

## THE POLICE CRIME & VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM

### DECISION RECORD FORM

**REQUEST:** For PCVC consideration and approval

**Title:** Police Precept and Budget Proposal 2018/19

**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 2018/19, we will provide each PCC with the same amount of core Government grant funding as in 2017/18. Protecting police grant means PCCs retain the full benefit from any additional local Council Tax income. Alongside this, we are providing further flexibility to PCCs in England to increase their Band D precept by up to £12 in 2018/19 without the need to call a local referendum. This is equivalent to up to £1 per month for a typical Band D household. It means that each PCC who uses this flexibility will be able to increase their direct resource funding by at least an estimated 1.6% (which maintains funding in real terms).'

The PCVC informed the Police and Crime Panel on 4<sup>th</sup> January 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 2018/19 showed a significant majority in favour of the increase.

The Police and Crime Panel met on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 and the PCVC presented feedback on his proposal. The Panel's letter of response can be found in Appendix one. Response from PCVC back to the panel can be found in Appendix two.

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 2018-19 will be £84.67 million – the same as in 2017-18. However, costs have gone up, including pay awards, pension contributions and general inflation, and therefore this is a cut in real terms of about 2%.

In 2018-19, the 7.09% increase will mean that the PCVC expects the total amount of money raised through the precept will be £31.5m, including a one-off payment of £0.45m from a Council Tax surplus, and growth in the tax base. When added to the £84.67m received from Government grant, the total budget amounts to £116.168m in 2018-19.

**OPCVC Lead Officer:** Sarah Harris & Jon Carling

**Contractor Details (if 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 2018/19 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

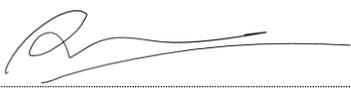
No specific sustainability implications

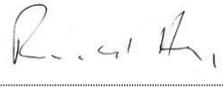
Risk Management Implications

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: 19/02/2018

**Police and Crime Commissioner:**  
  
Signed:  Date: 19/02/2018



Contact: Lorraine O'Donnell  
Direct Tel: 03000 268060  
e-mail: Lorraine.odonnell@durham.gov.uk  
Your ref:  
Our ref:



Mr Ron Hogg  
Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner  
Police Headquarters  
Durham  
DH1 5TT

1 February 2018

Dear Mr Hogg,

**Response to Police, Crime and Commissioner's (PCVC) Precept Consultation 2018/19**

On behalf of the Durham Police and Crime Panel, I would like to thank you for attending the Panel's meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 to present your report and respond to questions from Panel Members.

Schedule 5 of the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Police and Crime Panel to provide a report to its Police and Crime Commissioner following consideration of the proposed precept for 2018/19.

Following consideration of your report, the Panel agree with your proposal to set the Council Tax requirement at a level that results in a 7.09% increase in Council Tax for the year ending 31 March 2019.

Members acknowledge that these are very challenging financial times for policing budgets and that changes within the police funding settlement, announced in December 2017 enabled PCC's to increase the precept by £12 per year on Band D properties. The Panel note that this change within the Government's funding settlement impacts on residents and following your report to the Panel's meeting in January 2017 understood the rationale and why this increase is required in order to deliver an efficient police service within County Durham and Darlington.

At its January meeting, the Panel suggested that you seek feedback through engagement rather than undertake consultation on this proposal to which Members note your approach to community engagement and subsequent feedback providing support for this proposal.

Within these financial pressures the Panel acknowledge reassurances that there would be no cut in Police Officer numbers in 2018-19 and that Durham Constabulary has successfully maintained its grading as outstanding following the HMIC efficiency inspection.

Members  
Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UF  
Switchboard 03000 260000 Minicom (0191) 383 3802

Website: [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk)



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cllr Lucy Howvels M.B.E." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Councillor Lucy Howvels MBE  
Chair of the Durham Police and Crime Panel

Cc: Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff, Office of Durham Police, Crime and Victims  
Commissioner  
Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships,  
Durham County Council  
Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Durham County  
Council  
Ian Croft, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Durham County Council

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham  
Police Headquarters  
Aykley Heads  
Durham  
DH1 5TT

Telephone Number: 0191 3752001  
Email: [general.enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk)  
Website: <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk>

**Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner:  
Chief of Staff:**

**Ron Hogg  
Alan Reiss**

Councillor Lucy Hovvels MBE  
Chair of Durham Police and Crime Panel  
County Hall  
Durham  
DH1 5UL

20 February 2018

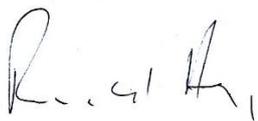
Dear Councillor Hovvels

Thank you for your letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 relating to my report to the Police and Crime Panel on my proposal to increase the precept level. I intend to proceed with maximum increase permitted by the Government for the financial year ending in March 2019: a £12 per year increase for a Band D property. This equates to a 7.09% increase across the council tax bands for the year ending 31 March 2019.

In accordance with Schedule 5 Section 5(2) (c) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, I intend to publish both your letter and this response on my website.

Please offer my thanks to the panel for their consideration of my proposal.

Yours sincerely



**Ron Hogg**  
**Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner**