



Decision Reference: 2023/2024 - 0034

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: For PCC approval

Title: Police Precept Proposal 2024-25

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 Police Settlement for 2024/25 has provided the PCC with an increase in Core Government Funding of £8,670k, or 7.3%.

Unfortunately, all of this funding increase is either specifically linked to expenditure or linked to decisions already made nationally, as per the below:

- £2,208k more has been provided in additional core grant to cover the costs of last year's pay award.
- £3,479k more has been provided to ensure Police Officer numbers are not only maintained at last year's level but increased by a further 35 in Cleveland.
- £2,983k more has been provided to pay for higher Employer's contributions into the Police Officer Pension Scheme.

The Government have also provided PCCs with the flexibility to increase the Police element of the council tax by £13 and have assumed these increases in the communication on overall levels of Police funding.

As with last year the PCC has been clear with the Force that in asking the public of Cleveland to pay more, they should expect more from their Police Service.

The PCC has therefore asked the Force to set out their priorities for 2024/25, linking to those areas that are indicated as a priority in the Police and Crime Plan.

As with last year, which saw an increase in Police Officers of 43, this year the Force have continued to highlight the need for additional Police Officers.

The proposed precept increase, of £13, for a Band D property is expected to raise just over £2.1m and will fund an additional 48 Police Officers.

The planned increases in Police Officers will take Cleveland Police to the highest number of Police Officers since 2011/12.

Consultation with the public of Cleveland indicated strong support for a precept increase with 54.3% indicating that would be willing to pay £12 or more per year.

Decision:

The PCC is asked to agree that an increase in the precept for 2024/25 of £13, or 4.47%, from the level set in 2023/24, be proposed to the Police and Crime Panel for their consideration. In doing so the Band D level of Precept for Policing within Cleveland would increase by £13 from £290.73 per annum to £303.73

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 PCC's Chief Finance Officer has advised that the financial implications of this Decision are set out in the Executive Summary and the report produced to send to the Police and Crime Panel that is provided with this form. The decision will ensure that the PCC meets their legislative requirements in relation to the Police element of the precept and will also ensure that there is sufficient funding available in 2024/25 to balance the financial plans of the organisation.

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

There are no legal implications arising.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

None arising from this decision.

Human Rights Implications:

None arising from this decision.

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. Failure to start the consultation process with the PCP before the end of January 2024 and to conclude this process, including setting a precept before 1st March 2024, would result in an illegal budget.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Monitoring Officer:

Signed



Date 26.01.24

Police and Crime Commissioner:

Signed



Date 26.01.2024