precept for the financial year.  
Under Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Panel is required to review the proposed precept, and to make a report on it (the Panel are to determine the manner of this report).

**Equality and Diversity Implications**

No specific equality and diversity implications

**Human Rights Implications**

No specific human rights implications

**Sustainability Implications**

No specific sustainability implications

**Risk Management Implications**

Using the full flexibility permitted will assist the PCVC in managing the risk that a new funding formula for policing could see the budget available for policing in County Durham and Darlington reduced significantly in the longer term.

**Consultations**

Consultation has occurred widely across County Durham and Darlington.

**OFFICER APPROVAL**

**Chief Executive**

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed: 

Date: 15/02/2019

**Police and Crime Commissioner:**

Signed: 

Date: 11/02/2019

