

Dear , thank you for your request for information in which you refer to the Police and Crime Commissioner's comments in the media regarding a proposed increase in the precept. You specifically ask if there are other means available to the Commissioner to fund the extra £2.2m necessary to recruit an additional 60 new officers other than increasing the police precept by 6.4 per cent.

Funding for policing principally comes from two main sources, Government Grant and precept. The Commissioner also has the ability to use reserves built up over time to support spending decisions.

In formulating his spending plans for 2018/19 the Commissioner had to look at the decision on his precept recommendation in the context of his medium term financial plans and not just the next financial year. The precept decision was subject to review by the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel was held on 7 February 2018.

When considering his decision, the Commissioner asked for a range of different scenarios to be examined and three were included in the medium term financial strategy which supported the recommendation to increase the precept by £12.

These scenarios compared the maximum increase without requiring a referendum of £12 in each of the next two years, the amount that Government Ministers assumed that all Commissioners would agree, the impact of the originally assumed 2% increases in precept and one showing the calculation of the increases necessary to maintain the number of police officers at the same level as recently agreed, 1,867. This work indicated that the £12 increases would enable police officer numbers to grow further to 1,925, whereas a 2% increase would result in numbers having to be reduced to 1,800. It was calculated that increases of £7 in each of the next two years would be needed to maintain numbers at 1,867.

In making his decision the Commissioner considered that increasing police officer numbers was a priority for the public and for him and that an additional £5 per annum for a Band D taxpayer, less than 10p per week, on top of what would have been required to maintain officer numbers was a price worth paying to secure much needed additional resources for the service.

The medium term financial projections also took into account the level and projected use of reserves over the next 5 years and this showed that based on current assumptions, there would be significant investment in service delivery which would see the balances reduced to close to the minimum level acceptable by 2022/23.

As indicated the Police and Crime Panel met on 7 February 2018 and considered the recommended precept and voted unanimously to support it. I attach a link to the Panel's website which includes a copy of the report submitted by the Commissioner, which outlines in detail all of the information taken into consideration, together with the Panel's formal response <http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/your-council/about-your-council/committees-and-cabinet/humberside-police-and-crime-panel/>.

If you think that we have not supplied information in accordance with our Publication Scheme or under general rights of access then you have the right to ask for an internal review. Any request for an internal review should be made within 30 days and addressed to:

Rachel Cook
Chief Executive
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside The Lawns Harland Way Cottingham

HU16 5SN

E-mail: pcc@humberside.pnn.police.uk

We would aim to complete an internal review within 20 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Louise Cook
Governance and Administration Manager
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside