

This matter is being dealt with by:

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W www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/partnerships/police-and-crime-panel

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel

Mr Paddy Tipping
Police and Crime Commissioner
Arnot Hill House
Arnot Hill Park
Arnold
NG5 6LU

cc Kevin Dennis, Chief Executive

8 February 2019

Dear Paddy,

OUTCOME OF PANEL'S CONSIDERATION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT AND BUDGET 2019/20

I am writing to confirm the outcome of the Police and Crime Panel's consideration of your proposed precept at the Panel meeting of 7 February 2019.

As you are aware, 8 of the 10 Panel Members present supported your proposed precept increase of £23.94 for Band D properties, whilst the other 2 Members voted against the increase.

The Panel had supplied you with a number of questions around the themes of Reserves, the Capital Programme, the Vehicle PFI contract and budget savings to which you provided written responses to Members in advance of the meeting (appended to this letter). As ever, the timeliness of your response and the input of yourself and your officers into the previous budget workshop was appreciated by Members.

Within the meeting you explained that the emphasis for Police funding was moving away from a direct grant towards raising funding from the local taxpayer. You informed the Panel that the scope to increase the precept depended on Forces achieving a number of objectives including the use of reserves, increased use of digital technology and changes to procurement and back office operations. You informed the Panel that as a result of these objectives being exceeded nationally, the government had announced further precept freedoms for 2019/20 allowing the council tax for Band B properties to increase by up to £24. You explained that if the proposed precept increase of £23.94 were agreed this would allow a further 40 officers to be recruited, with 33 being deployed in neighbourhood areas and 7 used to create a dedicated robbery team. In terms of the Capital Programme, the

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel, c/o County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

proposed budget would be used to fund the new Bridewell as well as continuing the work on moving towards shared accommodation with the Fire and Rescue service.

Members complimented officers on the clarity and quality of the budget information provided to them.

During discussions, the Panel raised the following issues:-

- Members questioned you about the management of the Capital Programme and in response you agreed to supply the Panel with a list of buildings that had been disposed of. You explained that receipts would be used to offset the cost of new projects with reserves used to minimise borrowing.
- Members expressed their concern at the impact an increased precept would have on Nottinghamshire residents. You stated that you were mindful that residents were being asked to pay more and expressed your determination to use the money for front line policing.
- Members welcomed your commitment to Neighbourhood policing but asked how confident you were that what was being proposed could be delivered. You replied that if the increased precept was agreed then the extra resources for neighbourhood policing was guaranteed.
- Members asked you about collaboration and the assumption that no savings would be made from collaboration or innovation projects. You replied that the Force was a keen collaborator but that this was not always easy, giving the example of being pressed to share a back office with 4 other forces which has resulted in an increase in costs in the short term.
- Some Members spoke of their constituents having to pay a disproportionate amount of the increase compared to the level of resources that would be deployed in their areas. You explained that the increase would also pay for pressures created by inflation, wages and pensions and for resources such as the burglary team, work in schools and cadets. You further stated that resources would be deployed as circumstances dictated and gave the example of a recent event in Southwell where officers came into the area in the numbers required.
- Members expressed their concern at the potential high cost of policing demonstrations. The Chief Constable informed members that deployment was always scrutinised and spoke of the intelligence that the Force receives that is not always made public. You asked the Chief Constable to speak about the policing of the fracking sites in Nottinghamshire and the Chief Constable informed the Panel that through working with the protesters and the contractors a cost effective solution had been found which compared very favourably with the costs other forces are facing in the same situation.
- Some members expressed their concern at the size of the increase in the precept being requested and questioned whether the proposed budget had been scrutinized in sufficient detail. You informed members that the course of

action of increasing the precept was one that had been advocated by the Government. You assured members that you were aware that every penny counted and stated that you were always happy to discuss with others where savings could be made and confirmed that you would meet members at any time to discuss savings proposals.

In summary, the Panel supported your proposed increase in the precept.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Goldstraw', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christine Goldstraw OBE
Chair of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel