

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST:

Title: Consultation on the proposed increase to the precept for 2017-18

Executive Summary:

The PCC is responsible for setting the level of the precept each year, after consulting the public.

The Government also only allows the PCVC to increase the precept by a certain level each year, unless a referendum is held. He has decided not to hold a referendum this year, at a cost of almost £800,000, as he believe that this would not be a good use of public money

The PCVC's Proposal

The total Government grant for Durham in will be 2017-18 will (provisionally) be £84.7m, which is £1.1m less than 2016-17. After assuming a 1.98% precept increase, the estimated budget for 2017-18 is approximately £113.3 million, which is £0.7m less than the 2016-17 budget. This is a real terms cut and means that the Council Tax contribution to policing is vital. This would enable six Police Officers to remain in post.

The table below sets out the current level of policing precept for each band of property, along with what the proposed increases equate to on a weekly or yearly basis:

| | Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Precept 2016-17 | £110.63 | £129.07 | £147.51 | £165.95 | £202.83 | £239.71 | £276.58 | £331.90 |
| 1.98 % Increase | | | | | | | | |
| Proposed Precept 2017-18 | £112.83 | £131.63 | £150.44 | £169.24 | £206.85 | £244.46 | £282.07 | £338.48 |
| Increase Per year | £2.20 | £2.56 | £2.93 | £3.29 | £4.02 | £4.75 | £5.49 | £6.58 |
| Increase per week | £0.04 | £0.05 | £0.06 | £0.06 | £0.08 | £0.09 | £0.10 | £0.12 |

Properties fall within eight category 'bands' for Council Tax ranging from A to H. Nationally, a typical Property in is classed as 'Band D'. However across County Durham and Darlington approximately 55% of households are categorised as 'Band A'.

Decision:

To consult on the following two options:

- **Option A** - To increase the precept by 1.98%, increase of £3.29 per year or £0.06 per week for a Band D property
- **Option B** – To maintain the precept at its current level.

An online survey is available on-line website at: <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Get-Involved/Public-Consultations.aspx> to enable you to respond. The consultation will run from 6th January 2017 until 1159pm on **Sunday 29th January 2017**.

Details of the precept consultation will be widely circulated including to Elected Members, the County Durham Partnership, the Darlington Partnership, the Community Safety Partnerships, hard to reach groups, the Local Criminal Justice Board, Town and Parish Councils, Area Action Partnerships (AAPs), the Voluntary and Community Sector, etc. for onward cascade and circulation.

The PCVC will undertake 'Community Days' during the consultation period where he will also seek public opinion. He will be attending a number of AAPs across County Durham, to present the proposals for increasing the precept and seek the overall opinion of the group rather than to elicit individual survey responses.

I will present the findings of the consultation to the Police and Crime Panel, as Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, requires the Police and Crime Panel to review the proposed precept, and to make a report on it (the panel will determine the manner of this report).

OPCC Lead Officer: Sarah Harris

Contractor Details (if applicable): n/a

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"/> | |

(If yes please provide further details below)

Decision Required – Supporting Information

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

The total Government grant for 2017-18 will (provisionally) be £84.7m, which is £1.1m less than 2016-17. After assuming a 1.98% precept increase, the estimated budget for 2017-18 is approximately £113.3 million, which is £0.7m less than the 2016-17 budget. This is a real terms cut and means that the Council Tax contribution to policing is vital.

The precept increase in 2016-17 raised approximately £550,000, helping to keep six officers in the force. The proposed increase in 2017-18 would raise approximately £560,000.

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

The consultation will be circulated widely across Co Durham and Darlington and shared with hard to reach groups.

Human Rights Implications

No specific human rights implications

Sustainability Implications

If our area's precept does not increase this year, the baseline (and therefore the budget) will be lower for every subsequent year. If the PCVC does not increase the precept, the Force's income will be permanently reduced. This would make the force less resilient to future budget reductions, which ultimately impacts on the number of officers the police force can provide.

Risk Management Implications

No specific risk management implications.

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.

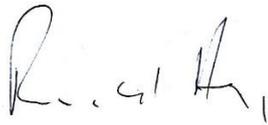
Signed:



Date: 04/01/2017

Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner:

Signed:



Date: 04/01/2017