

**POLICE PRECEPT FOR 2016/17
AND
MEDIUM TERM RESOURCE STRATEGY 2016/17-2020/21**

DATE	5 February 2015
REPORT OF	Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside
SUBJECT	Police Precept Proposals for 2016/17
STATUS	Open

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the 2016/17 precept proposal. The report is supported by the Commissioner's Medium Term Resource Strategy (MTRS) document covering the period 2016/17 to 2020/21. This provides detailed information on the revenue and capital budget assumptions used in formulating the Strategy and sets out details of the options considered by the Commissioner when making the decision on his precept proposal.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Police and Crime Panel:
- 2.1.1 Endorse the Commissioner's preferred option of increasing the precept for 2016/17, by 1.99% (from £180.08 to £183.67 for a Band D property), the increase that he consulted upon and that has significant public support.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This is the fourth year that the Panel has considered a precept proposal recommended by the Commissioner.
- 3.2 There has been no change to the statutory timetable for the development of the precept proposals by Police and Crime Commissioners and for scrutiny by Police and Crime Panels.

- 3.3 The timetable for consideration of the precept is as follows:
- By 1 February. The Commissioner is required to notify the Panel of his proposed precept
 - By 8 February. The Panel is required to review the proposed precept and make a report to the Commissioner. The Panel can propose that the precept be issued, make recommendations regarding the precept level, or veto with a two thirds majority. If the Panel does not veto the proposed precept the Commissioner must have regard to the report and recommendations of the Panel and give the Panel a response to them
 - By 15 February. If the Panel vetoes the original precept the Commissioner must notify the Panel of the revised precept
 - By 22 February. The Panel must review the revised precept and make a second report to the Commissioner accepting or rejecting the revision and make recommendations
 - By 1 March. The Commissioner must give the Panel a response to its second report and issue the precept. If the second proposal is rejected by the Panel this does not prevent the Commissioner from issuing the revised precept as the precept for the financial year
- 3.4 If the Panel decides that a second report is necessary then arrangements will have to be made for additional meetings of the Panel to consider revised proposals. It should be noted that the dates set out in the regulations take precedence over any local arrangements.
- 3.5 For 2015/16 the Commissioner agreed to a Council Tax increase of 1.99% with the Band D precept for the year being set at £180.08.

4. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AND THE MTRS

- 4.1 The decision on the precept needs to be made in the context of medium term financial and resource plans as it impacts on future years. This is in line with good practice. The precept proposal and budget considerations set out in this report are made after having regard to a five year financial forecast set out within the MTRS. This forecast is based on stated assumptions and on the best available information at this time.
- 4.2 The MTRS recognises the favourable outcome for policing in general in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2015 (CSR2015), which is also reflected in the Provisional Police Grant Report for 2016/17. It must be noted however that the Report only covers 2016/17 and that there is considerable uncertainty over the levels of funding that will be available to PCCs in 2017/18 and later years.

- 4.3 The Strategy identifies the resources that will underpin the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017 and the three public facing strategic 'outcomes' set out within it:
- Reduce crime
 - Protect the public and improve safety
 - Improve the quality of victims' services
- 4.4 These outcomes have been retained and provide the long term perspective and consistent view of what the Commissioner is seeking to achieve for the public. They continue to be underpinned by shorter term objectives. These provide the immediate focus for the police and partners.
- 4.5 As opposed to the one-off exercises to consult on the budget proposals in 2014/15 and 2015/16, for 2016/17 a question was incorporated into the Commissioner's regular quarterly surveys carried out during the year. The results show that 85% of those responding support paying an extra 2% to help to protect local policing.
- 4.6 This information supplements the face-to-face discussions during street surgeries and public events that have once again allowed the Commissioner to have a more balanced dialogue on police funding with a large number of local people.

5. PROVISIONAL POLICE GRANT SETTLEMENT

- 5.1 The position on financing for policing changed significantly with the Chancellor's announcement as part of the CSR2015 that policing would be protected. This was in sharp contrast to announcements in the summer when it was suggested that as an unprotected service there was a likelihood of further budget reductions of between 25% and 40%. The CSR announcement was widely welcomed by the police service nationally as well as by the Commissioner.
- 5.2 Statements from Ministers incorporated significant changes in the presentation of the way in which the overall level of resources for policing were described. In addition, they signalled that notwithstanding the more favourable financial position, savings and efficiencies would still be required and reforms would need to continue at an increasing pace.
- 5.3 In terms of presentation Ministers have indicated that funding for policing as a whole would be protected after taking the ability to raise income locally into account. In addition, in a reversal of the previous practice of seeking to encourage freezing the Council Tax, including financial inducements with the offer of freeze grants, Government predictions of the available level of funding for 2016/17 are now being based upon the assumption that all PCCs will maximise the amounts that can be raised from precepts without triggering a referendum.
- 5.4 The Provisional Police Grant Report for 2016/17 was announced on 17 December 2015. It reflects the improved financial position, setting out details of the funding that will be made available to the Commissioner in 2016/17.

- 5.5 The Grant Report is a consultation, which closed on 25 January 2016. The Deputy Chief Executive/Treasurer and the Director of Finance, the two s151 Officers, have contributed to the responses to the consultation from the Police and Crime Commissioners Treasurers' Society (PACCTs) and from the National Police Chiefs' Council. The Final Police Grant Report 2016/17 will be announced on 3 February 2016 and will be debated and voted on in Parliament on 10 February 2016.
- 5.6 The Settlement for 2016/17 was intended to be based upon a revised funding formula for the distribution of police resources along with the implications of the CSR. The Home Office conducted a review of the formula in 2015 but in November the planned revision was abandoned following the discovery that out of date data had been used. At this time the Policing Minister announced that the process would be undertaken again in 2016 and that a new formula would be applied in 2017/18. To date there is no information on how this work will be undertaken or what the likely impact of the resulting changes will be. Different illustrations of the impact of the failed formula proposals showed wide variations in the amounts that PCCs would have received under that arrangement. It is not possible therefore at this stage to anticipate the likely effect of formula changes on funding allocations beyond 2016/17 of formula changes.
- 5.7 There is further uncertainty as there is no information on whether the legacy grants relating to the Localisation of Council Tax and freeze grants will be included within the amount to be allocated by the new formula or whether they will continue to be paid to individual PCCs in their present form. The legacy grants for Humberside are in excess of £10m and represent a greater share of these grants nationally than the current formula grant. The MTRS assumes that the current arrangements will continue for this funding.
- 5.8 A by-product of the abandonment of the formula review was that the Home Office has had to distribute funding for 2016/17 on the same basis as in previous years. This has meant that once again all PCCs have received the same reduction in grant. The reduction in general grant is 0.6% across the board.
- 5.9 Based on Government predictions, which use a lower assumption for taxbase growth than that identified by the billing authorities in 2016/17, the PCC for Humberside would be 0.3% better off if he increases the precept by the maximum of 2%. A precept freeze would result in a 0.4% decrease, again based on Home Office figures.
- 5.10 The financial position of the Commissioner has been further improved as a result of a 2.77% increase in the taxbase with the billing authorities all reporting significantly higher numbers of Band D equivalent properties than anticipated.
- 5.11 In terms of future funding, the Home Secretary has confirmed that there will be a 1.3% real terms reduction in Government support for policing in total over four years but that this will be a flat settlement if precepts are increased by the maximum allowed without requiring a referendum.
- 5.12 As is normal some information such as support for Counter Terrorism and on capital grant remains outstanding but this is unlikely to be material to the MTRS for Humberside.

