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| <b>For Consideration</b>  |   |
| <b>Public/Non Public*</b> | <b>Public</b>                                       |
| <b>Report to:</b>         | <b>Police and Crime Panel</b>                       |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>   |   |
| <b>Report of:</b>         | <b>The Police and Crime Commissioner</b>            |
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| <b>Agenda Item:</b>       | <b>6</b>  |

\*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 2016/17**

### **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 2017/18 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.2 There are opportunities to further develop consultation and engagement processes in 2017, particularly in understanding the differences between those that do and do not support an increase in the council tax precept for policing and levels of support for greater collaboration between agencies, police forces and other Blue Light services.

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<sup>1</sup> The Police Reform and Social responsibility Act 2011

## 4 Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 The OPCC undertook activity to achieve a more robust and representative consultation process in 2016 which included activity to standardise question sets across the various engagement approaches and improve the consistency and comparability of results. Additional questions were introduced to explore the level of precept increase supported by residents and views in respect of a referendum should the proposed precept level exceed 1.99%.
- 4.2 Consultation with over 4,700 residents through a range of public consultation and engagement activities in 2016 identified that there is generally an even balance of support for (52%) and against (48%) an increase in the council tax precept for policing when confidence intervals and variations in consultation methods are taken into account.
- 4.3 The proportion of residents supporting a rise in the council tax precept for policing has fallen by around 9% points over the last year, despite a (non-significant) increase in support in the City. This has been largely driven by an increase in residents feeling they cannot afford to pay more or already pay enough.
- 4.4 Respondents were generally supportive of the police, with at least two thirds feeling that more funding was required. Of those that did not support a rise in the precept for policing, around a third felt that more central government funding should be made available.
- 4.5 Around a third did not support a rise in the precept for policing as they felt that it would have no impact on the service they received. This was often expressed amid a perceived lack of visible policing with many stating that they would support a rise in precept they could be assured that visible policing would be protected.
- 4.6 More detailed exploration of the Police's financial position and savings plans as part of the focus groups highlighted surprise among participants as to the scale of the challenge. These participants subsequently showed a greater tendency to support increases in the precept. Many survey respondents, however, found it difficult to comment on savings options without a detailed understanding of policing business.
- 4.7 Despite these factors, support appears strongest for savings derived from more targeted work in high crime areas and increasing efficiency, reducing waste and making better use of technology. There is also clear support for closer working with other local agencies, police forces, Blue Light Services and business experts to deriving savings and efficiencies – particularly in reducing senior posts and salaries.

- 4.8 Many respondents felt that greater prioritisation was required as a result of the financial challenge and highlighted concerns about the extent to which the police should support what were viewed as non-policing agendas.
- 4.9 Beyond providing an emergency response, respondents recognised the challenge of prioritising finite resources against the wide range of policing duties and responsibilities. Work to tackle and prevent terrorism and radicalisation appeared least likely to feature as a public priority in both the city and county, with many feeling that this agenda should not draw on local or regional policing resources.
- 4.10 The report includes specific recommendations for the Police and OPCC to consider:-
- Ensuring any proposals to increase the local precept for policing are supplemented with a clearly communicated plan for how the additional revenue would be spent. Public support and confidence appears to remain strongly linked to the force's commitment to ensuring that the service is visible, accessible and responsive to community needs
  - Developing a clear strategic communication and engagement plan to demonstrate to local residents and rate payers how policing resources are being deployed and what outcomes are being delivered as a result. This is particularly important as the nature of policing business becomes increasingly concentrated in areas of high impact but often less visible aspects of policing
  - Further lobbying of central government for fair and proportionate levels of police funding which takes account of the changing challenges facing the service over the current spending review period. Public support for this approach appears relatively strong.
  - Continuing to raise awareness of current and emerging resourcing challenges and efficiency plans for Nottinghamshire and raise further awareness of the statutory role and activities of the Police and Crime Commissioner
  - Continuing to explore opportunities to develop organisational efficiencies through greater prioritisation, reducing waste / bureaucracy and making better use of technology – all being areas in which there appears to be strong levels of public support
  - Continuing to explore opportunities for more collaborative working with other partner agencies and regional forces, particularly in consolidating support / back office functions, premises and senior leadership and governance functions. The service should also seek to ensure that relevant learning from the private sector is used to inform organisational efficiency plans

- Public and stakeholder consultation on more specific proposals for further Blue Light collaboration in view of what appears to be general public support for this approach
- Further exploring the public / community offer in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and improving community safety with the support of local service providers. This may include further work to raise awareness of volunteering roles and opportunities
- Further developing the profile of community issues and concerns as part of the new Neighbourhood-level community engagement plans and profiles, particularly in making use of community profiling and segmentation data.

## **5 Financial Implications and Budget Provision**

- 5.1 Findings will be used to inform setting of the 2017/18 precept for policing. Options for delivering savings and economies of scale through more co-ordinated consultation and engagement approaches will be further considered in 2017.

## **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 2017.

## **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 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 2017-21.

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 2017/18 and development of the refreshed Police and Crime Plan delivery plan for 2017-2018.

## **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)<sup>2</sup>
- Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)<sup>3</sup>
- Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specific Information) Order 2011<sup>4</sup>

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

11.1 PCC Consultation and Engagement Strategy

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<sup>2</sup> [Financial Code of Practice 2012](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Strategic Policing Requirement](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Specific Information Order 2011](#)