

Police & Crime Commissioner Precept and Budget Reports

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner is required by the Police and Crime Panel Regulations 2012 (amended) to notify the panel of the proposed precept for the next financial year, 2013-14.
- 1.2 The Panel is required to review the proposed precept and report back its views to the Commissioner by 8th February. The Panel has the power to veto the Commissioner's original proposed precept if at least two-thirds of the existing membership (i.e.10 members) is in favour of such a course of action. In exercising this power, the Panel must indicate whether they feel that the proposed precept is too high or too low.
- 1.3 If the Panel chooses to veto the proposed precept then the Commissioner has until 15th February to revise the precept, making it higher or lower in line with the Panel's recommendations. The Panel must then review the revised precept and make a second report to the Commissioner by 22nd February (the Panel does not have a power of veto over the revised precept). The Commissioner must then respond to the Panel and issue the final precept by 1st March.

2. Introduction and advice

Three reports are attached to this covering report:

- The Precept report
 - The 2013-14 detailed budget report
 - The Medium Term Financial Plan
- 2.1 The precept report provides the information relating to the tax base and the amount of precept that can be raised. This report summarises the financial position relating to the proposed increase in the council tax.
 - 2.2 The detailed budget report and Medium Term Financial plan are provided for information purposes to the Panel.
 - 2.3 The detailed budget report shows how the budget will be allocated within 2013-14 against reducing police grant income from the government. The Commissioner has made promises to increase the number of Police Officers and PCSO's and the cost of these investments are continuous with funding needed within the base. This is why a council tax increase is being proposed.

- 2.4 The Medium Term Financial plan builds upon the 2013-14 budget providing detail of the budget implications over the next 4 years. Whilst the contribution to reserves increases initially the indications are that the next CSR will require further cuts and it is intended that reserves will be used to cushion the impact of such cuts. However, reserves can only be applied once and once used cannot be easily built up again.

3. Other Options considered

- 3.1 The option proposed by the Government of a one year freeze grant has been considered. However, this would impact on the delivery of the additional officers and PCSO's and is therefore not the proposed recommendation.

4. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 4.1 To comply with statutory regulations.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Police & Crime Panel are requested to support the decision of the Commissioner to increase the council tax by 1.95% for the 2013-14 financial year.

6. Background papers & published documents

- 6.1 Details of the grant settlement for 2013-14 can be obtained from the Home Office website.
- 6.2 The Capital programme for 2013- 2017, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Reserves Strategy will be available on the Police & Crime Commissioners website by 28.02.13.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Kevin Dennis, Chief Executive of the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

kevin.dennis@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Tel: 0115 9670999 ext 8012001