

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 6
28 JANUARY 2015	Public Report

Report from the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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PRECEPT REPORT 2015-16

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To notify the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”) of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner’s (“the Commissioner”) proposed budget and precept for 2015/16. To enable the Panel to review the proposed precept.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to review and make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept for 2015/16.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 To review and make a report and recommendation (as necessary) on the proposed precept.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 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.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 I am pleased to report that a recent inspection by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) on the effectiveness and efficiency of police forces recognised that Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) was overall performing well. I wish 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.
- 5.2 My Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”) incorporates my priorities for ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in policing and tackling crime based on the issues of importance to the public.
- 5.3 I recognise the hardships that many of Cambridgeshire citizens are facing and do not want to add to their burden. My office, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), has worked closely with the Constabulary to ensure an effective and efficient force, driving down costs during the year and developing plans to meet future saving requirements. The adaption of new technology and working in collaboration with other police forces will continue to deliver further efficiencies moving forward.

- 5.4 However, I am cognisant that I need to ensure value for money policing with no extra burden on the council taxpayer. I am also mindful that the Government has offered a council tax freeze grant of 1% to any policing bodies who do not increase the level of council tax. I have also taken into account the current rate of inflation of 1% (as at November 2014), which is the same as the council tax freeze grant from the Government. I have also considered the fact that the Constabulary is working to deliver future efficiencies.
- 5.5 The budget will enable continued delivery of my Plan.
- 5.6 Therefore, the Constabulary and the OPCC are able to balance the books without the need to increase the precept for 2015/16.
- 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 I present to the Panel is balanced for 2015/16. If accepted, the precept will ensure a £128.8m budget for policing in 2015/16. Details of which are given at Appendix A.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Public engagement between myself and the public takes place using a range of channels and methods, including via my Outreach Worker who has proved invaluable 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, I believe that this freeze in precept balances the public's expectations of police visibility, whilst not placing additional burden on the council taxpayer.
- 7.2 On the 8th January 2015, I announced that I would not be proposing an increase in the precept. This announcement was widely published through various channels including the media and social media (around 4,700 through Twitter). This provided for further public engagement opportunities for those who wished to comment on my proposal.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The Panel must make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Home Office Provisional Grant Report December 2014

10. APPENDICES

Precept Report 2015/16 – Appendix A

Police Budgets 2006 – 2019, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner – Appendix B