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Mr Paddy Tipping
Police and Crime Commissioner
Arnot Hill House
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cc Kevin Dennis, Chief Executive

6 February 2015

Dear Paddy

**OUTCOME OF PANEL'S CONSIDERATION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S
PROPOSED PRECEPT AND BUDGET 2015/16**

I am writing to confirm the outcome of the Police and Crime Panel's consideration of your proposed precept at the Panel meeting of 2 February 2015.

As you are aware, twelve of the fifteen Panel Members present supported your proposed precept increase of 1.98%.

Members acknowledged the difficult task that you face in setting a budget in light of reduced Government grant funding and resource-intensive issues such as child sexual exploitation. They recognised that there was no guarantee that any money received by Government through the available freeze grant could be built into your base budget and your desire to reduce the dependency upon Government grant in the future. However, some Members felt that taking the freeze grant was a preferable option to increasing the precept.

With regard to the savings achieved in 2014/15 and planned for 2015/16, Members expressed concerns that the proposed savings may not be achieved in full and that the Procurement Team was not achieving higher levels of savings. In response you underlined your confidence that back office savings could be achieved through collaboration. You added that the Procurement Team was recognised as one of the best such teams nationally and that the Home Office believed procurement could achieve savings of £360m nationally if Forces worked together more. With regard to the proposed transport savings, you felt that the existing PFI contract could be better managed to achieve further savings.

Members queried how you were gaining assurances from the Chief Constable that the risks arising from reduced areas of spending were being managed appropriately. In response you clarified that you held weekly discussions with the Chief Constable and his leadership team to address such issues.

Members expressed concerns about the sudden halt to the latest round of recruitment and in response you clarified that the initial plans to bring in the latest cohort within this financial

year had been revised in light of the provisional grant settlement. You underlined that should recruitment commence again in the future then these candidates would be given first refusal on the posts available. The Chief Constable shared your regret that the commitment given to these people could not be honoured at this time.

Members queried the relative benefits of the Force being involved in all collaboration projects within the region and in response you underlined the increased Government expectation that Forces should collaborate unless there was a good reason not to. You highlighted the reasons why Derbyshire were less minded to collaborate, including their relatively high level of reserves.

Members queried whether the Force had faced a £40m cut in budget over the last four years as reported. You clarified that the total budget figures were not directly comparable due to the impact of inflation on costs (for example, costs were predicted to rise by £20m over the next five years) and the fact that some issues which previously received separate funding were now covered within the overall grant settlement.

Members raised concerns that the numbers of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) had been reduced to the 2011 level and that this would have a subsequent negative impact on Neighbourhood Policing. In response you felt that the new operating model had been developed based on this level of PCSOs and a realistic assessment of available resources (with issues such as technological improvements helping to mitigate against reduced numbers). The Chief Constable underlined his commitment to Neighbourhood Policing.

Members recognised the need to target resources towards areas of greatest need but felt that there needed to be flexibility to address issues such as rural crime which tended to occur in cycles. In response you underlined the need for a fair allocation of resources across the County rather than an equitable share.

Members welcomed your plans to get involved in the current discussions about a combined authority for Nottinghamshire and the potential further savings that this could offer.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Egginton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Executive Mayor Tony Egginton
Chairman of Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel