

## **Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel**

**Friday 8 February 2013**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Croad, in the Chair  
Mike Firbank (Independent member), Vice Chair  
Councillors Atkinson, Barker, Boyd, Diviani, Dolphin, Greenslade, Hare-Scott, Hicks, Maddern, Oliver, Paynter, Penberthy, Saltern, Sanders, Sutton and Williams.

Independent member: Yvonne Atkinson

Apologies for absence: Councillors Folkes (substitute: Councillor Paynter), Kennedy and Wood

Also in attendance: Peter Aley, Head of Safer Communities, Sarah Hopkins, Community Safety Partnership Manager, Judith Shore, Democratic and Member Services Manager, Bernadette Smith (Senior HR Adviser), Tim Howes (Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance)

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 3.17 pm.

*Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

### 27. **MINUTES**

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2013 are approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

### 28. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MEETING**

AGREED that, in the absence of Councillor Kennedy, Mr Firbank acts as the Vice Chair for the meeting.

### 29. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

#### Personal interests

Mike Firbank – he undertook chaplaincy work in Camborne and Redruth and a number of close friends were serving police officers

Councillor Barker – he was responsible for budgetary matters at Teignbridge District Council

Councillor Greenslade – his son in law was a serving police officer in the Devon and Cornwall force; he was Director of Exeter airport; he knew and had worked with

Mr Sawyer for some time and he was responsible for budgetary matters at Devon County Council

Councillor Sanders – he was responsible for budgetary matters at Devon County Council

Bernadette Smith – a family member was a serving police officer in the Devon and Cornwall force

30. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received from members of the public.

31. **CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR THE ROLE OF CHIEF CONSTABLE OF DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE**

The Chair advised that the confirmation hearing was being held in order to consider the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed appointment to the position of Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police. He welcomed Mr Sawyer (the preferred candidate) and Mr Hogg (the Police and Crime Commissioner [PCC]) to the meeting.

The Chair advised Mr Sawyer that during the course of the hearing the Panel hoped to gain further information from him about how he met the criteria for the post and his suitability for the role and would ask him a series of questions to enable them to assess his professional competence and personal independence.

After the confirmation hearing, the Panel would meet in private to consider the appointment and the press and public would be asked to leave the meeting. The PCC would then be advised of the Panel's decision.

The following questions were asked and answers given.

*Personal independence*

Cllr Croad: in your role, you would be expected to maintain political independence from the PCC and his office but you would also be expected to support and assist the PCC with the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. What did he see as the challenges and opportunities in this respect and how would he deal with this?

Mr Sawyer responded that operational independence was enshrined in the Home Secretary's policing protocol and the office of Chief Constable took an oath of independence to serve the Crown and the public. He took the oath very seriously. He had been a serving police officer for 27 years and in previous roles (including in counter terrorism) he had maintained a tradition of operational independence. He had regard to the environment in which he worked which included local authorities, the Commissioner as well as the Home Secretary (with regard to the strategic policing requirement). When he made operational decisions or decisions about the style of policing he was apolitical and proportionality of the police response was a factor to be taken into account. Policing was effective only with the consent of the

public. He reminded Panel members that the PCC had also taken an oath of impartiality and that he could not foresee a position when the PCC and he would not be able to agree a way forward, by discussion,.

Councillor Hare Scott: in your role as Chief Constable, you would be required to balance operational needs within a framework of priorities and objectives set by the Police and Crime Commissioner. What did he see as the risks associated with this and how would he overcome them?

Mr Sawyer advised that a major tension could often be between short term and long term considerations and local and national priorities had to be taken into account. It could sometimes be easier to respond in the short term. However, he considered that a long term view was essential. Areas such as safeguarding and public disorder required considerable funding but he was also concerned to connect with hard to reach groups and tackle crimes that didn't necessarily command the greatest attention such as sexual abuse, child abuse and hate crimes. The national agenda, the strategic policing requirement set by the Home Secretary, also had to be taken into consideration. The peninsula was not immune to cyber terrorism and organised crime and requirements had to be balanced on a weekly and daily basis and reported to the PCC

Mr Firbank: when the first major incident in Devon and Cornwall was dealt with under the new Commissioner arrangements, where did he think the boundary between his and the Commissioner's role needed to lie?

