

For Consideration	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	1st February 2016
Report of:	The Police and Crime Commissioner
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Agenda Item:	5

*If Non Public, please state under which category number from the guidance in the space provided.

The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan Priorities and Budget Consultation 2015/16

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present consolidated findings from local consultation activity during in relation to the policing precept, views on savings to the police budget and local public priorities and concerns.
- 1.2 This work has been undertaken in line with the Commissioner's statutory duties to consult and the findings will be used to inform precept setting, planning and policy making for 2016/17 and beyond.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Police and Crime Panel note and provide feedback on the consultation report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Commissioner has statutory responsibilities for consultation with the public for identifying and setting local policing priorities that inform the production of the Police and Crime Plan and setting the annual precept for policing in consultation with the Chief Constable.¹
- 3.2 Research, consultation and engagement undertaken in 2015 identified opportunities to develop a richer understanding of the views and perceptions of local residents – particularly with regard to the policing precept and future saving options.
- 3.3 The range of consultation activities undertaken in 2015 also identified clear opportunities for further developing economies of scale and benchmarking opportunities across organisations.

4 Summary of Key Points

¹ The Police Reform and Social responsibility Act 2011

- 4.1 Findings from a range of Public consultation and engagement activities undertaken in 2015 indicate that the proportion of residents supporting a rise in the council tax precept for policing remains marginally higher than the proportion that do not.
- 4.2 Despite this, around a quarter of respondents are not sure whether they support an increase in the precept or not. Residents aged 18 to 24 appear most uncertain as to whether they support an increase.
- 4.3 Reflecting findings from previous years, Nottingham City residents appear less likely to support an increase in their council tax precept. Those that do not support an increase predominantly feel that they already pay enough or cannot afford to pay more.
- 4.4 Qualitative research indicates that while many residents are prepared to pay more for policing, they also require greater transparency with regard to where this will be spent and how value for money will be delivered.
- 4.5 Many residents also feel that that any rise in precept should be used to protect and increase visible policing and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.
- 4.6 Around three quarters of all respondents to local authority level surveys felt unsure as to where future financial savings to the police service should be made. There was a commonly held view amongst respondents that further efficiencies could be made through better prioritisation, reducing bureaucracy, improving the workforce balance and reducing senior ranks and pay.
- 4.7 A notable proportion of respondents also supported reductions in the cost of the Police and Crime Commissioner/Office, better use of specials and volunteers and exploring opportunities for fundraising and revenue.
- 4.8 Support for the Police and Crime Commissioner's strategic priorities appears strong – most notably with regard to the priority of protecting, supporting and responding to victims, witnesses and vulnerable people.
- 4.9 Reflecting national findings, burglary, youth-related ASB and drug use and dealing remain the most prevalent crime and community safety related concerns for local residents.
- 4.10 The report includes specific recommendations for the Police and OPCC to:-
 - Continue to inform, consult and engage local communities on more detailed savings plans and their implications and consider more targeted engagement to better understand the views of those that are more likely to feel unsure as to whether they would be prepared to pay more for policing

- Further develop the profile of community issues and concerns by incorporating findings from other local engagement activity, such as neighbourhood level priority setting
- Ensure community issues and concerns identified are used to inform the approach to community reassurance and engagement, particularly in providing residents with the information and advice that they need to be safe and feel safe
- Continue to be open and transparent in demonstrating how value for money is being delivered. This appears to be key factor in securing public support for rises in the local council tax precept for policing
- Continue to provide feedback to communities on the feasibility and cost/benefit of different saving options and planned activity. This should be informed by the views obtained as part of the 2015 public consultation
- Maximise opportunities to raise public awareness and understanding with regard to community and volunteering roles and opportunities, functions and outcomes of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the way in which policing resources are currently deployed and prioritised
- Consider opportunities to further co-ordinate and consolidate key questions and research methodologies across Nottinghamshire, particularly in exploring perceptions and community priorities.

5 Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 Findings will be used to inform setting of the 2016/17 precept for policing. Options for delivering savings and economies of scale through more co-ordinated consultation and engagement approaches will be further considered in 2016.

6 Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 Human Resource implications will be identified throughout the budget setting process and review of the Commissioner's Consultation and Engagement Strategy in 2016.

7 Equality Implications

- 7.1 The combined consultations have obtained views from a diverse range of residents in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, sexuality and locality. Local authority level consultation activities have set representative samples for response rates across the local area based on gender, age, working status and ethnicity. While it has not been possible to set equivalent controls for the

OPCC public opinion poll and public engagement events, responses have been geographically weighted as part of the analysis process to mitigate the risk of geographic skew.

- 7.2 The report recognises that there are opportunities to further explore the views of young people (aged 18 to 25) who more likely to feel unsure regarding their views on the policing precept. The report also identifies opportunities for making use of 'segmentation data' to better understand the needs, demands and priorities of different geographic and socio-demographic groups.

8 Risk Management

- 8.1 The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Needs Assessment identifies the threat, harm and risks to policing, crime and community safety, with mitigation actions identified through the Strategic Plan in the Police and Crime Plan 2015-18.
- 8.2 There is also a strategic risk register monitored through the governance processes in the Commissioner's Office.

9 Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 Findings have been used to inform the setting of the precept for policing in 2016/17 and development of the refreshed Police and Crime Plan for 2016-2018.

10 Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. In addition, the Commissioner has a responsibility and must have due regard to all other legal requirements and specifically the provisions of:
- The Policing Protocol Order 2011
 - Financial Code of Practice (FMCOP)²
 - Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)³
 - Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specific Information) Order 2011⁴

11. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

- 11.1 PCC Consultation and Engagement Strategy

² [Financial Code of Practice 2012](#)

³ [Strategic Policing Requirement](#)

⁴ [Specific Information Order 2011](#)