



HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

RESPONSE TO THE HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PRECEPT PROPOSALS FOR 2016/17

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to set out the Humberside Police and Crime Panel's formal response to the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner's precept proposals for 2016/17.

INTRODUCTION

The Police and Crime Commissioner has a statutory requirement to set an annual Police and Crime budget and, as part of that process, to consult with the Police and Crime Panel regarding any proposals in relation to the council tax precept.

At the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 5 February 2016, the Commissioner set out his proposed Police precept for 2016/17 and the medium term resource strategy for 2016/17 to 2020/21.

ROLE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (2011) states that the Commissioner must notify the Police and Crime Panel, by 1 February, of the precept which the Commissioner is proposing to issue for the financial year 2016/17.

Under the requirements of the Act, the Police and Crime Panel must review the proposed precept notified to it and must make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept. The report may include recommendations, including recommendations as to the precept that should be issued for the financial year.

The Police and Crime Panel has the power to veto the proposed precept if at least two-thirds of the Police and Crime Panel members (the full membership rather than those present at a meeting) vote in favour of making that decision.

If the Panel vetoes the proposed precept, the report made to the Commissioner must include a statement that the panel has vetoed it.

COUNCIL TAX

As part of the budget setting process, the Commissioner is required to consider whether or not to propose any changes to council tax. The amount of the council tax precept is a decision for the Commissioner who will take account of the views of the Police and Crime Panel and the Government's Council Tax increase limit in making that decision.

The Commissioner has proposed a precept increase of 1.99%. The financial implications for residents are that the Band D Council Tax amount would increase to £183.67 for 2016/17, an increase of £3.59.

The Provisional Police Grant Report for 2016/17 was announced on 17 December 2015. The Chancellor announced that as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2015, policing would be protected. This was in sharp contrast to announcements made during the summer of 2015, stating further budget reductions of between 25% - 40% were expected.

In addition, in a reversal of the previous practice of seeking to encourage a freezing of the Council Tax, including financial inducements with the offer of freeze grants, Government predictions of the available level of funding for 2016/17 were now being based upon the assumption that all Police and Crime Commissioner's will maximise the amounts that can be raised from precepts without triggering a referendum.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendation which the Police and Crime Panel were asked to consider by the Police and Crime Commissioner was as follows –

- To endorse the Commissioner's preferred option of increasing the precept for 2016/17, by 1.99% (from £180.08 to £183.67 for a Band D property), the increase that the Commissioner consulted upon and that has significant public support.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S EXPLANATION FOR THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN POLICE PRECEPT

- 1) **Transformation Fund** - Establishment of a Transformation Fund of £5m, to allow for new investment in technology, training and capability/capacity building in emerging and complex areas of police demand, such as:
 - The development of an in depth neighbourhood profile across the force, including moving away from voice despatch to automatic data dispatch at the push of a button. This would result in a quicker and efficient response, including the deployment of the nearest available resource.

- Enable a further role out of mobile devices
 - Introduce additional capability such as mobile fingerprint devices that ensure roadside identification at the first attempt. This has been really effective where introduced.
- 2) **Vehicles** - Replacement of outdated and aging police vehicles:
- Rural communities with an enhanced 4x4 fleet
 - Proton replacements - ensuring prompt, reliable and effective response across the force
 - More efficient on a whole life basis
- 3) **Police numbers** - Maintenance of police numbers and manning to establishment to ensure visibility and performance.
- 4) **Ring Fenced Budget for Communities** - Whilst the Chief Constable is locking resources into communities, including named officers and PCSOs, the Commissioner will double lock local policing with budget controls. This will not limit the Chief Constable's operational ability to direct force response
- 5) **Cyber**
- Establishment of a dedicated cyber unit to tackle the ever increasing online threat
 - Cyber volunteers - Experts in the field who are willing to give their time and expertise to support our efforts in this field.
 - Secure the necessary training and specialist equipment that is needed for each of these specific posts.

DECISION

The Police and Crime Panel considered the Commissioner's proposal to increase the precept by 1.99% and the reasoning behind that proposal.

Having considered the evidence submitted by the Commissioner, Mr Scoble, Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Mr Bates, Deputy Chief Executive and Treasurer at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and their responses to questions from members of the Panel, the Panel agreed to -

- Endorse the Commissioner's preferred option of increasing the precept for 2016/17, by 1.99% (from £180.08 to £183.67 for a Band D property).