



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

7 February 2022

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillor A Douglas (Chair)
Newcastle City Council	Councillor C Penny-Evans
North Tyneside Council	Councillor T Mulvenna
South Tyneside Council	Councillors E Gibson and J Welsh
Sunderland City Council	Councillor P Stewart
Independent Co-opted Member	Mr A Shepherd

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
A Pearson	- Director of Planning and Delivery
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer

Gateshead Council

G Morton	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

APOLOGIES: Councillors D Wood (Newcastle City Council), C Burdis, C Johnson (North Tyneside Council), G Stewart (Northumberland County Council), D MacKnight (Sunderland City Council) and Mr J Klajn

30. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

31. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

There were no national and regional events reported.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

32. PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2022/23

In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the PCC notified the Panel of the proposed 2022/23 Council Tax precept.

The proposed 2022/23 revenue and capital budgets and a review of the 2021/22 budget position were submitted.

The Government's proposed 2022/23 precept referendum limit enables PCCs to increase precepts by up to £10 per year for a Band D property. The PCC has considered the overall funding made available to the force and the impact any increase will have on households. The PCC's proposal for 2022/23 is, therefore, to increase the precept by £10 per year for a Band D property, an increase of 6.95% and approximately 83p per month. This will give an additional and recurring £4.018m contribution to resources. The precept increase will provide investment in call handlers for 999 and 101 services, extra resources to tackle cyber-crime and serious and organised crime, more civilian investigators to support investigation and free up police officers and workforce investment to support officers to keep them on the beat and tackling crime.

The PCC reported on the public consultation undertaken on the 2022/23 proposed precept through online and telephone surveys. Of the 61% of online respondents and 87% of telephone survey participants who supported an increase in the precept, 51% and 84% respectively supported the 83p per month increase.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was asked whether there was one band of funding including precept and grant income or if they were only used for specific things and how would you be aware of this. The PCC confirmed there was only one fund. She had chosen to ring fence the proposed precept increase as outlined, public consultation on the precept was undertaken and the community was informed about how the money would be used.

It was considered that funding the police service on a year to year basis was not adequate. The provision of funding on a longer term basis was required to enable future planning and funding arrangements for the police to tackle and prevent crime to be made. The Government should be increasing police funding and not making the local communities have to pay more particularly in the current economic situation with the increases in the cost of living. The PCC considered that the Government did not link crime with peoples' situations and she was thankful that the public was very supportive of the police.

It was really important that the community understood what the police funding was used for, the services provided and what the police dealt with so that they could feel safe in their community and did not feel isolated.

RESOLVED - That the Panel issue a report to the PCC that it accepts the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by £10 per year for a Band D property, an increase of 6.95%.

33. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 2.00pm.