



Police and Crime Panel

Date **Thursday 1 February 2018**
Time **10.00 am**
Venue **Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

**[Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's
agreement]**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2018 (Pages 3 - 8)
4. Declarations of interest, if any
5. Consultation on Council Tax Police Precept 2018-19 - Report of Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (Pages 9 - 20)
6. Such other business, as in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration
7. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

Part B

Items during which it is considered the meeting will not be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information)

8. Concerning a complaint about the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner - Report of Monitoring Officer (Pages 21 - 62)

Helen Lynch
Monitoring Officer

County Hall
Durham
24 January 2018

To: **The Members of the Police and Crime Panel**

Durham County Council

Councillors A Bainbridge, D Boyes, P Brookes, P Crathorne, L Howvels
(Chair), S Robinson and M Simmons

Darlington Borough Council

Councillors S Harker, B Jones (Vice-Chair) and M Knowles

Independent Co-opted Members

Mr N J H Cooke and Mr D K G Dodwell

Contact: Ian Croft

Tel: 03000 269702

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 4 January 2018 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor L Hovvels (Chair)

Durham County Council:

Councillors A Bainbridge, P Brookes, P Crathorne and S Robinson

Darlington Borough Council:

Councillors B Jones and M Knowles

Independent Co-opted Members:

Mr N Cooke and Mr D Dodwell

Other Members

Councillor A Hopgood (Durham County Council)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Councillor Hovvels reported that Gary Ridley, Chief Finance Officer had been awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. The Panel passed on its congratulations to Gary Ridley on the award.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyes, Harker and Simmons.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members in attendance.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The PCVC reported that at Minute No. 8, bullet point 2 should read 'Improved crime recording' rather than 'Improved crime reporting'. The PCVC also referred to Minute No. 8 and informed the Panel that future precept consultation would take place through 'In the Know'.

5 Precept Setting Consultation

The Panel considered a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which advised the Panel of the PCVC's proposal to seek the view of the community on an increase in the policing element of Council Tax for 2018-19 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The PCVC informed the Panel that for the last few years there had been a cap of 2% on the increase which Police and Crime Commissioners were able to apply to Council Tax. The Government had announced that this would change in 2018-19, with the cap now being £12 on a Band D property, which equated to £8 on a Band A property and £24 on a Band H property. This equated to a 7.09% increase in County Durham.

Durham Constabulary had retained its 'outstanding' grading by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) for all three questions in the PEEL Efficiency Inspection. In order to maintain the excellent service they deliver the PCVC proposed to increase the precept by the maximum allowed, but to seek views on the proposal during January.

A 7.09% increase would cost a household in a Band A property an additional 15p per week. An increase of less than 7.09% would result in a lower baseline for any increase in subsequent years, the budget would be permanently lower and the difference could never be recovered.

The PCVC informed the Panel that while he was reluctant to ask local council tax payers to pay more, and recognised that households were under pressure, he was also mindful of his responsibility to maintain an effective police force. In view of the pressures which he was advised the force was going to be facing, in terms of pay awards, increased pension contributions, inflation, and rising demand, the budget needed to be in as strong a position as possible. He was therefore proposing to increase the precept by the maximum available, but would be seeking the views of local people on this proposal.

Councillor Brookes informed the Panel that he considered the proposal by the PCVC to increase the precept on a Band D property by £12 a year to be sensible. 85% of properties within County Durham and Darlington were Band D and below and the current funding formula which was used was not fair to poorer areas.

Mr Dodwell, while being supportive of the PCVC's proposed precept increase, expressed concern that negative feedback may be received if consultation on the proposed increase took place. Alternatively, Mr Dodwell considered that the PCVC should inform the public of his proposals and reasoning for them, adding that the Panel was supportive of the proposals. Mr Dodwell asked why the PCVC needed to consult on his proposed precept when the Combined Fire Authority, Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council did not consult. The PCVC replied that he was required by statute to seek the views of the public when proposing a precept. Mr Dodwell considered that the PCVC should seek the views of the public on his decision to increase the precept rather than on his proposals to. Councillor

Hovvells added that Durham County Council did carry out consultation on its Council Tax and budget.

Councillor Hopgood informed the Panel that while she was supportive of the proposed 7.09% increase, the PCVC had already been out to consultation on a proposed 2% increase. It was therefore important that the PCVC explain what the 'extra' 5.09% would fund and emphasise that this would help protect services for the future.