Mr Sawyer advised that a serious operational incident was the responsibility of police and the blue light agencies which included management of the media and assisting victims and families. The PCC had a wider responsibility which was to ensure a coordinated response, to reassure the community, to hold the Chief Constable to account and to ensure that resources were sufficient to meet the needs of such incidents. This included the training and availability of the necessary expertise and the quality of the investigation. Public enquiries and crime enquiries could have very different outcomes and public enquiries could be very political. The PCC would ask questions on behalf of the public about how the police responded, whether the issues were dealt with competently and would hold the Chief Constable to account for the actions of the police.

#### *Professional competence*

Mrs Atkinson: as he was well aware, Devon and Cornwall was a force area that was very diverse in terms of the levels and types of crime and seasonal variances. What personal qualities and experience would he bring to ensure policing met these needs across rural, urban and coastal areas?

Mr Sawyer had worked for 26 years in central London and working in area that had 500 miles of coastline was quite different. However, he had 6,000 staff who did have that experience and he listened closely to his workforce. The PCC had made it clear that he wanted neighbourhood police officers and special constables working in local communities and responding to crime in those communities. On a macro level, he had the overview of where resources were required at different times of year, including the holiday influx to areas such as Newquay and north Devon. The force

was reliant on working with special constables, volunteers and street pastors especially in relation to the night time economy in Plymouth and such volunteers greatly assisted with de-escalating incidents. His background in urban policing, serious and organised crime and counter terrorism had created awareness of risk management and crime in the peninsula could be managed down with a greater understanding of where there was connection between serious organised crime and local crime

Councillor Sanders: with current budgetary pressures for the police and other public services and partners high on the agenda, what experience could he draw upon to maintain effective policing with less resources, and identify opportunities for delivering efficiencies through, for example, shared services with local authorities and other partners?

Mr Sawyer responded that this process was already underway and that there was £32 million less in the budget and around 400 fewer officers than when he joined the force so economies were already being delivered. Collaborative approaches were essential such as at shared offices, some joint working with fire offices, joint outreach work and Devon and Cornwall Police was the regional police procurement lead. Sharing information with social services and the health service and other partners was essential – the biggest asset he had was time and this should be directed towards problem solving and reducing demand and repeat offending. Unit costs were far less than 10 years ago. Outsourcing in itself wouldn't necessarily drive down costs; the biggest cost was people so it was very important to consider how their time was used.

Councillor Saltern: what did he think gave the public confidence in the police and how would he increase that?

Mr Sawyer responded that people were affected by what they saw and heard, both nationally and locally and the style of policing should be open handed and engaging. The PCC had identified an increasing tension between the police and the public - the public was not convinced that the police would respond how they wanted or that they would receive a service they liked. The level of service was generally acceptable but that was not good enough because he had high standards. Public confidence tended to be lost when the initial contact or the follow up wasn't quick enough. This needed to improve although a survey said that 95% of people had ease of contact. The delivery challenge was to raise public confidence.

Should he be successful today one of his first communications to the force would be about integrity and values and how one individual acting corruptly would undermine the whole. An honest mistake honestly made would be understood. Corruption would not be tolerated and would result in an individual being asked to leave the force.

Councillor Saltern asked whether the level of complaints had increased?

Mr Sawyer confirmed that complaints were on the increase, not for corruption or for wrong doing but for incivility. Compared to other police forces, Devon and Cornwall Police were average but Mr Sawyer confirmed that this was not acceptable

as he didn't do average. There was no excuse for incivility and, if it did occur, should be apologised for.

Councillor Greenslade asked whether police officers always used their time most effectively to give the greatest visibility?

Mr Sawyer commented that the previous police authority was clear about improving the use of time increasing accessibility. The public liked foot patrols and whether that was the most effective use of police officer time was not necessarily the main consideration. The geography of the area meant that even if all officers were on duty at the same time, there wouldn't be a very visible presence over 4,400 square miles. Special constables could be used more and, for young people, the greater use of apps, cyber space and social media should be increased.

