

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 6
30th January 2019	Public Report

Report of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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PRECEPT REPORT 2019/20

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 2019/20 and to enable the Panel to review the proposed precept.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to review and make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed Council Tax precept for 2019/20 (as given in the report at Appendix 1). The proposed Council Tax is an increase of £23.94 bringing the policing element of Council Tax (Band D equivalent) to £222.66. It should be noted that this recommendation is subject to the outcome of a public consultation.
- 2.2 The Panel are asked to note the Commissioner’s Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at Appendix 2.
- 2.3 The Panel are asked to note that the consequential variation to the Plan, that being ‘Appendix – Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23’, will be finalised after the decision on the precept and therefore will be submitted to the Panel meeting on the 13th March 2019 for consideration.

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 Since taking office in May 2016, the Commissioner has been cognisant of the increasing challenges the Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary”) face in respect of demand and the changing nature and complexity of crime against a backdrop of economic and social pressures. This has meant that to deliver, and continue to deliver, an efficient and effective public service, the Commissioner and the Constabulary have had to think and act differently. Consequently this has meant the need for continual transformation through collaboration and ways of working.

- 5.2 Transformation of the way in which the Commissioner and the Constabulary deliver public services in the county is key to meeting the objectives in the Commissioner's Plan. This work is not limited to collaboration with other police forces, through tri-force or seven-force alliances, but is much wider with the Commissioner working closely with countywide partners and Community Safety Partnerships.
- 5.3 When considering the precept, the Commissioner has ensured all efficiencies are identified, performance is protected, and that the reserve levels are at an appropriate level to meet the needs of policing. The Commissioner's guiding principle in setting the precept is to achieve value for money policing and he stated during his election campaign in early 2016 that he would ensure frontline services continue to be protected.
- 5.4 The Commissioner's Business Co-ordination Board (the "Board") considered a verbal update on the draft MTFS at its meeting on the 8th January 2019. The Board noted that the draft MTFS was based on the Commissioner's preferred precept option of £2 per month for a Band D Council Tax household. The Board were content with the aims and direction of the MTFS and were supportive of the Commissioner's preferred precept option. A copy of the minutes of the meeting will be available on the Commissioner's website and following this meeting, a public consultation was launched.
- 5.5 As a result of the new 2019/20 budget and forecast budgets for 2020/21 and 2021/22 there is a need to update Appendix of the Plan. This update will be brought to the March 2019 Panel meeting.
- 5.6 The Panel is recommended to review the proposed precept in the context of ensuring continued and sustainable effectiveness and efficiency in policing in Cambridgeshire and note that the final results of the public consultation will be presented on the day.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The draft budget the Commissioner's presents to the Panel is balanced for 2019/20 and further details of how this has been achieved are presented in the Commissioner's precept-setting report at Appendix 1. If accepted, the precept will ensure a £147.9m budget for policing in Cambridgeshire for 2019/20. This would see the policing element of a 2019/20 Band D council tax increasing from £198.72 to £222.66 per annum, an increase of £2 a month.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 As well as the Commissioner's extensive public engagement, a Survey Monkey survey was launched on the 8th January and runs to the 28th January 2019, and is available to access on the Commissioner's website, and through various social media and e-cops. Survey responses are also currently being received on forms and verbally at both public meetings and through contact with the Commissioner's office. News of the Commissioner's proposal was also covered by the media across Cambridgeshire. As at 18th January 2019 1,928 survey responses have been received with 85% of respondents in agreement with a precept increase of £2 or more, of which 61% were supportive of the Commissioner's preferred option of an increase of £2 per month, and 24% supportive of an increase of £10 (which would require a public referendum). A verbal update on the final figures will be provided at the Panel meeting. The recommendation from the Commissioner will be subject to the final results of this consultation.

8. NEXT STEPS

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

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents>

Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2271/made>

Provisional Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2019/20, Home Office, December 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/provisional-police-grant-report-2019-to-2020>

Minutes of the Business Co-ordination Board meeting on 8th January 2019

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/work/business-coordination-board/2019-2/bcb-24th-january-2019/>

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Precept Report 2019/20

Appendix 2 - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 – 2022/23

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