Councillor Jones informed the Panel that the PCVC was charged with providing an effective and efficient police service and he supported the proposed precept increase.

Mr Dodwell suggested, and the Panel agreed, that any press release on the proposed precept should contain input from the Chair of the Panel.

Resolved:

That the intention to consult on the proposed precept be noted and that the Chair provide input to a PCVC press release on the proposed precept.

6 Durham and Darlington Victims and Witness Group

The Panel considered a report of the Chief of Staff which provided an update on the work of the Durham and Darlington Victim and Witness Group and its development during the past year (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Hovvells thanked the PCVC for his presentation of the report and requested further reports on the work of the Group as appropriate.

Resolved:

- (i) That the progress of the work of the Group be noted
- (ii) That further reports be brought to the Panel as appropriate.

7 Community Engagement and PACT

The Panel considered a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an overview of the community engagement activity, and the methods used, by Durham Constabulary (for copy see file of Minutes).

The PCVC referred to paragraph 25 of the report and informed the Panel that Durham was now ranked 3rd in the country according to the Confidence Survey for England and Wales, not 6th as quoted.

Councillor Brookes informed the PCVC that there was some disquiet that police officers did not attend meetings of Parish Councils. He considered that if a police officer was not be present at such meetings, then a written police report should be provided for the Parish Council meeting. The PCVC replied that if there was a specific requirement for a police officer to attend a Parlsih Council meeting then one would attend and he would look at the provision of written police reports.

Mr Dodwell expressed disappointment that Rural Watch was not mentioned in the report. Rural Watch had experienced good co-operation with North Yorkshire police and was a very proactive group.

The PCVC replied that he valued Farmwatch and had been out on operations, and conceded that it was a point well made by Mr Dodwell.

Councillor Hopgood considered that community engagement and PACT formats should be decided on the basis of what worked best for specific areas rather than a 'one size fits all' approach, adding that PACT meetings could be held an hour before other events, such as Parish Council meetings. Councillor Hopgood referred to the recent hate crime at The Happy Wanderer public house, which was within her electoral division and was unaware that the PCVC had visited the victim. This emphasised the need for closer working between the PCVC and locally elected Members. The PCVC replied that he would try to ensure local Members were kept fully informed.

Councillor Robinson informed the Panel that PACT meetings in his area worked well and praised the knowledge of PC Darren Rogers. He agreed with Councillor Hopgood that PACT formats should be decided on the basis of what worked best for specific areas rather than a 'one size fits all' approach.

Mr Dodwell informed the Panel that a PACT meeting was held at the beginning of meetings of Hurworth Parish Council, and this seemed to work well.

Councillor Knowles informed the Panel that Respect Your Street in Darlington was good while PACT in general had declined. The success of PACT meetings depended on how they were presented and where they were held, with venue changes tending to make people less likely to attend. The PCVC replied that he would discuss this with Chief Inspector Robinson in Darlington.

Resolved:

That the report be noted

8 Q2 Public Performance Report

The Panel noted a report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided a Quarter 2 performance update (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the performance update be noted.

9 PCVC Decision Records

The Panel considered a report of the Chief of Staff which provided an update on the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's decision register since the last Panel meeting, and forward plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Commissioning in 2017-18

The Panel considered a report of the Head of Governance and Commissioning which provided an update on funding and commissioning activities for the financial year 2017/18 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 HMIC inspection reports into Police efficiency and Police legitimacy

The Panel considered a report of the Police, Crime and Victims;’ Commissioner which provided details of the findings of the recent assessment by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary into Police efficiency (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

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Police and Crime Panel

1st February 2018

Consultation on Council Tax Police Precept 2018-19

Report of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Purpose

1. To update the Panel on the process for setting the Policing Precept for 2018-19, and to seek the Panel's support in doing so.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 4th January 2018, I presented my proposals for an increase in the Policing element of Council Tax – the Policing Precept.
3. On 19th December the Government published the Police funding settlement. It contains an ability for PCCs to increase the precept by £12 a year on Band D properties. This equates to a 7.09% increase in County Durham and Darlington. I informed the Panel of my intention to do so, and the Panel was unanimously supportive of the proposal.
4. I recognise that households are under pressure and, whilst I deeply regret needing to ask local people to pay even more, I feel that this increase is necessary in order to maintain the excellent police force we have. Rising costs, plus the looming threat of a new funding formula which would disadvantage us further, mean it is essential we maximise our resources.
5. I presented my proposed method of engaging with the community about this proposal, and took into account the feedback which members of the Panel helpfully provided.