Councillor Williams: what leadership qualities would he apply to managing performance against the Police and Crime Plan?

Mr Sawyer responded that an in depth understanding of problems was key. For example, the increased number of rapes was likely to be the result of victims feeling that they could come forward and victims of crime should be encouraged to do so. Another leadership quality was ethical behaviour. Also, encouraging partners to work much more closely together and to agree when the police or a partner should take the lead. Mr Sawyer confirmed that he didn't like losing and was keen to succeed. He was very loyal to the people he swore an oath to and everyone deserved to live in a safe community.

Mr Firbank commented about examples of behaviour within statutory agencies where people failed to make moral choices and asked Mr Sawyer how he would instil such values all the way through the force?

Mr Sawyer responded that the workforce had to be engaged to understand the values of trust, courage, respect and objectivity. If mistakes were made, they should be admitted. The police lead by consent and respect was earned.

Councillor Saltern questioned the seemingly constant changes in the way in which crime was reported and asked whether this could be more consistent?

Mr Sawyer advised that the best, independent, figures were collected by the British Crime Survey. The force undertook telephone surveying and knew that some crimes were under reported. He acknowledged that the communication of the results could be improved. The Police and Crime Plan considered benchmarking and the importance of accurate and clear reporting of figures.

Councillor Greenslade: how would he ensure that the attitude of leading by consent was communicated throughout the workforce?

Mr Sawyer advised that the police were a command and control, disciplined organisation. However, he was currently considering the option of Assistant Chief Constables being more aligned locally. Only two per cent of the organisation was in supervisory ranks and the best and most direct forms of communication were

directly to the lower ranks such as sergeant or the heads of units and they hadn't always been directly involved.

Councillor Hicks: you commented that a visible presence was important for public perception – a large part of the organisation is civilian – could they work in uniform?

Mr Sawyer responded that this hadn't been considered though it could be and that he would consider this option.

Councillor Williams: with regard to street pastors and other volunteers assisting with the policing of the night time economy – how did he ensure that they all adhered to the public sector equality duty?

Mr Sawyer acknowledged inconsistencies of approach though regular training and conferences were organised. The volunteers understood that the primary aim was to assist the person in need. There were also health and safety briefings but the nature of volunteering meant that all the necessary information could not always be communicated. Mr Sawyer undertook to respond directly to Councillor Williams about the standard procedures and copy the response to the other Panel members.

Councillor Penberthy asked how Mr Sawyer had developed community policing in the past and what he would do in the future for all neighbourhoods and diverse communities.

Mr Sawyer said that a standard approach across neighbourhoods was not ideal. Community based policing was the most appropriate model. In some areas, for example anti-social behaviour, a joint approach with partners to coordinate at the point of delivery was developing. Police officers required more training in problem solving and with working with other individuals and organisations at the point of delivery. It was not always appropriate for the police to take the lead; team working was essential – using evidence based outcomes. For example, the probation service now took the lead in respect of high risk violent offenders as this was most appropriate for that part of the criminal justice system.

The Chair asked Mr Sawyer whether he had any further comments to make.

Mr Sawyer commented that he really wanted the position because he believed in Devon and Cornwall and that he was a police constable at heart, though in a very senior role. He wanted to play his part in delivering the current plans and to cut crime. He observed that police officers were, at times, heroic and deserved to be well led and he would like to prove he could do that. The aim was to make Devon and Cornwall a safe place for children to grow up, for people to grow old safely and for visitors to say good things about us when they go home. The police had a clear role in that.

AGREED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public are excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The press and public left the meeting room and the Panel considered the appointment of the Chief Constable.

AGREED unanimously that the Police and Crime Panel supports the appointment of the PCC's preferred candidate, Mr Shaun Sawyer, for the position of Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police.

The PCC was then invited to return to the meeting room and informed of the Panel's unanimous decision.

*The meeting adjourned for 45 minutes*

32. **CONSIDERATION OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

The Chair asked the Police and Crime Commissioner to present his draft Police and Crime Plan.

The PCC gave a presentation to the Panel about the various elements contained within the draft Plan (attached to the agenda). He commented that, this year due to the timing of the PCC elections in November 2012, the consultation period had been necessarily truncated. The consultation resulted in around 140 responses being received.

He acknowledged that his relationship with the Panel would be critical and advised that he had fully consulted the Chief Constable about the Plan. The delivery plans were being developed and, since being elected, he had appointed a senior adviser and was developing relationships with partners and an open and transparent governance structure.

He wanted to establish how he could contribute to a flourishing economy and the wellbeing of the people and the area. To do this he would work with Local Enterprise Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing boards, the health sector, young people and business. His team combined a balance of being strategic and offering a public face for people to turn to. Particular issues were sexual offences, anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol dependency.

He had been elected to give the public a greater say in policing priorities and there was a balance to be struck between this, professional policing, politics and balancing resources. He had regard to the Community Safety Partnerships' peninsula strategic assessment, consultation responses and his own judgement. He wondered whether the voluntary sector should have a greater contribution and would review this annually. He considered that people wanted to be reassured about the integrity of the police and to understand how they worked. The sharing of resources between rural and urban areas would need to be balanced and value for money had to be demonstrated.

The PCC went through his plan in some detail and Mr Walton (Treasurer, Office of the PCC) highlighted some of the main financial aspects of the plan.

The Chair advised that this and the next agenda item could be considered together and members could ask questions about either.

Following the presentation, the PCC answered members questions:

Q The Plan refers to importance of the strategic role and working together with partners – if the pain of budget reductions is spread too widely would this affect commissioning, budgets and the ability to target priority areas?

A Only two months into the job, the PCC wanted to develop relations with all partners including Community Safety Partnerships, the local Criminal Justice Board, Health and Wellbeing boards and so on and had a matrix of all the areas in which he needed to work. He would put politics aside and hoped to bring other options and solutions. With regard to funding for external organisations to be provided by the Home Office to the Commissioner, it was expected that this would be cut by about 10%. He was minded to provide this funding, in 2013/14, to the organisations who were previous beneficiaries, minus the cut evenly spread. This would be reviewed during 2013/14 with the view to allocating such funds in 2014/15 to areas that promoted the Police and Crime Plan.

Q With respect to the decrease in numbers of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and the increased use of special constables, how would this affect neighbourhood policing teams?

A Reducing PCSOs to around 360 was the correct balance though this was a judgement for the Chief Constable. If there was further pressure later, the balance might have to be re-examined. PCSOs were not being replaced with special constables as they had different roles.

Q When on the campaign trail you said you were minded to not increase the precept by accepting the 'freeze grant'. What has changed your mind?

A The PCC did not recall taking a view on accepting the freeze grant.

Q You mentioned equality when recruiting. I have concerns about positive discrimination as it can become discrimination in its own right – what are your views?

A There was an opportunity to do something positive though there were not many ways for the public sector equality duty to effect change. It was a challenge that was being looked at.

Q There was reference to overtime levels in the presentation – was that a catch all that included getting rid of 'Spanish practices' and reducing sickness levels?

A The Windsor Review was about terms and conditions and has affected us. Surges in requirements, such as policing for the Olympics, need to be catered for. Sickness was not part of the overtime figure and was budgeted for separately.



Performance review mechanisms were a mechanism to review sickness levels and the PCC had already asked for a report about the matter.

Q With regard to domestic abuse/violence and the recording of such crimes - how do you ensure that statistics are meaningful for local people?

A The accurate tracking of domestic and sexual violence was difficult and some background work was being undertaken in relation to safeguarding issues. However, the PCC undertook to review this issue.

Q With regard to domestic abuse/violence and partnership work – Operation Encompass was reported in the media today because procedures had not been correctly followed. What knock on effect could this have?

A There was an intention to roll the scheme out across all areas that wished to take part. Six referrals out of 240 had been missed since September which, although a small percentage, was too many and improvements were being worked on. A response would be sent directly to Councillor Penberthy, who had asked the question.

Q. Could there be something more proactive in the plan about responding to crimes of prejudice? For example, Plymouth had concerns about homophobia and transphobia.

A The intention of the Plan was not to limit the work of the police in this area. The first step was to understand the matter (as highlighted in the strategic assessment). It was also important to demonstrate zero tolerance and lead by example. There would be specific targets, particularly around street violence.

Q Why has no provision been made in the budget for redundancy costs?

A Redundancy costs had been taken into account in the revenue budgets.

Q Could reported crime statistics be consistent year on year?

A The PCC agreed that clarity was important when presenting figures. A key element of the PCC's remit was to explain the information to the public.

Q If you had accepted the two year 'freeze' grant, could it be built into the base budget for next year?

A It was a choice whether to accept the freeze grant or not. However, to take the freeze grant would result in losses over a period of four years.

Q If we support the plan were we being locked into a 2 year freeze?

A The precept would be agreed for one financial year only but certain forward planning assumptions, in order to achieve a sustainable budget in future years, had been built into the budget.

Q Could there be something more supportive/positive in the plan about PCSOs?

A The work of the PCSOs should be celebrated. However, if there were further budget reductions, the balance between special constables and PCSOs would need to be addressed.

Q Concerning the increase in road traffic accidents, particularly in Torridge and North Devon, could there more emphasis in the Plan? Will there be a delivery plan at some stage?

A Road safety issues were included in the Plan as a result of consultation responses. There was an initiative to enable armed response vehicles, whose operatives were traffic trained, to undertake traffic work when they were not being used elsewhere (120 officers). The PCC recognised that there were local issues in parts of Devon. There were delivery plans but the PCC wasn't sure that the Panel would want to see this level of detail as the PCC was responsible for strategy, not operational policy.

Q Was information about the PCC's office staff included in the Plan? There would be savings because the PCC did not have 19 police authority members and no committee meetings. Would he share resources with other PCCs' offices?

A The police authority had a budget of around £1.67million and the PCC's office cost less. During the first year of operation, it wasn't clear how the staffing structure would develop. Responsibility for victim services was now a responsibility and he was re-examining all the job roles. Different expertise and advisers may be required and the PCC undertook to keep the Panel advised of his intentions. He would generate value for money and was accountable to the public.

Q With reference to investing in the police for the future, was there still an issue where the government was holding back £4.6 to £5m under 'damping'?

A The PCC advised that £3.5million of the force's funding was protected and the government didn't owe any money.

Q The number of special constables should be increased however it was understood that they didn't always respond to an incident – was the balance between PCSOs and special constables correct?

A If local communities became more involved in community policing this would augment the neighbourhood teams, which could make the community feel safer.

Q What did he propose to do about the democratic deficit?

A In terms of transparency, the PCC advised that he had every intention of webcasting meetings. Governance issues would be given further consideration during 2014. He intended to be at least as open and transparent as the police authority.

Q What was the effect of damping?

A The Department of Communities and Local Government had not yet published any detail behind future funding arrangements. There was no cash effect.

Q Has the balance of priorities between urban, rural and coastal areas changed? If so, how?

A There was already a summer policing plan mainly for the coastal areas, whilst the majority of crime took place in urban areas. Next week rural crime was going to be highlighted. However, the priority was to reduce crime across the peninsula by the use of an integrated policing model. The focus on safeguarding remained important.

Q The Brixham Coastguard Station was going to close in 2015, what impact would this have?

A We're responsible for 12 miles out from the coast and have 500 miles of coastline. This issue was currently in the political arena.

Q The terrorism threat had a national dimension and there were military bases in the area – was the PCC satisfied with the response capacity of the police force?

A There was a strategic policing requirement, which was a risk based system. The priorities of prevent, protect, prepare and pursue remained in force. There was government funding for these elements, although it was reducing.

Q What was the intention with regard to funding other organisations since the youth justice grant had been redirected towards the police?

A There was expected to be an overall reduction in funding of 10% which would be spread across all areas of funding.

Q The overall number of staff had been reduced but the number of special constables would be increased. How many would there be in future?

A The overall number of police would increase. The plan was to have 600 special constables.

Q What aren't priorities?

A The PCC advised that this had been discussed at the previous meeting.

Q How many surgeries had the PCC held to-date?

