



08/02/2021

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
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By email
Councillor David Reilly
Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel Chair
Shire Hall
Warwick
CV34 4RL

Philip Seccombe TD
Police and Crime Commissioner

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Dear Cllr Reilly,

Thank you for your response to my budget proposals. I am pleased that the majority of the Police and Crime Panel have supported my proposed policing precept increase of £14.99 per year on a band D property (and equivalent increases for all of the other bands) for the financial year 2021/22.

As outlined in my presentation to the Panel, this budget and precept increase will enable the funding to deliver improved services to the public, while also providing long term financial security for Warwickshire Police.

The budget also means that the improvements delivered through past increases in the Police Precept can be protected and further enhancements delivered.

Over the next financial year, the approved budget will deliver:

- A further 41 police officers to keep people safe and provide extra visibility in local communities;
- More Special Constables to support police teams across Warwickshire;
- Extra resources for teams working with vulnerable victims and tackling child exploitation and trafficking;
- The opening of a new force control room, with state-of-the-art facilities to improve the way in which calls from the public are responded to;
- Improved forensic services to support police investigations, delivered through a new collaboration;
- More warranted officers to strengthen the force's capability to investigate crime and catch offenders;
- Extra financial support allocated to increase the number of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors, to support victims of sexual offences and domestic abuse.

I am confident that this will continue to support the delivery of a safer and more secure Warwickshire.

I am grateful for the Panel's discussion of the work undertaken by myself and the office to secure more equitable police funding which recognises more appropriately the demands on rural forces. I will continue at every opportunity to raise this issue – with the Home Secretary, the Policing Minister and, of course, our Warwickshire Members of Parliament. While the current economic outlook for the public sector has obviously been drastically altered by the pandemic, this probably only increases the need to ensure that funding is distributed fairly, so it is a cause I will continue to pursue.

I welcome the Panel's decision to refresh the terms of reference for the Budget Working Group and look forward to working with the Panel to agree a format for the delivery of information to be presented to both the Working Group and the wider Panel.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank Panel members for the support and challenge provided by the Panel to myself and to the work of the wider office. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought extraordinary challenges for us all, professionally and privately, but I am very grateful to the flexible and diligent approach that has been taken by the Panel. This has ensured that scrutiny and support has been maintained throughout the past 12 months, ensuring that a keen focus remains on keeping communities safe.

I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Secombe', written in a cursive style.

Philip Secombe TD
Police and Crime Commissioner