

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Subject: Review and Recommendations in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Budget and Proposed Level of Precept 2015/16.

Date: 15 April 2015

Author: Ross Jago, Policy and Performance Officer

Host authority: Plymouth City Council

Contact details: Tel: (01752) 304469 Email: ross.jago@plymouth.gov.uk

Executive Summary:

The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) is responsible for scrutinising and supporting the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and also has a role in supporting the PCC in the effective exercise of his function, acting as a critical friend.

The Police and Crime Panels (Precept and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012¹ came into force on 22nd November 2012 and made provision for the scrutiny, by Police and Crime Panels (PCP), of proposals from Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) as to the issuing of a precept.

At the PCP meeting of 5 February 2016 representatives of the PCC presented the budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy along with the PCC's proposal for the level of precept for 2015/16 of 1.99%. After consideration of the evidence and the reasoning behind that proposal, the PCP agreed to support an increase of the precept by 1.99% with the following recommendations:

- Agreed that the draft Police and Crime Plan of the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner is made available at the first meeting of the Police and Crime Panel in the new municipal year.
- Agreed that Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is explicitly mentioned as a top priority within any new Police and Crime Plan reflecting the threat identified in the Peninsula Strategic Assessment and highlighted by Community Safety Partnerships in the force area.
- Agreed that the recommendation resulting from Cornwall Council's select committee review of the Engagement of Safer Cornwall Partners in the Domestic Homicide Review Process be built into police service plans, business plans and policies.
- The Panel agreed to recommend that a written report regarding the Workforce Plan along with the Plan itself is scrutinised at the April 2016 meeting of the Panel.
- The Panel agreed to recommend that a written report and detailed benefits profile in relation to the 'Strategic Alliance' is scrutinised at the April 2016 meeting of the Panel.
- The Panel agreed to recommend that a written report outlining savings to be made from this proposal is scrutinised by the Panel following an ongoing tendering process.
- The Panel recommended that a written report is provided to a future meeting to include business cases and associated work which has taken place since the Police and Crime Commissioner received responsibility of the force estate and how he has worked with partners, in particular Local Authorities across the force area.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2271/made>

- The Panel have requested written details on future regional collaboration of force control centres (with a focus on business cases where available)
- The Panel have requested further written detail on the profile of the significant levels of reserve and projected spend over the next four year period.

Immediately following the PCP meeting, the Host Authority drafted, in liaison with the Chair of the PCP, a report and recommendations on behalf of the PCP (**Appendix I**) incorporating the above comments and recommendations of the PCP meeting. The PCP complied with its statutory requirement to review and make a report to the PCC on the proposed levy.

The PCC has responded in writing to the PCP's report and his response, are included in red at appendix I.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the PCP:

- Reviews and notes the PCC's response to the recommendations of the PCP.

The above reflects the PCP role to effectively and robustly scrutinise the PCC's budget and precept in an open and transparent manner and ensure that issues of mutual concern or interest can be shared in a way that is both constructive and supportive.

Alternative options considered, and reasons for recommended action:

N/A

Background Papers: None.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

17 February 2016

To: Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S RESPONSE TO REPORT OF THE DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 5 FEBRUARY 2016

The Panel met on 5 February 2016 to consider my proposed precept and my plans for refreshing the Police and Crime Plan 2014-2017. I am delighted that the proposed precept was supported.

I am in receipt of the Panel's formal reports in relation to the matters discussed at the meeting and, as required in statute, I hereby respond to those reports and their recommendations.

I have set out below my responses and intend to publish these on the OPCC website in due course.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's decision not to refresh the Police and Crime Plan 2014-2017

Panel Recommendations

- (a) Agreed that the draft Police and Crime Plan of the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner is made available at the first meeting of the Police and Crime Panel in the new municipal year.
- (b) Agreed that Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is explicitly mentioned as a top priority within any new Police and Crime Plan reflecting the threat identified in the Peninsula Strategic Assessment and highlighted by Community Safety Partnerships in the force area.
- (c) Agreed that the recommendation resulting from Cornwall Council's select committee review of the Engagement of Safer Cornwall Partners in the Domestic Homicide Review Process be built into police service plans, business plans and policies.

Police and Crime Commissioner's response

There is a statutory requirement for the newly elected PCC to publish a Police and Crime Plan before the end of the financial year during which they are elected (March 2017). I will ensure that the incoming PCC is made aware of the Panel's recommendations.

2016/17 Precept Notification

Having considered my proposal to increase the precept by 1.99% I am pleased that the Police and Crime Panel agreed to support this unanimously.

Police and Crime Commissioner's response

During the debate members of the Police and Crime Panel raised specific concerns and made recommendations in relation to –

1. **Future Reductions to Police Workforce** - The Panel was concerned that the Police and Crime Commissioner's Medium Term Financial Strategy highlighted further reductions to Police Officers and Police Staff over the next 3 – 4 years and that the Panel had not been able to scrutinise a Workforce Plan. The Panel agreed to recommend that a written report regarding the Workforce Plan along with the Plan itself is scrutinised at the April 2016 meeting of the Panel.

The timescales for the completion of work relating to the Workplan are being finalised. A written report on the process and the timeframes involved will be provided for the April meeting.

2. **Strategic Alliance with Dorset** – Members of the Panel felt that there had not been sufficient focus on the details of savings or service changes in relation to the 'Strategic Alliance', in particular whether Call Management and Communications Units were likely to move further away from the bulk of the policing area. The Panel agreed to recommend that a written report and detailed benefits profile in relation to the 'Strategic Alliance' is scrutinised at the April 2016 meeting of the Panel.

A written report will be brought to the April 2016 meeting of the Police and Crime Panel, as agreed in the Panel Workplan in December 2015.

3. **Office Move** – The Panel was concerned that the proposal to move the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner into Middlemoor HQ was still an open issue and highlighted within the Medium Term Financial Strategy as a cost of £500,000. The Panel agreed to recommend that a written report outlining savings to be made from this proposal is scrutinised by the Panel following an ongoing tendering process.

Following the completion of the tendering process and a final decision on the proposed move of the Police and Crime Commissioner's office to Middlemoor, a written update will be provided to the appropriate meeting of the Panel.

4. **Estates** - The Panel recommended that a written report is provided to a future meeting to include business cases and associated work which has taken place since the Police and Crime Commissioner received responsibility of the force estate and how he has worked with partners, in particular Local Authorities across the force area.

As the Police and Crime Commissioner has only recently taken over responsibility for the police estate, it is suggested that a written is provided for the autumn meeting of the Panel.

5. **Income generation and Grant Maximisation** - the Panel has requested further written information on Income Generation and Grant Maximisation being undertaken by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner,

Further information will be provided in the PCC's next update report, to the April meeting of the Panel.

6. **Regional Collaboration** – The Panel have requested written details on future regional collaboration of force control centres (with a focus on business cases where available)

As work on the different strands of regional collaboration continues, the Commissioner will provide written updates on new developments and progress.

7. **Reserves** – The Panel have requested further written detail on the profile of the significant levels of reserve and projected spend over the next four year period.

Further information will be provided in the PCC's next update report, to the April meeting of the Panel.

Publication

In accordance with my statutory obligations, I will be publishing this response on the OPCC website in due course.

Tony Hogg

Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
17 February 2016