A Not many to-date but there was a plan in place and many meetings with organisations had already been held. Social media would be used. The PCC undertook to provide information about surgeries at a later date to Councillor Paynter who had asked the question

Q Was there any information you came across that you could not mention in the Plan? What kind of information would you like to have had?

A The PCC would have preferred a longer period for consultation and the consultation methods could be improved. A concern was that many people and elements of the voluntary sector had not been at all involved in the process and this could be improved.

Q How would the PCC measure social impact and take this into account in his commissioning decisions?

A The PCC would try to make it part of his commissioning strategy and would locate the necessary expertise and skills in order to improve partnership working.

Q Was a revenue reserve of £23.61m more than adequate?

A The reserves were earmarked for specific projects mentioned in the Plan, which would help to achieve the targets set out in the Plan, but would not all be spent in the next financial year. Some were for longer term projects..

Q Was the service provision for the helicopter meeting the force's needs?

A The helicopter was not ideal for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in particular. A fixed wing option may be more suitable.

Q Are you or the public satisfied with the way in which the 101 non-emergency number works?

A The PCC advised that the initial response was usually satisfactory but it was the follow up timescale that caused concerns. Customer service was also an issue which was connected to the closure of police stations. However, only 30% of calls related to policing issues. Should there be more cooperation between partners – a multi-agency approach? There were 700,000 calls a year and 93% of calls were answered within 20 seconds.

Q You mentioned co-location with the fire authority, don't forget local authorities.

A The PCC agreed that it was important to work in partnership wherever possible.

Q How many responses did you receive to your consultation and how will you improve future consultations?

A The PCC advised that there had been 140 responses and a good spread of comments. The PCC's Communications Manager briefed the Panel about the communication strategy and the recent consultation. The draft Plan and questionnaire had been on the PCC's website and provided in three different formats though it was recognised that 20% of people did not have access to a computer. It had been circulated to more than 7,500 people together with pre-paid envelopes. Many people passed the Plan to others and it was estimated that more than 10,000 people had read the draft Plan. The Plan had been sent to all members of the Independent Advisory Group. It had been promoted on facebook and

Twitter. There had also been considerable engagement with the local media. The success of the PCC's role depended on community engagement.

Q Surely a helicopter would be more effective – a fixed wing aircraft has not been able to land at Land's End for eight weeks.

A A helicopter could reach its destination more quickly though there were issues in terms of hover noise. However, the service requirement and the funding were being reassessed.

Q Could you lease a helicopter or have a second helicopter?

A There was a national reserve facility which allowed another helicopter to be available when the force's machine was out of commission.

Q A lot of people would prefer that PCSOs did not attend parish council meetings but were available elsewhere.

A They would need to be selective about attending.

Q How do elderly people without a computer access the Plan? Was it available in libraries?

A The PCC was conscious of the need for hard copies of the Plan to be available. The Plan will have a phone number on it and we'll try and find an inexpensive way of distributing them.

Q The issue of damping was not understood – how would the budget be affected

A The damping was applied to all police organisations – out of that 1% of grant had been lost The PCC would send further information to Councillor Greenslade who had asked the question.

Q There had previously been different levels in the percentage increase of Council Tax raised by local government and the police. Did the police have the same restrictions in terms of a referendum?

A The percentage increase at which the police and local government would have to hold a referendum was the same – 2%

Q Was there still a budget smoothing fund?

A Yes, it would be used over the four year period in order to smooth budget fluctuations and was part of the general reserves.

AGREED that:

- (a) the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel approve the Police and Crime Plan subject to the comments made to the Police and Crime

Commissioner by members of the Panel and recorded on the webcast and in the minutes; and

- (b) the Police and Crime Commissioner IS requested to submit a final copy of the Plan to members of the Police and Crime Panel prior to its publication.

33. **CONSIDERATION OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED LEVEL OF PRECEPT**

The Police and Crime Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to increase the precept by 2% and the reasoning behind that proposal (as presented, discussed and considered in the previous item above).

AGREED that, having considered the evidence presented by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable and their support staff, the precept proposal is accepted without further recommendation.