- 5.13 For 2016/17 the principles relating to the need for a referendum on Council Tax and precept decisions were announced alongside the Settlement. For most PCCs including the PCC for Humberside that limit is 2%. There is some flexibility for the 10 PCCs with the lowest precepts to raise their Council tax by up to £5 but this option is not available to the Commissioner.
- 5.14 Once again the Provisional Police Grant Report was received very late and it applies for one year. The uncertainty last year as a result of the impending General Election has now been replaced by the uncertain prospects from the formula change referred to above and lack of detail on the amounts to be top sliced in future years.
- 5.15 In last year's report, reference was made to "top slicing", the method by which the Home Office "reallocates" money from the total amount available for policing for specific issues. This reduces the amount available to be distributed to PCCs. Given the assurances that the protection is for the service as a whole, a substantial increase in the amounts "top sliced" or "reallocated" is a significant risk.
- 5.16 There are two particular areas of concern: the replacement of the Airwave system, with the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) and also with the creation of a new "Transformational Fund". There is £80m set aside for the ESMCP next year and the Transformational Fund amounts to £76.4m in 2016/17. This has been earmarked for investment in additional firearms and other capabilities as well as support for Digital Justice and Digital Investigations.
- 5.17 It is known that substantial investment is required for the ESMCP beyond 2016/17 and there is obviously significant potential for extra demand on the Transformational Fund in future years. At this stage there is no information on what will be allocated to these or any other programmes which could have a significant negative impact on allocations to PCCs from 2017/18.
- 5.18 £55m has been top sliced for another round of the Innovation Fund and the Commissioner in conjunction with the PCC for South Yorkshire and other partners has made a range of applications for support from this Fund next year. Decisions on these bids are likely to be announced at the end of March 2016. Reasonable provision has been made to ensure that the Commissioner's commitments in respect of any successful bids can be met.
- 5.19 It is widely recognised that this ongoing uncertainty seriously inhibits accurate long term financial planning which is vital, particularly when Chief Constables and Commissioners are implementing significant change programmes, which have substantial lead times.
- 5.20 The much better than anticipated CSR 2015 outcome also presents its own challenge as the Commissioner and the Force have to unwind the savings plans that were in train and to refocus. This has meant looking at the option of retaining more staff than was originally planned to be available, re-examining the planned use of reserves and looking at investment opportunities. Many PCCs will have found themselves in a similar position.

6. THE “AND CRIME” AGENDA

- 6.1 The “and Crime” agenda has continued to move ahead with expansion due to the responsibility for commissioning victims’ services passing fully to the Commissioner in 2015/16.
- 6.2 The Commissioner has maintained the same base budget of £2.3m to enable continued support for community safety partnership activities and intends to do so in 2016/17 and beyond. Victims’ Commissioning grants have also been protected with an allocation of almost £1.1m announced by the Home Office Minister towards the end of January 2016. The PCC also has access to his Partnership Reserve to supplement spending in these areas if these provisions prove insufficient to meet demand.
- 6.3 Longer term assurances have been given to partners in connection with substance misuse interventions. Funding is now linked to their commissioning timetable and tender profiles. The arrangements include the Commissioner taking a proportional share in service efficiencies and cost savings applied in new contracts as they are agreed. Proposed amendments to the provision of support for CSPs have been communicated to lead officers and CSP Chairs. Financial support will continue to be provided to Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and for youth engagement and youth interventions.
- 6.3 In 2014/15 the Commissioner launched his Crime Reduction Fund (CCRF). This has been used to support a range of local initiatives with applications coming from community and voluntary groups as well as local councils. The CCRF will continue to operate in 2016/17 and later years.

7. COUNCIL TAX INCOME

- 7.1 As indicated above the Commissioner will benefit from an increase in the taxbase. This amounts to 6,905 more Band D equivalent properties, an increase of 2.77% over the figure for 2015/16. The forecasts of precept income take this into account and the increases built in for future years have been revised upward.
- 7.2 In addition to the taxbase increase billing authorities are also reporting substantial increases in their estimated Collection Fund balances. These have risen to £1.450m.
- 7.3 For 2016/17 the referendum limit has been confirmed at 2% as in previous years. The additional flexibility afforded to some PCCs to increase their precepts by £5 is not available to the PCC for Humberside. Any increase of 2% or over will require a referendum. This would have to take place, after the bills have been issued. If the vote was lost then the Commissioner would have to meet all of the costs associated with the referendum and any rebilling exercise, which could be in excess of £1m.

8. COUNCIL TAX/BUDGET OPTIONS

- 8.1 Budget forecasts, based on current assumptions, are set out in the MTRS and detailed in the appendices. The budget for expenditure includes the assumptions in relation to partnership activity as outlined above.
- 8.2 The MTRS illustrates three options considered by the Commissioner namely:-
- Option 1. Based upon a Council Tax freeze in 2016/17 with 2% precept increases modelled for later years.
 - Option 2:- Based on an increase in Council Tax of 1% in 2016/17 and assumes 2% increases in future years.
 - Option 3:- Based on an increase in Council Tax of 2% in 2016/17 and assumes 2% increases in future years. This reflects the proposal for 2016/17 used in the public consultation. It is the recommended option.
- 8.5 A comparison shows that in Option 1, the budget gap to be addressed by 2020/21 would be £7.623m compared with £7.011m for Option 2 and £6.388m for Option 3. These options assume that savings already identified will be achieved.
- 8.6 The Commissioner proposes that the budget gap in 2016/17 will be covered by the use of reserves and assumes that the savings accruing over time from the Strategic Partnership Programme (SPP) and Priority Based Budget that have not been planned into the MTRS initiatives will be sufficient to balance the budget.
- 8.7 Members will be aware from the report to the PCP last February on the MTRS for 2015/16 to 2019/20 when it was reported that there was an assumption of a baseline establishment of 3,309 at 1 April 2014 made up of 1,650 police officers and 1,659 police staff (including 310 PCSOs) to be reduced by 251 made up of 103 police officers and 148 police staff (including 40 PCSOs). The forecast also reflected a further loss of a further 208 posts in 2015/16 made up of 53 police officers and 155 police staff (including 14 PCSOs).
- 8.8 Following a reappraisal of the position, it is now proposed that the resource planning assumptions should be based upon the principle of maintaining the current establishment for police officers. This means that there will be 1521 police officers, an increase of 27, over and above the original projections for 2016/17. The MTRS assumes that this level of police officer establishment will continue for the medium term.
- 8.9 The commitment to invest in maintaining the number of police officers at a higher level than previously budgeted for will enable neighbourhood policing to be protected and for communities to have named officers and PCSOs. It will also enable additional resources to be available in areas of increasing demand such as Cybercrime, fraud and for Protecting Vulnerable People.

- 8.10 The position will need to be closely monitored. This will involve ongoing appraisal of turnover, transfers in and out of Force and the ability to attract and train the required number of officers. The resource plans will be kept under constant review as to progress against forecast and sustainability in the event that the assumptions of Government support change significantly in the years beyond 2017/18

9. RESERVES

- 9.1 The Commissioner has indicated that he will continue to operate with a General Reserve and a number of earmarked reserves. These include the Performance Improvement Reserve (PIR), Risk Management Reserve and Partnership Reserve together with a Road Safety Reserve created in 2015/16 as part of a review of Safer Roads Humber. This review is continuing and the arrangements for accessing and allocating the funding in this reserve will be determined when it has been concluded. The improved financial outlook has also allowed a reappraisal of the amount held in the PIR. The MTRS now incorporates an assumption that £5m of the balance in the PIR should be set aside for a Technology and Capability Fund and that the balance in the Partnership Reserve should be topped up to £1m to enable partnership and joint working to be supported and encouraged.
- 9.2 The aim of the Technology and Capability Fund is to ensure that the Chief Constable has access to resources to enable the Force to utilise up to date technology together with associated training, to maximise efficiency and impact, as well as addressing capacity and capability in areas of new and increasingly complex demand. The Fund would also provide resources to meet commitments for the PCC's contribution to any successful Innovation Fund bids.
- 9.3 The PCC has also agreed to reaffirm the policy of maintaining the General Reserve at 3% of the Net Revenue Budget.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 The Commissioner has to set a balanced budget in order to be able to raise the funding necessary to finance policing, "and crime" and community safety initiatives.
- 10.2 The Force has already delivered substantial business change through previous savings plans and has achieved targets set for budget reductions. This has limited the calls on reserves to support the revenue budget.
- 10.3 In the event that spending pressures increase beyond those anticipated within the MTRS and/or the estimated level of savings cannot be achieved then the Commissioner recognises that there may be further calls on reserves beyond those already proposed. The balance of reserves will be reviewed continuously together with the impact on the assumptions of staffing levels.
- 10.4 None of the options presented to the Commissioner would give rise to the need for a referendum and so the risks associated with a public vote and the proposal being defeated do not arise.

11 CAPITAL PROGRAMME/FUNDING

11.1 Work has continued within the Force and in conjunction with partners to identify opportunities for joint working and asset rationalisation in order to reduce costs and to generate capital receipts.

11.2 The following table outlines the estimated costs of the current programme over the next five financial years.

Capital	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000
Expenditure					
Estate Strategy	3,932	1,371	1,820	500	0
IT Equipment	6,157	4,054	1,888	1,456	1,012
Vehicle/ Equipment*	3,330	831	819	689	1,147
Asset Replacement Plan	400	401	381	499	0
TOTAL	13,819	6,658	4,907	3,144	2,159
Financing					
Grant**	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
Specific Capital Grant	28	28	54	50	0
Revenue	0	5	95	155	0
Loan	12,741	5,574	3,708	1,878	1,109
Capital Receipts***	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	13,819	6,657	4,907	3,144	2,159

Note:- * Includes advancing the Proton replacement programme

** Details of the capital grant for 2016/17

*** Funding from capital receipts will only be assumed when there is certainty about the timing and amounts involved.

12 COLLABORATION

12.1 The MTRS incorporates the latest assumptions of spending in connection with collaboration across the four forces in the Yorkshire and the Humber Region.

12.2 The budget projections also include estimates of spending and income in relation to the joint work with South Yorkshire OPCC and South Yorkshire Police.

- 12.3 This collaboration has now moved on with the creation of a Strategic Partnership. A The SPP is in development under the control of the Programme Director (the Assistant Chief Officer (Support) and his support team. The costs of the team are reflected in the MTRS together with savings already identified. The team will incorporate Priority Based Budgeting techniques and reviews will be undertaken of all services with the exception of Neighbourhood Policing to identify savings and efficiencies. It is anticipated that these initiatives will make a major contribution to closing the budget gaps.
- 12.4 Provision has been made within the MTRS for costs associated with appropriate national products and services.
- 12.5 The MTRS also incorporates the financial implications of the joint operation based at Melton with the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service for the maintenance and servicing of fleet vehicles.
- 12.6 The arrangements for the provisional support for Community Safety Partners and the 'and Crime' agenda have continued and the increased importance of partnership working has been recognised. Joint working has and will continue with local authority and other public, private and voluntary and community sector partners and this has been extended with greater and more detailed emphasis on Victims' Services.

13 S.151 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- 13.1 In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and associated guidance, the Deputy Chief Executive/Treasurer and the Director of Finance both have responsibilities under s 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. As such, they are required to report on their view of the robustness of the budget, the assumptions that underpin it and on the adequacy of reserves. The Commissioner must have regard to these views when making his decision on the budget and the precept.
- 13.2 The officers have confirmed that the budgets within the MTRS are robust and that the level of reserves in each case is adequate.

14 COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSIONER

- 14.1 As I have previously stated, my Police and Crime Plan sets out my vision for making communities safer. All of the available resources outlined in this report must be used wisely to achieve the aspirations set out in the Plan and I continue to be dependent on the Chief Constable, the Force and other partners to realise my goals.
- 14.2 By the end of 2015/16 it is estimated that around £45m will have been saved from policing budgets since 2010. Savings were achieved originally through a series of managed business changes. However, to re-balance the force across the entire area and meet the need for budget reductions the Force had to be restructured.
- 14.3 Although the protection afforded to policing in the CSR2015 is extremely welcome and a much better settlement than we could have anticipated there is once again significant uncertainty in forecasting beyond 2016/17.

- 14.4 The detailed assumptions within the MTRS for 2017/18 and later years represent the best estimates of income and expenditure based on intelligence currently available. The fact that policing was seen as an unprotected service in the weeks leading up to the CSR announcement meant that the service was looking at further budget reductions of between 25% and 40%. We had been working on these assumptions and there is now a challenge to reverse our plans.
- 14.5 The CSR and the Police Grant Settlement represent a pleasant reversal of fortunes. However, I am clear that savings and efficiencies must still be found and reform must continue if we are to modernise and ensure that the Force is fit for purpose in the 21st century to maximise the level of protection and service for the public of this area.
- 14.6 This year I added a question to my quarterly surveys to assess the views of the public on whether they would be prepared to pay 2% more to help to maintain local policing. The results show that the public were prepared to pay more for policing with over 85% of those responding in favour. This compares with 74% and 75% in the two previous years.
- 14.7 In the past I have expressed my concerns about the lack of financial manoeuvrability that I have, given that we only raise around a quarter of the budget through the Council Tax. The potential amount to be generated by a 1% increase in precept is c£460k. I remain concerned therefore that, despite my political mandate, I will be subject to ongoing restrictions on increases in precept in the next and future years. This continues to mean that policing will remain highly dependent on Government funding, which currently funds the remaining three quarters. This funding from 2017/18 will be subject to a new formula distribution the effects of which are unknown. I am conscious however that I will benefit from the substantial increase in the taxbase.
- 14.8 It is disappointing that the grant Settlement is once again only for one year. Although Government has protected policing I will receive 0.6% less in grant than in 2015/16. It is also now being assumed that precepts will be increased by the maximum level possible if funding at current level is to be maintained. Even on this basis, significant budget pressures such as those resulting from changes in National Insurance and the new apprentices levy will have to be found locally in addition to pay and non pay inflation. I am pleased that the permanent increase in the income base is helping to meet the cost of some of these budget pressures which will not be met by Government grant.
- 14.9 I am once again concerned that money that would have been available to distribute to Commissioners is being diverted through the opaque system for top slicing. This is a particular worry given the investment required to replace the Airwave system. It only adds to the difficulties in budget planning.
- 14.10 The collaboration with the Forces and Commissioners across the Yorkshire and the Humber area has continued and I have been actively engaged through the Regional Collaboration Board. It is disappointing, however, that progress has been frustratingly slow and so we have forged ahead with a closer association with South Yorkshire.

