

For Information and Decision	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police & Crime Panel Audit and Scrutiny Panel – for information
Date of Meeting:	7th February 2018
Report of:	The Chief Finance Officer
Other Contacts:	Head of Finance
Agenda Item:	6

Precept and Budget Reports 2018-19

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Members are required to make a decision in respect of the Precept Report and the proposed increase to Council Tax for 2018-19.
- 1.2 To assist in this decision making members are provided with budget reports and financial strategies that provide detail on the use of such funding.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to support the proposed increase in Band D Council Tax by £11.97 to £195.39.
- 2.2 Members are also asked to provide feedback, where appropriate, in respect of the proposed budget and financial strategies.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Statutory requirement and good financial governance.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 In providing the provisional settlement for Policing the Minister has assumed that Police & Crime Commissioners will take advantage of the temporary relaxation in the referendum principles in respect of setting a precept.
- 4.2 He has announced that Commissioner can raise the Band D precept by £12 before triggering a Referendum. This equates approximately to a 6.5% increase. Prior to this the limit had been set at 2%.
- 4.3 This news enables the Commissioner to fund a commitment to increasing the number of Police Officers in Neighbourhood teams. Effectively reversing the position of Medium Term Financial Strategy this time last year.

- 4.4 This also ensures that necessary funding in relation to Knife Crime and Rural Crime can be provided.
- 4.5 In providing this relaxation on the Precept the Minister also announced that he would be setting targets in relation to efficiencies and productivity that Commissioners and Chief Constables will have to support and ensure are achieved.
- 4.6 The other reports provided for information are:
- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
 - Reserves Strategy
 - Revenue Budget Report 2018-19
 - Capital Programme 2018-23
 - Treasury Management strategy
- 4.7 The MTFS positively demonstrates the ability to achieve the estimated spend levels for the next 5 years. This includes increasing the number of Officers to 1940.
- 4.8 The Reserves Strategy shows the continuing replacement of reserves, previously taken to such low levels that the long term financial viability of the Force was at risk. There are plans to utilise such reserves to fund significant capital expenditure.
- 4.9 The Revenue budget is a balanced budget report and builds on recruitment plans put in place earlier in the current financial year.
- 4.10 The Capital Programme provides detail on proposals for 2018-19, including the replacement Custody Building. An indicative capital programme to 2022-23 is also provided. But the schemes are subject to full business case.
- 4.11 The Treasury Management Strategy provides detail on how the proposed capital programme will be financed.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 Each of the reports set of the budgetary and financing requirements.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 The budget report provides for the recruitment of additional Police Officers.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 None as a direct result of these reports.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 These reports set out clear principles to limit any financial or operational risk related to the budget.

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

- 9.1 This complies with statutory reporting and decision making requirements. These reports also provide evidence of good financial governance.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 These reports comply with financial legislation.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 The details on the consultation with the public on the precept has been included within the Precept Report.

12. Appendices

Report for Decision:

- Precept report 2018-19

Reports for Information:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Reserves Strategy
- Revenue Budget report 2018-19
- Capital Programme 2018-23
- Treasury Management Strategy