



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: For PCC approval.

Title: Precept Proposal 2020/21

Executive Summary:

Legislation requires that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) agrees their budget and associated precept and basic council tax for the forthcoming year before 1st March each year. However before doing so the PCC must notify the relevant Police and Crime Panel, by the 31st January, of the precept which they propose to issue for the following financial year.

The PCC has been informed by the Home Office that "We are giving police forces £700 million for the recruitment of 6,000 additional officers by the end of March 2021, which represents an increase of almost 10% of the core grant funding provided last year. Assuming full take up of precept flexibility, overall funding for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will increase by £915 million to £13.1 billion next year."

This precept flexibility is that PCC's have been provided with is the option to increase their Band D precept by £10 in 2020/21, without the need to call a local referendum. In Cleveland this equates to an increase of 3.99%.

The results of consultation with the public of Cleveland, in relation to the level of precept for 2020/21, which had 368 responses, has resulted in the following:

- 63.9% said that they agree with the proposal to increase the precept by 3.99% and would like to see the Chief Constable make significant improvements to Cleveland Police, while
- 36.1% said that they do not agree with the proposal to increase the precept by 3.99% and understand this means Cleveland Police will have to make cuts to services and the Force's progress will be set back.

If the precept is increased by £10 then the Net Budget Requirement is expected to increase in 2020/21, by over £8.4m (or 6.4%), and after taking into account the additional grant that will be provided if the Force deliver against the Governments recruitment targets for Police Officers, the total funding available in 2020/21, in comparison to 2019/20, is forecast to increase by over £10m.

Decision:

The PCC is asked to give approval, based on the financial needs of the organisation and the public consultation to propose, to the Police and Crime Panel, the Police Precept for 2020/21 as £260.54, for a Band D property in Cleveland. This would be an increase of £10.00 per annum (around 19p per week), from the 2019/20 level. However as most properties within Cleveland are in Council Tax band A-C these households would see an increase in their bill of 13-17p per week based on the proposed £10 increase.

In doing so the PCC is asked to agree that:

- The Net Budget Requirement for 2020/21 as £140,146k.
- The Council Tax Requirement as £40,674,853
- The tax base for 2020/21 as 156,117.50 Band D equivalent properties.

The following precepts be levied on the four billing authorities:

Hartlepool	£6,482,756
Middlesbrough	£8,941,472
Redcar	£10,379,992
Stockton	£14,870,633

Agree that council tax be set at the following levels:

Council Tax		£10 or 3.99% increase	
Property Band	Proportion	Council Tax to 2 Decimal Places	Council Tax to 3 Decimal Places
		£	£
A	2/3rds	173.69	173.693
B	7/9ths	202.64	202.642
C	8/9ths	231.59	231.591
D	1	260.54	260.540
E	1&2/9ths	318.44	318.438
F	1&4/9ths	376.34	376.336
G	1&2/3rds	434.23	434.233
H	2	521.08	521.080

OPCC Lead Officer: Michael Porter

Contractor Details (if applicable): Not applicable

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If yes please provide further details below)

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's Chief Finance Officer where the decision has financial implications)

The financial implications of this Decision are set out in the Executive Summary and/or the attached report. This decision should provide sufficient funding to underpin the financial needs of the organisation for 2020/21 and accelerate the recruitment of Police Officers into the Force, in comparison to the Governments timeframes, with 55 FTE more Police Officers being recruited in 2020/21 than the 72 FTEs than the Government are initially funding.

The proposed precept increase will enable the PCC to, amongst other things, provide sufficient levels of funding to the Chief Constable to support the plans and structures that the Force has articulated to the PCC to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan, this includes all of the posts that the Chief Constable has indicated as required to provide the necessary support and resilience to address the concerns raised within last year's HMICFRS report.

The decision will ensure that the PCC meets their legislative requirements in relation to the Police element of the Council Tax. The decision being requested is in line with the statutory requirements of the PCC, it is within the limits set by the Government before a referendum would be triggered and is the first step in enabling the PCC to meet their statutory obligations in relation to Precept and Budget setting.

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

Having read this report and having considered such information as has been provided at the time of being asked to express this view, the Chief Executive is satisfied that this report does not ask the PCC to make a decision which would (or would be likely to) give rise to a contravention of the law.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None arise

Human Rights Implications

None arise

Sustainability Implications

This report is part of the process required to ensure that the process for proposing a precept to the Police and Crime Panel is open and transparent. It recommends an option that the PCC can consider before proposing a precept to the PCP and is part of the process of establishing sustainable annual and medium term financial plans and maintaining prudent financial management within the organisation.

Risk Management Implications

The requirements on the PCC to propose and consult with the PCP on their proposals for Precept are set out in legislation and covered in the attached report. Failure to start the consultation process with the PCP before the end of January 2020 and to conclude this process, including setting a precept before 1st March 2020, would result in an illegal budget.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Monitoring Officer

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed

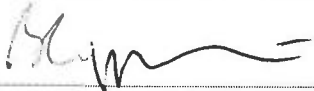


Date 31 January 2020

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed



Date 31 January 2020