- 14.11 The joint working with South Yorkshire has resulted in the formation of a Strategic Partnership. The commitment to examine all activities with the exception of Neighbourhood Policing is now underway and it is expected to make a significant contribution to balancing the budget in future years when the programme becomes fully established and specific savings are identified.
- 14.12 I have continued to work with partners and to provide financial support for a range of services, including interventions for drug and substance misuse, Youth Offending Teams and for the implementation of the Positive Lifestyles Programme. I will also continue with the CCRF to engage the wider public in addressing crime and community safety issues.
- 14.13 I am determined that these activities will continue and I have already set out my proposals for working with the CSPs in the next financial year. I am also determined to protect and develop the service provision for victims in 2016/17 and beyond. I am seeking to earmark resources within my Partnership Reserve to support this activity.
- 14.14 I am conscious that the nature of crime, public services and the police is changing. Criminals are exploiting new technology with the police service playing catch up. I want to see this trend reversed. Cybercrime and fraud have now outstripped traditional crime and approximately 80% of police time is used on non-crime activity. Community policing is essential and I have ensured that this role is protected, however, there are emerging and complex areas of police demand that are difficult to manage, costly to investigate and require access to technology and training.
- 14.15 There are five key areas within the force that I want to concentrate on. These are:
- Technology and Capability Fund:- Establishment of a Technology and Capability Fund to allow for investment in technology, training and capability/capacity building in emerging and complex areas of police demand. This will include looking to strengthen capacity by engaging with the private sector and looking at the use of volunteers in these areas.
 - Vehicles:- Replacement of outdated and aging police vehicles
 - Police numbers:- Maintenance of police numbers and manning to establishment to ensure visibility and performance
 - Ring Fenced Budget for Communities:- Whilst the Chief Constable is locking resources into communities, including named officers and PCSOs, the PCC will double lock local policing with budget controls. This will not limit the Chief Constable's operational ability to direct force response
 - Cyber:- Establishment of a dedicated cyber unit to tackle the ever increasing online threat
- 14.16 Finally, the difficult work that has already been undertaken, including the force restructuring, along with the recent CSR announcements now provide us with an opportunity to make vital investments in key areas to protect the public both visibly in the form of community policing and equally important by those other specialist units that the public do not routinely see, such as the cyber unit. It is this balanced and careful investment that will help to keep the people in our area as safe as possible over the coming years.

15 CONCLUSIONS

- 15.1 The MTRS identifies the budget gap and the additional savings required to balance the budget for each of the three Options. Each Option assumes that the budget gap in the first year will be covered by the use of reserves. As savings plans become more developed the gap in future years will be covered by a mixture of identified savings and further use of reserves.
- 15.2 All options for precept levels have been considered in line with both the MTRS and the impact on family budgets. In order to test public opinion, consultation exercises were conducted with local residents to determine whether they were prepared to pay more for their policing. The outcome of the public surveys show that an increasing majority of those responding would be prepared to pay 2% more for policing.
- 15.3 The favourable CSR outcome and Police Grant Settlement were much better than anticipated. This has enabled workforce planning assumptions to be re-modelled alongside a reappraisal of the amounts held in reserves with recommendations to maintain police officer numbers at the current establishment and to set money aside for investment in new technology and capability and a contingency to support partnership working.
- 15.4 The MTRS models three options, a 2% rise in precept, a 1% rise and a freeze in Council Tax in 2016/17.
- 15.5 The recommendation of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside is that the precept is increased in 2016/17 by 1.99% (from £180.08 to £183.67 for a Band D property).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Medium Term Resources Strategy 2016/17 to 2020/21 and Appendices.

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