

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Notice of Decision



Nottinghamshire

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Author:	Chief Finance Officer
For Decision or Information	Decision
Date received*:	20.02.17
Ref*:	2017.009

Revised Precept Report**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

To correct an error in the Precept report for the reported surplus/deficit on the collection fund relating to Gedling Borough Council.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF DECISION: (e.g report or business case)

- Attached revised Precept Report

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This has no impact on the budget for the force as the total surplus was being transferred to reserves. The total surplus figure has reduced from £1.2 to £0.9m reducing the overall transfer to reserves from £1.5m to £1.2m.

Signature:

Chief Finance Officer

Date:

20th February 2017

Is any of the supporting information classified as non public or confidential information**?	Yes		No	✓
If yes, please state under which category number from the guidance**				

DECISION:

It is recommended that the PCC approves the adjusted surplus figure and therefore transfer to reserves.

OFFICER APPROVAL

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that the appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature:

Chief Executive

Date:

22/2/17

DECLARATION:

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and I take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any interests are indicated below:

The above request has my approval.

Signature:

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Date:

23/2/17



Nottinghamshire

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Precept 2017-18

January 2017

Tri-Force Collaboration

At a meeting of PCCs and Chief Constables in June 2016, work was agreed to develop Business Cases for specific areas for the three Forces of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire.

These business cases will be available for PCCs and CCs to review in early March 2017 and it is anticipated that this meeting will determine whether these business cases should be progressed, whether further work is required or whether to concentrate on other Collaborative opportunities within the region.

Given these timescales, and that some investment is also funded from Transformation bids, it is not possible to include this information within the three PCC budgets or Precept reports for 2017/18. Therefore, in respect of Nottinghamshire, costs for Tri-Force work if approved will be met from the small revenue budget of £300,000 and through a revised capital programme for any significant costs. It is intended that an update will be provided to a future Police and Crime Panel meeting.

The Panel are advised that the three PCC precept reports across the three Force areas will all include a similar narrative for the Tri-Force collaboration work.

Where possible, the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire continue to work closely and where possible, all three budgets have been prepared on common assumptions for pay awards and inflation, creating a common baseline. Discussions continue nationally with the Home Office, PACCTS, Regional colleagues and the three Forces/PCCs finance teams to determine common grant assumptions.

Supporting Reports

The Budget Report and the Medium Term Financial Strategy Report on today's agenda details further the plans for 2017-18 and beyond.

The detailed budget for 2017-18, the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Reserves Strategy, the 4 Year Capital Programme and the Treasury Management Strategy are provided for information purposes to the Police and Crime Panel. These have been drawn together to support the Police and Crime Plan, which has been refreshed and which the panel have received and which is currently out for consultation.

This report is based upon the actual data provided by the Billing Authorities.

1. COUNCIL TAX BASE

For 2017-18 the Billing Authorities continue with the local Council Tax Support Schemes introduced in 2013-14. There have not been any significant changes affecting the individual schemes, although collection rates continue to be higher than anticipated

The Billing Authorities are working hard to keep collection rates up and as a consequence all have seen an increase in estimated tax bases. This is also partly due to an increase in the number of new properties in each area. Initial estimates for the tax base show that the Billing Authorities are estimating an average 1.18% increase. This has been included in these assumptions.

The actual tax base has increased by 1.70% overall, slightly less than last year's increase of 1.84%. This information has to be confirmed in writing by 15 January, the statutory deadline.

Tax base	Band D Properties 2016-17 No	Band D Properties 2017-18 No	Change %
Ashfield	31,936.30	32,546.20	1.91
Bassetlaw	33,079.77	33,916.77	2.53
Broxtowe	32,806.55	33,126.78	0.98
Gedling	36,104.62	36,306.09	0.56
Mansfield	28,272.00	28,894.98	2.20
Newark & Sherwood	37,378.90	37,828.75	1.20
Nottingham City	62,091.00	63,368.00	2.06
Rushcliffe	40,959.60	41,777.00	2.00
Total	302,628.74	307,764.57	1.70

It is intended that any impact from a change between the estimated tax base and the actual tax base will be met from or will contribute to reserves.

4. CONSULTATION

APPROACH

The Police and Crime Commissioner has a wide remit to cut crime and improve community safety in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Various consultation and engagement exercises were conducted in 2016-17 in line with the Commissioner's duty to consult local communities on their priorities and perceptions.

