

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 8
3 FEBRUARY 2016	Public Report

Report from the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Contact Officers – Josie Gowler, Chief Finance Officer & Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Details – cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk 0300 333 3456

PRECEPT REPORT 2016/17

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 2016/17 and 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 2016/17.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 Item 5 - 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 The Commissioner’s supports the Chief Constable and Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) as a whole by ensuring they have the necessary resources to maintain and enhance effective policing across Cambridgeshire. The Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”) incorporates priorities for ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in policing and tackling crime based on the issues of importance to the public.

- 5.2 The Commissioner has listened to what people have told him, balancing their expectations of police visibility with affordability of tax increases, whilst driving efficiencies. His office, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), has worked closely with the Constabulary to ensure that the Constabulary is delivering effective and efficient policing to the people of Cambridgeshire, which is sustainable in the future. To ensure that this can be achieved the Commissioner continues to oversee, in conjunction with the Constabulary, the delivery of technology-enabled agile working. In addition, collectively with the Commissioner’s fellow Police and Crime Commissioner’s for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and their respective police forces, there is a clear demonstration of a keen commitment to working collaboratively to drive through effectiveness and efficiencies.

- 5.3 The Commissioner is cognisant that there is a need to ensure value for money policing with no extra burden on the council taxpayer. The Commissioner is also mindful that the Government's provisional financial settlement announcement last month stated that policing resources will be protected taking into account both grant funding and potential council tax rises. The Commissioner, the Constabulary and the OPCC have analysed future budget requirements alongside the savings planned from programmes already underway. This has been set this against various economic indicators that represent how the cost of living has changed over a four-year period, alongside increases in average earnings.
- 5.4 The Constabulary and the OPCC are able to balance the books with a 0.99% increase to the policing element of the council tax for 2016/17. The savings plans indicated in the full report at Appendix A show the means of balancing the budgets from 2017/18 to 2019/20.
- 5.5 The budget will enable continued delivery of the Commissioner's Plan. 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 draft budget the Commissioner's presents to the Panel is balanced for 2016/17 and further details of how this has been achieved are presented in the Commissioner's precept-setting report at Appendix A. If accepted, the precept will ensure a £130.5m budget for policing in Cambridgeshire for 2016/17. This would see the policing element of a 2016/17 Band D council tax increasing from £181.35 to £183.15 per annum, an increase of 3.5p per week.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Public engagement between the Commissioner and the public takes place using a range of channels and methods, including via the Commissioner's Outreach Workers who have 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, the Commissioner believes that the 0.99% increase in precept balances the public's expectations of police visibility, whilst not placing additional burden on the council taxpayer.
- 7.2 On 6th January 2016, the Commissioner announced his plans for the proposed increase in the precept. This announcement was covered by the media across Cambridgeshire, was also on social media and in the Commissioner's newsletter. This has provided for further public engagement opportunities for those who wished to comment on the Commissioner's 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 2015

10. APPENDICES

Precept Report 2016/17 – Appendix A

Financial Update 2015/16 and Precept 2016/17 – Appendix B