

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST:

Title: To increase the Policing Precept for 2017-18 by 1.98%

Executive Summary:

Following public consultation, and the approval of the Police and Crime Panel, the policing precept should be increased by 1.98% in 2017/18. This will generate circa £560,000 for Durham Constabulary, which equates to the approximate annual cost of six police officers.

Consultation

The consultation went live on the 6th January 2016 and closed at 11.59pm on Sunday 29th January 2016. There were 324 responses, with 77% in favour of the 1.98% increase.

The consultation ran online, however hard copies were available from the PCVC's office. It has been promoted by email, website, press release and through social media. The online survey sets out my proposal, details on what it would cost, and then asks respondents if they agree. Respondents are also given the chance to enter any additional comments that they may have. There is also the opportunity to download the detailed consultation document.

Details of the precept consultation have been widely circulated including to Elected Members, the County Durham Partnership, the Darlington Partnership, the Community Safety Partnerships, Town and Parish Councils, Area Action Partnerships (AAPs), the Voluntary and Community Sector, hard to reach groups etc. for onward cascade and circulation. Consultation also took place with the public through street walkabouts and drop-ins, attendance at several Area Action Partnership meetings in County Durham, and planned activity in Darlington. Where Area Action Partnership meetings did not fall within the consultation period the Coordinators have kindly shared details of the consultation with their Board and Forum Members. At all of these events, members of the public have been invited to complete hard copies of the survey and signposted to my website to encourage them to share details of the consultation with colleagues.

In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, I took my proposal to the Police and Crime Panel on 4th February 2017. The Panel are required to review the proposed precept, and to make a report on it (the panel are to determine the manner of this report). The Panel agreed with my proposal, and their response can be found in appendix one. I am required to respond back to the panel and my response can be found in appendix two.

Decision:

To increase the precept by 1.98% for 2017-18.

OPCC Lead Officer: Sarah Harris

Contractor Details (if applicable): n/a

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:

Financial

Yes

No

Legal

Equality & Diversity

Human Rights

Sustainability

Risk

(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 I will receive 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.

This increase for 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 has been 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 I do not increase the precept I will be permanently reducing the income that the precept can generate. This would make the force less resilient to future budget reductions, which ultimately impacts on the number of officers the police force can provide. For that reason, I have not offered reducing the precept as an option

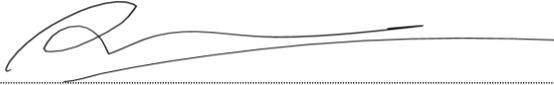
Risk Management Implications

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.

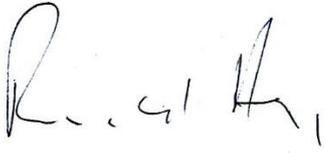
Signed:



Date: 01/02/2017

Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner:

Signed:



Date: 01/02/2017