

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. XXX
1st February 2017	Public Report

Report of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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PRECEPT REPORT 2017/18

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To notify the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) proposed budget and precept for 2017/18 and to enable the Panel to review the proposed precept.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to review and make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept for 2017/18.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 Item 5 - To review and make a report and recommendation (as necessary) on the proposed precept.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012, the Commissioner must notify the Panel of the precept which the Commissioner is proposing to issue for the financial year by 1 February. The Panel must review the proposed precept notified to it by 8 February.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 Since taking office in May 2016, the Commissioner has been ensuring that, in the face of complex economic and social pressures, the Commissioner and Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary”) think and act differently and continue to transform the way they work through collaboration and new technology. The Constabulary never works in isolation.
- 5.2 Transformation of the way in which the Commissioner and the Constabulary deliver public services in the county is key to providing the savings required to deliver the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan (the “Plan”). This work is not limited to collaboration with other police forces, through tri-force or seven-force alliances, but is now looking much more widely. The Policing and Crime Bill provides a framework for joint working with the Fire and Rescue Service. In Cambridgeshire this has already begun with a review of estates. This builds on the existing work maximising the use and value of the £35m police estate. The creation of a combined authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, along with the devolution of powers also provides an opportunity to work more closely to improve community safety.
- 5.3 When considering the precept, the Commissioner has ensured all efficiencies are identified, performance is protected, and that the reserve levels are at an appropriate level to meet the needs of policing. The Commissioner’s guiding principle in setting the precept is to achieve value for money policing and he stated during his election campaign in early 2016 that he would ensure frontline services continue to be protected.

5.4 The Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner are able to balance the books with a 1.97% increase to the policing element of the council tax for 2017/18. The savings plans indicated in the full report at Appendix A show the means of balancing the budgets from 2018/19 to 2020/21. The budget will enable continued delivery of the Commissioner's Plan

5.5 The Panel is recommended to review the proposed precept in the context of ensuring continued and sustainable effectiveness and efficiency in policing in Cambridgeshire.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The draft budget the Commissioner's presents to the Panel is balanced for 2017/18 and further details of how this has been achieved are presented in the Commissioner's precept-setting report at Appendix A. If accepted, the precept will ensure a £130.9m budget for policing in Cambridgeshire for 2017/18. This would see the policing element of a 2017/18 Band D council tax increasing from £183.15 to £186.75 per annum, an increase of 7p per week.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 As well as the Commissioner's extensive public engagement via meetings, surgeries and his newsletter, a Survey Monkey survey was made available from November 2016 to January 2017 with a link to the survey being available on the Commissioner's website as well as being flagged in the monthly newsletter which is sent to 16,000 email addresses each month. News of the Commissioner's proposal was also covered by the media across Cambridgeshire and on social media. Around 1,500 survey responses were received with 86% of respondents in agreement with a precept increase.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 The Panel must make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents>

Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2271/made>

Provisional Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2017/18, Home Office, December 2016

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/577359/police-grant-report-2017-18.pdf

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Precept Report 2017/18 – Appendix A