

This matter is being dealt with by:

Keith Ford

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Mr Paddy Tipping
Police and Crime Commissioner
County Hall
West Bridgford
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cc Kevin Dennis, Chief Executive

6 February 2014

Dear Paddy

**OUTCOME OF PANEL'S CONSIDERATION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S
PROPOSED PRECEPT AND BUDGET 2014/15**

I am writing to confirm the outcome of the Police and Crime Panel's consideration of your proposed precept at the Panel meeting of 3 February 2014.

As you are aware, eleven of the fifteen Panel Members present supported your proposed precept increase of up to 1.96%. Members understood that the final increase level would be dependent upon the Secretary of State's forthcoming announcement of the precept level increase cap and that a reduction of 0.5% in the proposed increase level would roughly equate to £250,000 less income.

Some Members felt that, in light of the small difference between the possible cap level of 1.5% and the freeze grant of 1% and the current lack of clarity around the cap level, it would be better to take the freeze grant. However, other Members recognised the potential 'cliff-edge' impact in future if the freeze grant was not incorporated into the base budget after 2016. You underlined your desire to increase the local tax base over time. Members were mindful that the public's response to your consultation had largely favoured a small increase in their Council Tax contributions if it helped to strengthen neighbourhood policing.

Further to recent media coverage, Members took assurance from your clarification of the potential financial impact of implementing your manifesto pledge to recruit 150 additional Police Officers and 100 Police and Community Support Officers. You underlined at the meeting that if the savings required to finance this were not achieved then the recruitment drive would be put on hold. In response to Members' queries, you also clarified that a balance was needed between this planned recruitment and your overall plans to modernise the workforce mix, underlining that Police Officers needed to be deployed in a way which best utilised their skills and provided better value for money. Both you and the Chief Constable emphasised that the budget was challenging but that it had been jointly developed between your office and the Force and that it was both balanced and sustainable.

Members welcomed the further detailed information provided this year compared to last year, particularly in relation to the level of reserves and earmarked expenditure of those reserves. They also supported your plans to better manage the PFI contracts around transport and the Riverside Building to maximise value for money (in line with the recommendations from the recent Base Budget Review).

Members suggested seeking opportunities to maximise income generation in terms of Policing provided indirectly to private businesses such as those involved in the night time economy and local professional football and cricket clubs. In response, you highlighted the review of charges currently being undertaken, the potential for sponsorship and your plans to respond to the City Council's current consultation about a Night Time Levy.

In summary, the Panel supported the proposed precept increase and expressed its support for you in your forthcoming input into the Government's review of the funding formula (the outcomes of which you understood would not be implemented until 2016/17 at the earliest).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Clarke', written in a cursive style.

Cllr John Clarke
Chairman of Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel