

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 8
5 February 2014	Public Report

Report from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

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PRECEPT REPORT 2014/15

1.	PURPOSE
1.1	To notify the Police and Crime Panel of the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed precept to enable the Panel to review the proposed precept.
2.	RECOMMENDATIONS
2.1	The Police and Crime Panel is recommended to review and make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept, noting that at the point of writing the report, the "referendum ceiling" had not been announced.
3.	TERMS OF REFERENCE
3.1	Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012, the Commissioner must notify the Panel of the precept which the Commissioner is proposing to issue for the financial year by 1 February. The Panel must review the proposed precept notified to it by 8 February.
4.	BACKGROUND
4.1	Cambridgeshire Constabulary has been judged to be performing well overall. The Commissioner wishes to support the Chief Constable and the Constabulary as a whole by ensuring they have the necessary resources to maintain and enhance effective policing across Cambridgeshire.
4.2	The budget will enable delivery of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner intends to build on the Police and Crime Plan 2013-16.
4.3	The Plan will incorporate the Commissioner's priorities for ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in policing and tackling crime based on the issues of importance to the public. The Plan will reflect the Constabulary's latest strategic assessment, the implications of the budget and precept 2014/15 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as well as the wider crime role and other functions of the Commissioner.
5.	KEY ISSUES
5.1	To protect frontline policing, the proposed precept equates to a 1.92% increase or seven pence per week for a Band D.
5.2	The Panel is recommended to review the proposed precept in the context of ensuring continued and sustainable effectiveness and efficiency in policing in Cambridgeshire.

6.	IMPLICATIONS
6.1	The budget presented to the Panel is balanced for 2014/15. If accepted, the precept will ensure a £130.8m budget for policing in 2014/15.
7.	CONSULTATION
7.1	Public engagement between the Commissioner and the public takes place using a range of channels and methods, including via his Outreach Worker who has proved valuable in picking up and reporting back local concerns, as well as wider issues that need escalating for further action or scrutiny. Informed by this work the Commissioner believes that this 1.92% increase balances the public's expectations of police visibility with the affordability of a below inflation precept rise.
8.	NEXT STEPS
8.1	The Panel 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.
9.	BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
	n/a
10.	APPENDICES
10.1	Appendix A - Precept Report 2014/15