

This matter is being dealt with by:

**Keith Ford**

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W [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/partnerships/police-and-crime-panel](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/partnerships/police-and-crime-panel)

## **Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel**

Mr Paddy Tipping  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
Arnot Hill House  
Arnot Hill Park  
Arnold  
NG5 6LU

cc Kevin Dennis, Chief Executive

9 February 2017

Dear Paddy

### **OUTCOME OF PANEL'S CONSIDERATION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT AND BUDGET 2017/18**

I am writing to confirm the outcome of the Police and Crime Panel's consideration of your proposed precept at the Panel meeting of 6 February 2017.

As you are aware, 15 of the 16 Panel Members present supported your proposed precept increase of 1.95%.

The Panel had supplied you with a wide range of questions about the precept and the various elements of the budget in advance of the meeting and you had provided responses to all of those questions within the tight timescales involved. The timeliness of the response was appreciated by Members.

Within the meeting, you reiterated the disproportionate impact of cuts to grant funding to the Nottinghamshire Force and your role within the review of the Government funding formula for the Police. You clarified that the precept increase would help to fund a few new initiatives, namely, further work around knife crime, funding for tags (which the Panel had raised at its December 2016 meeting) and enable a small initiative fund of £100,000.

During discussions, the Panel raised the following issues:-

- Members recognised the need for a precept increase in light of reductions in funding and growing demand for services. They emphasised the ongoing benefits of partnership working, particularly local authorities, and the significant investments which partners such as Nottingham City Council had made to help tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

You echoed those sentiments, thanking Nottingham City Council for their commitment towards partnership arrangements and tackling community safety

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issues through substantial funding. In response, Members underlined the negative impact on that feeling of partnership resulting from the decision to disestablish the City Division and the possible consequential negative impact on the quality of policing in some wards in the City. In response you underlined the relatively high number of Inspectors which the Force has and stated that the Chief Constable intended to review the issue of territorial policing.

- Members underlined the value of Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) and Civilian Investigators (CIs), particularly with regard to rural crime.

In response you underlined your commitment, within the budget, for 200 PCSOs and 100 CIs and also highlighted the potential further opportunities offered by the Policing and Crime Bill to utilise volunteers.

- Members requested further clarity about the costs of progressing Tri-Force collaboration in terms of resources, including with regard to any related increase in agency worker costs.

You acknowledged that expenditure on agency staff was too high currently and that existing collaboration arrangements with other forces, including the proposed Tri-Force collaboration, could help to reduce that. You offered to give a breakdown on expenditure on the Tri-Force collaboration to date and hoped to have more detailed proposals to share with the Panel following further discussions with the Leicestershire PCC and Northamptonshire PCC in March.

- Members queried the continued earmarked reserves for issues which had not been drawn upon for a number of years. The 'Drug Fund' was highlighted as an example of this, despite drug-related crime continuing to be an issue.

You emphasised the need to have earmarked reserves to offer some flexibility in funding certain initiatives (such as fly grazing) but agreed to look at the 'Drug Fund' issue again and share the criteria for expenditure from this Fund with the Panel.

- Members queried whether there was an overall strategy for the Capital Programme and whether Government funding was available to ensure that the Bridewell met the Home Office standards.

You clarified that the overall general strategy was to have a smaller estate of higher quality to ensure better standards and service for the public. You highlighted the problems with the current Bridewell. You clarified that a task group had been set up to look at issues with the magistrates courts and suggested you bring a report to the Panel in the Autumn on the findings. Members underlined the need to take this opportunity to consider the cost-effectiveness of custody provision across the County as a whole and you agreed, whilst highlighting the Ministry of Justice's desire to have a single Magistrates Court in each shire county.

- As you are aware, Mayor Kate Allsop did not support the proposed increase and asked for her vote against to be recorded. She raised concerns about the relative impact that such a rise would have on families, particularly those who are already struggling financially. She highlighted the approach taken by Mansfield District Council in not raising Council Tax, and mentioned that this was possible partly due to savings from the co-location with the Police at The Hub in Mansfield. She underlined that the consultation findings about the proposed increase were very

close and urged you to use your business acumen to find other ways of raising funds.

You recognised the concerns raised but clarified that the increase would equate to less than 1p per day for Band A and B properties, such as many of those in Mansfield. You also highlighted the Government assumption of a 2% precept increase in enabling police budgets to be protected in cash terms (whilst acknowledging the wider issues around that assumption).

- Members requested a further update on the new Operating Model. You suggested that the initial thinking on this could be explored at the Members' Workshop on 24<sup>th</sup> April, with the final plans confirmed after the Summer.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Goldstraw', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Christine Goldstraw OBE  
Chair of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel