



Suffolk Police and Crime Panel Outcomes of Consideration of the PCC's Proposed Policing Precept for 2016/17

On January 29th 2016 the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel considered a recommendation of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Suffolk regarding the proposed precept level and Council Tax requirement for 2016-17 for policing in Suffolk. Eleven of the thirteen members of the Panel were present, including two substitute members. The PCC was accompanied by his staff and by the Chief Constable. The agenda and papers for the meeting are available on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).

The Panel reviewed the PCC's proposed precept report, the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by 1.958% in 2016-17, and the associated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

The PCC informed the Panel that the savings target had reduced significantly as a result of the Home Office announcement in December. The PCC advised that there is the need to transform the Constabulary's mode of operation as crime moves 'indoors' and online. A great deal of focus is being put on dealing with domestic abuse / violence, serious sexual offences and cyber-crime. Safer Neighbourhood Teams are the bedrock of local policing; original proposals would have resulted in just 50 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO); the PCC's decision will now ensure that there are around 107, with a good balance between the numbers of PCSOs and Police Officers. The increase in precept would enable targeted investment in 20 extra Officers and 3 PCSOs having special focus on schools. Medium term plans include the transfer of parking responsibility into a self-financing scheme operated by the local authorities.

Panel members asked the PCC questions about his confidence in getting organisations together to collaborate and commit to the savings required, Town & Parish Council matched-funding of PCSOs, reduced PCSO evening working hours, the comparative costs of PCSOs and Police Officers, the skill sets required for dealing with cybercrime, how well publicised was the PCC's recent online public survey of his precept proposals, and how well the proposals and the new approach to local policing have addressed concerns that were raised in last year's HMIC 'PEEL' report into Efficiency.

The Decision of the Panel

The Panel:

- 1) Agreed unanimously to approve the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to increase the precept by 1.958% in 2016-17.
- 2) Agreed that the Panel Chairman would make a formal report, on behalf of the Panel, on the PCC's precept, by the statutory deadline of 8 Feb 2016.

A copy of this report of the Panel will be put on the County Council's [website](#).

Councillor Patricia O'Brien
Chairman of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

2 February 2016

