

This matter is being dealt with by:

Jo Toomey

T 0115 9774506

E jo.toomey@nottscc.gov.uk

W www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/partnerships/police-and-crime-panel

Commissioner Caroline Henry
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Arnot Hill House
Arnot Hill Park
Arnold
NG5 6LU

8 February 2022

Dear Commissioner Henry

Outcome of Panel's consideration of the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed precept and Budget 2022-23

I am writing to confirm the outcome of the Police and Crime Panel's consideration of your proposed precept at the Panel meeting of 8 February 2022.

As you are aware, the Panel supported your proposed precept increase of £9.99 for Band D properties, with twelve Members voting in support and two Members abstaining.

The Panel had supplied you with a number of questions around the themes of consultation, the allocation of resources, workforce, revenue budget proposals, the Capital Programme and reserves which were further explored during the meeting.

The input of yourself and your officers into the previous budget workshop and your officers' written response to the questions were appreciated by Members.

Whilst recognising that resources are allocated based on an assessment of harm, the Panel would like to understand the distribution of those resources across the force area, including the layering of support that was available to communities in different circumstances. We were grateful for the reassurance that the Chief Constable was able to provide.

We heard a lot about efficiencies, some of which were listed to be achieved through bringing services back in-house. Panel members were concerned that the force had appropriate skills and capacity to be able to deliver these services and whether those efficiencies could be realised. Members were reassured by the answers that were provided around staff that were already available and the direction of travel for the remainder of the projects.

The Panel also had a number of questions about the reorganisation of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. It identified that additional budget for staffing had been included to support the revised structure and the increase in commissioning activity. As the

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel, c/o County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

formal consultation is still underway, the Panel has not received an overview of the changes that are proposed for the office. Whilst recognising that the staffing of the office is the responsibility of the Head of Paid service the Panel would like reassurance at an appropriate time that the restructure will bring forwards an office that is modern, efficient, and structured to deliver.

Panel members were interested to hear that there were some liabilities arising from Operation Uplift, which was provision for the incremental pay increases for police officers. It was previously understood that all costs would be covered by the Government grant.

Panel members noted that the implications of keeping Newark Police Station open were not reflected within the budget but look forward to updates on negotiations at a future meeting and understanding the impact that will have on the budgeted position.

The Panel questioned whether it would be appropriate to not increase the precept this year in light of the current increases in the cost of living. Members also asked about the impact any standstill would have on future years' budgets. The answers highlighted those areas that could not be delivered without the increase in precept and the level of shortfall this would bring in future years, which would not be recoverable in future years. The Panel recognised that the increased precept was necessary to deliver the Commissioner's Plan and its impact on the ability to deliver the improvements to policing should the increase not be approved.

The Panel remains concerned that the Government's policy of shifting the burden onto the Council Tax payer is regressive.

We were also grateful for the Commissioner's comments around the consideration she had given about whether it was an appropriate time to ask for the full increase of the precept and the challenges that you would face in requesting additional funding to meet any shortfall if you had not taken advantage of the full increase. We also note the comments of your Chief Finance Officer and his recommendations.

In summary, the Panel supported your proposed increase in the precept.

Yours sincerely,



Christine Goldstraw OBE
Chair of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel

CC: Sharon Caddell, Chief Executive
Mark Kimberley, Interim Chief Finance Officer