The consultation activities included:

- The Nottingham City Council and the City's Crime and Drugs Partnership Annual Respect Survey and the Nottinghamshire County Council Annual residents Satisfaction Survey 2016
- The Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities and precept consultation incorporating face-to-face engagement and online questionnaire
- Focus groups commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner within each of the four Community Safety partnership areas:- Nottingham City; South Nottinghamshire; Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood and; Mansfield and Ashfield
- Additional face-to-face local public and stakeholder engagement activity across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

KEY FINDINGS

Consultation with over 4,700 residents through a range of public consultation and engagement activities in 2016 identified that there is generally an even balance of support for (52%) and against (48%) an increase in the council tax precept for policing when confidence intervals and variations in consultation methods are taken into account.

The proportion of residents supporting a rise in the council tax precept for policing has fallen by around 9% points over the last year, despite a (non-significant) increase in support in the City. This has been largely driven by an increase in residents feeling they cannot afford to pay more or already pay enough.

Respondents were generally supportive of the police, with at least two thirds feeling that more funding was required. Of those that did not support a rise in the precept for policing, around a third felt that more central government funding should be made available.

Around a third did not support a rise in the precept for policing as they felt that it would have no impact on the service they received. This was often expressed amid a perceived lack of visible policing with many stating that they would support a rise in precept they could be assured that visible policing would be protected.

- Further exploring the public / community offer in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and improving community safety with the support of local service providers. This may include further work to raise awareness of volunteering roles and opportunities
- Further developing the profile of community issues and concerns as part of the new Neighbourhood-level community engagement plans and profiles, particularly in making use of community profiling and segmentation data.

6. COUNCIL TAX REFERENDUMS

The Localism Act 2011 requires authorities including Police and Crime Commissioners to determine whether their 'relevant basic amount of council tax' for a year is excessive, as excessive increases trigger a council tax referendum. From 2012-13 onwards, the Secretary of State is required to set out principles annually, determining what increase is excessive. For 2017-18 the principles state that, for Police and Crime Commissioners, an increase of more than 2% in the basic amount of council tax between 2016-17 and 2017-18 is excessive.

For 2017-18 the relevant basic amount is calculated as follows:

Formula:

<u>Council Tax Requirement</u>	= Relevant basic amount of council tax
Total tax base for police authority area	

Nottinghamshire 2017-18 estimated calculation:

<u>£56,450,177.43</u>	= £183.42
307,764.57	(1.95%)

With a 2% increase the Band D equivalent charge would be £183.51.

This year the Referendum limit has been announced at the time of settlement notifications. It has been set at 2% for 2017-18.

The overall Police and Crime Precept to be collected on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2017-18 is:

	£m	
Budgeted Expenditure	190.1	(+)
Less income from:		
Police & Crime Grant	124.3	(-)
Legacy Council Tax Grant	9.7	(-)
Collection Fund surplus	0.9	(-)
Net contribution to/from Balances	1.2	(+)
Police & Crime Precept on the Council Tax	56.4	(-)

The resulting precept and Council Tax levels derived from the measures contained in this report are detailed below:

Police & Crime element of the Council Tax

Band	2016-17 £	2017-18 £
A	119.94	122.28
B	139.93	142.66
C	159.93	163.04
D	179.91	183.42
E	219.89	224.18
F	259.87	264.94
G	299.85	305.70
H	359.82	366.84

8. ROBUSTNESS OF THE ESTIMATES

The Chief Finance Officer to the Police and Crime Commissioner has worked closely with Director of Finance (Tri-Force Collaboration) and Head of Finance (Nottinghamshire Police) to obtain assurance on the accuracy of the estimates provided. There have been weekly meetings between the Commissioner, Chief Constable and their professional officers.

The impact of the difficult year of 2015-16 continues to affect our levels of reserves and therefore financial resilience. The recruitment of a Head of Finance has improved the financial control within the force and ensures that previous budgeting errors will not be replicated. This is supported through regular meetings and budget monitoring improvements.

The budget proposed within this report represents a balanced budget. To achieve this, the force has provided detail on how efficiencies and savings will be delivered. There are some potential risks to the full amount of savings being achieved and this will be monitored monthly, with alternative savings needing to be identified if the initial plans cannot be delivered.

The balanced budget is based upon the recommended 1.95% increase in Council Tax for 2017-18.