



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

4 February 2020

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillors A Douglas and S Hawkins
Newcastle City Council	Councillors C Penny-Evans and K Webster
North Tyneside Council	Councillors J Mole and T Mulvenna
Northumberland County Council	Councillors J Riddle and M Swinburn
South Tyneside Council	Councillors A Strike and J Welsh
Sunderland City Council	Councillor M Mordey
Independent Co-opted Member	Mrs J Guy

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

K McGuinness	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
R Durham	- Chief of Staff
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer

Gateshead Council

M Barker	- Strategic Director Corporate Services and Governance
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

APOLOGY: Councillor D MacKnight (Sunderland City Council)

40. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Councillor Mark Swinburn has replaced Councillor Robbie Moore as a representative of Northumberland County Council on the Panel.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

41. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

42. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Further to Minute 31, details seeking applicants for the Police and Crime Panel Independent Members' positions have been placed on Constituent Councils' websites and circulated to relevant partners, organisations and individuals who might be interested in applying. The closing date is 28 February 2020.

43. PROPOSED PRECEPT 2020/21

In accordance with the Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012, the PCC notified the Panel of the proposed 2020/21 council tax precept.

The proposed 2020/21 revenue budget and capital programme and a review of the 2019/20 budget position were submitted.

The Government has proposed precept referendum limits for 2020/21 that enable PCCs to raise additional funding for local priorities through an increase of up to £10.00 for a Band D property. For residents in Northumbria this would equate to a further 7.44% on Council Tax bills for 2020/21.

The settlement issued by the Government delivers additional core grant funding for Northumbria of £16.387m, an increase of 7.5%. In addition, ring-fenced funding of £5.175m will be allocated as the force progresses against its recruitment target for 2020/21.

The PCC believes that moving the full cost of an adequate police budget increase to the local tax payer would be difficult to justify at a time when the Government settlement has increased. The PCC's proposal for 2020/21 is, therefore, to increase the precept by 1.99% (which equates to £2.67 per year for a Band D property). This will allow for an additional and recurring £1.065m to resources.

The PCC circulated details of the police precept consultation that had been undertaken before the Government had announced the funding settlement and the comments received. The majority of the participants supported an increase to the Council Tax precept.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was asked what the emerging crime trends were and whether the recruitment of 185 police officers by March 2021 was enough. The PCC replied that the Government's uplift in police officer numbers was based on phased payments by results. The force has 1,147 police officers less than in 2010. More police officers are still needed. It takes three years for new recruits to be fully operational and prepared for dealing with any future crime trends.

It was queried how a 1.99% increase in the 2020/21 precept would raise an additional £1.065m when the precept increases in 2012/13 and 2013/14 showed conflicting precept income amounts. The PCC agreed to report back on this issue.

The force has been underfunded for a number of years and has the lowest precept charge in England and Wales but a 2020/21 precept increase of 1.99% is proposed when the Government will allow a precept increase up to 7.44%. It was asked if the PCC had fully considered all of the issues. The PCC confirmed that she had fully considered these issues but because of the increased precept burden on local tax payers in recent years and as the Government grant settlement had been increased for 2020/21, she felt that a 1.99% precept increase was the most appropriate.

RESOLVED - That a report be issued by the Panel to the PCC that it accepts the PCC's proposed 1.99% precept increase which equates to £2.67 per year for a band D property.

44. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 17 March 2020 at 2.00pm.