

Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel

1 February 2018

Proposed Local Police Precept 2018/19

Recommendations

That the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel:

- 1) Considers the proposed Local Police Precept for 2018/19
- 2) Provides a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner on the proposed precept, including any recommendations, outlining whether it vetoes the precept or not.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Each police force area raises extra money to pay for policing activity through council tax. This is called the police precept and is included in every council tax bill. The police precept represents about 42% of overall funding to Warwickshire Police, with the rest coming from Central Government. The level of police precept is set locally every year (in February) by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
- 1.2 On 19 December 2017, the Home Office announced that Police and Crime Commissioners would be able to raise the local precept level by a maximum of £12 per Band D property per year, without a referendum. This represents an end to the previous 2% cap that was in place. The Warwickshire PCC Philip Secombe is proposing to raise the Precept by the maximum level of £12 per Band D property for 2018/19, which would represent a 6.25% increase to the current bill. This would increase the cost for a Band D property from £191.98 to £203.98. On that basis, the precept would raise approximately £41.180 million for the 2018/19 budget.
- 1.3 Under to provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Panel ('the Panel') has a statutory role to review the PCC's proposed precept level and formally respond to it. The Panel is required to submit a formal response to the PCC no later than 8 February 2018. This response will be in the form of a published report from the Chair, on behalf of the Panel, together with the accompanying draft minutes from the 1 February 2018 meeting.
- 1.4 The legislation only requires that the Panel 'respond' to the proposed precept – there is no stipulation that the Panel has to either support the precept or veto it; therefore, the Panel can choose to only comment on the proposal if it wishes.

2.0 Consultation

2.1 Following the announcement made by the Home Office, the Warwickshire PCC has consulted residents on three options for increasing the police precept by amounts of £12, £10 or £8 per year on an average Band D property in the county. The three options were as follows:-

- **Option 1** – increase the police precept by £12 per year (on a Band D property). This equates to a rise of 6.25% and would mean a Band D taxpayer would pay an extra £1 per month. This funding option would mean the force could retain around 33 police officer posts that might otherwise have been lost.
- **Option 2** – increase the police precept by £10 per year (on a Band D property). This equates to a rise of 5.21% and would mean a Band D taxpayer would pay around an extra 83 pence per month. This funding option would mean the force could retain around 25 police officer posts that might otherwise have been lost.
- **Option 3** – increase the police precept by £8 per year (on a Band D property). This equates to a rise of 4.17% and would mean a Band D taxpayer would pay around an extra 67 pence per month. This funding option would mean the force could retain around 18 police officer posts that might otherwise have been lost.

2.2 As of 19 January 2018, the consultation had received 1,501 responses.

3.0 In the event of a veto

2.1 The Panel has the option to veto the precept by a two thirds majority of the total Panel membership (eight members). If that should happen, then the Panel must give a reason for the veto and state whether the precept is too low or too high. The Commissioner must then prepare a revised precept for Panel's review by 15 February, as follows:

- If the veto is “too high”, the revised precept shall be lower than the proposed precept.
- If the veto is “too low”, the revised precept shall be higher than the proposed precept.

2.2 The new proposal will then be considered at the reserve Panel meeting scheduled for 16 February 2018. The Panel has no power to veto the second proposal, but must formally respond to the PCC by 22 February 2018. On receiving the Panel's second report the PCC shall, by 1 March 2018:

- Have regard to the second report (including any recommendations);
- Provide the Panel with a response to the report; and
- Publish the response.

2.3 The PCC will then issue his precept.

3.0 Appendices

- 3.1 Appendix A - Guidance on the process for considering the precept.
Appendix B – Precept Consultation Summary (*please note Appendix D of this attachment is exempt under the terms of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972*).
Appendix C – The Police and Crime Commissioner’s Budget Report 2018/19

4.0 Background Papers

- 4.1 None.

	Name	Contact details
Report Author	Stefan Robinson	Stefanrobinson@warwickshire.gov.uk
Head of Service	Sarah Duxbury	sarahduxbury@warwickshire.gov.uk