



## **NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**7 February 2023**

### **PRESENT:**

<b>Gateshead Council</b>	Councillors A Douglas (Chair) and P Maughan
<b>Newcastle City Council</b>	Councillors K Robinson and J Sathian
<b>North Tyneside Council</b>	Councillors C Burdis and C Johnson
<b>Northumberland County Council</b>	Councillors C Horncastle and G Stewart
<b>South Tyneside Council</b>	Councillor J Welsh
<b>Sunderland City Council</b>	Councillor C Rowntree
<b>Independent Co-opted Member</b>	Mr J Klajn

### **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
K Laing	- Chief Finance Officer

#### **Gateshead Council**

A Simmons-Mather	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors J Foreman (South Tyneside Council), P Stewart (Sunderland City Council) and Mr K Kundi

### **29. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED -** That the Minutes of the Confirmation Hearing for the Appointment of the Chief Constable of Northumbria Police and the last ordinary meeting held on 13 December 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### **30. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS**

Councillor Welsh reported that she had attended the Annual Conference for Chairs, Members and Officers of Police (Fire) and Crime Panels on 10-11 November 2022 in Warwick.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

### **31. PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2023/24**

In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the PCC notified the Panel of the proposed 2023/24 Council Tax precept.

The proposed 2023/24 revenue and capital budgets and a review of the 2022/23 budget position were submitted.

The Government's proposed 2023/24 precept referendum limit enables PCCs to increase precepts by up to £15 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 2023/24 is, therefore, to increase the precept by £15 per year for a Band D property, an increase of 9.75% and approximately 125p per month. This will give an additional and recurring £6.120m contribution to resources. The precept increase will deliver a restructure of neighbourhood policing, allocating 134 new officers into specialist frontline roles to take on the fight against crime and help protect the force from the impact of significant budget pressures and spiralling inflation.

The PCC reported on the public consultation undertaken on the 2023/24 proposed precept through telephone and online surveys. 70% of the telephone survey participants and 62% of the online survey respondents supported an increase in the precept to offset the budget pressures facing the force.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The Northumbria area has the lowest precept in the country and it was considered that 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. Whilst the restructure of neighbourhood policing and the allocation of the 134 new officers was welcomed, the force had 1,100 fewer officers than in 2010 because of the budget cuts but the Government grant would only provide for 600 new officers. The PCC reported that she had lobbied the Home Secretary for more Government funding to be provided and for a Council Tax freeze to be implemented to protect the public from rising costs but this had not been accepted.

RESOLVED - That the Panel issue a report to the PCC that it accepts the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by £15 per year for a Band D property, an increase of 9.75%.

### **32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 2.00pm.