

For Information and Decision	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police & Crime Panel Audit and Scrutiny Panel – for information
Date of Meeting:	4th February 2021
Report of:	The Chief Finance Officer
Other Contacts:	Head of Finance
Agenda Item:	5

Precept and Budget Reports 2021-22

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 2021-22.
- 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 £14.94 to £244.26.
- 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 The continued precept freedoms allow a balanced budget to be set with all increases for inflation and pay awards being met. Additional Police Grant has been received for the Uplift in Police Officer numbers required.
- 4.3 The Minister also requires further efficiencies to be met in 2021-22 and these have been set nationally at £120m. These have been accounted for in the grant settlement and savings due from the work of the Blue Light Company.

- 4.4 The other reports provided for information are:
- Revenue Budget Report 2021-22
 - Capital Programme 2021.26
 - Financial Strategy
 - Capital Strategy
 - Treasury Management Strategy
 - Reserves Strategy
- 4.5 The Financial Strategy provides the latest prediction for balancing the budget over the next five years.
- 4.6 The Reserves Strategy shows that the increase in reserves recently will be utilised to meet significant capital expenditure plans over the medium term.
- 4.7 The Revenue budget is a balanced budget report. This report provides additional police officers to communities across the City and County.
- 4.8 The Capital Programme provides detail on proposals for 2021-22, with specific plans relating to buildings and ensuring they are fit for purpose. An indicative capital programme to 2022-26 is also provided. But the schemes are subject to full business cases being approved.
- 4.9 The Capital Strategy shows how we consider the long term, even life cycle of our most significant assets. This brings together stock condition surveys, asset management plans and the need for continued investment in assets to provide for future needs. This continues to be developed and we hope to bring a finalised product in the Summer 2021.
- 4.10 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.
- 8.2 One of the biggest risks will be the reintroduction of pay awards in future years. Without grant to support the additional cost there will be a cliff edge in financing 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

- A - Precept Report
- B - Revenue Budget Report 2021-22
- C - Capital Programme 2021-26
- D - Financial Strategy
- E - Capital Strategy
- F - Treasury Management Strategy
- G - Reserves Strategy