Current Position

6. I subsequently published my proposals on 4th January pm. The document is attached at Appendix 2. Since then I have taken a range of opportunities to engage with the community, including:
 - Area Action Partnership meetings
 - Drop-in sessions (including in Darlington and Durham City)
 - Online <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4083427/Tell-me-what-you-think-Policing-Funding-for-2018-19>
 - Local print media
7. Residents across Constabulary area have been given the opportunity to discuss the increase in a face to face setting. In the Darlington Borough Council Area, there have been three bespoke drop in sessions across the town. In the Durham County Council area we have visited each Area Action Partnership locality; and either presented to the

Board Meeting or, where this has not been possible, we have held a bespoke drop in session.

8. We also carried out informal consultation on increasing the precept between October and December 2017, although at the time we expected a 2% cap.
9. At the meeting on 1st February I will present feedback to the Police and Crime Panel. Under Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Panel is required to review the proposed precept, and to make a report on it (the panel are to determine the manner of this report). The report can include recommendations on the level of the precept. The panel has the power to veto the proposed precept, which requires a two-thirds majority in favour of a veto.
10. At the time of writing, the period of community engagement is still live, and therefore I am unable to provide final results. However, there has been little to no opposition at the meetings I have attended, and my intention remains to increase the precept by the maximum amount, as set out in the proposal document.

Recommendation

11. The Panel is recommended to:
 - a. Note the current position of the consultation and the expected outcome;
 - b. Consider my proposal for a 7.09% precept increase;
 - c. Decide whether to veto my proposal;
 - d. Produce a report.

Ron Hogg
Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance: The Council Tax Precept 2018-19 is proposed to rise by £12 on a Band D property (equating to 7.09% - as per main body of the report).

Staffing: Increasing the precept as indicated will enable current levels of police officer posts to be retained.

Equality and Diversity: No specific implications.

Accommodation: No specific implications

Crime and Disorder: The money received through the increase will be put towards reducing crime and disorder.

Children's Act 2004: No specific implications

Stakeholder/Community Engagement: Feedback on the proposed increase has been sought from the community.

Environment: No specific implications

Collaboration and Partnerships: No specific implications

Value for Money and Productivity: The precept increase proposed is the largest it can be without holding a costly referendum.

Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities: If the precept is not increased, there will be a reduction in the number of Police Officers, which will have a negative effect on the ability of Durham Constabulary to deliver the Police and Crime Plan objectives.

Commissioning: No specific implications

Other risks: No specific implications

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Police Funding in 2018/19



4 January – 31 January 2018



“I need to ensure that your money pays for an efficient and effective police force in County Durham and Darlington.”

Ron Hogg

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

The Government has reduced the funding for policing in Durham and Darlington every year since 2010.

Durham Constabulary now has around 360 fewer officers than in 2010 – a reduction of 1 in 4.

Durham Constabulary is still the most effective and efficient force in the country according to HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services. That's a consequence of the force's commitment to innovation, making the very best use of the money available. And we continue to challenge every facet of our business in order to find further efficiencies.

The Government provides about 75% of the money spent by the force and the rest of comes through a part of the Council tax known as the Policing precept paid by local council tax payers. With the continued real-term reductions in Government funding, there is a risk that Police Officer numbers will have to fall unless funding from the police element of Council Tax increases.

Due to the government's decision to relax the present cap over the next two years, next year I am able to ask local people to pay an extra 7.1% - which equates to an additional £8 a year for a household in a band A property.

Whilst I deeply regret needing to ask local people to pay even more, I feel we have little choice. I would welcome your views.



In February 2017, PCVC Ron Hogg and Chief Constable Mike Barton presented Home Office Ministers with the case for fair funding for policing in Durham and Darlington



Ron listening to residents at Chester-le-Street activity week in the summer of 2017

My budget has decreased by a quarter since 2010

The Home Secretary often says that she has protected funding for Policing at the same level for the past two years. What she doesn't say, however, is that the funding for forces such as Durham has reduced, year after year for the past seven years. That's because in addition to the well-known policy of austerity, the Government has chosen to allocate more to policing budgets held at national level, such as counter-terrorism, increased firearms capability, and funds which forces have to bid to.

The total provisional grant received by Durham in 2018-19 will be £84.67 million – the same as in 2017-18. However, our costs have gone up, including pay awards, pension contributions and general inflation, and therefore this is a cut in real terms of about 2%.

Durham Constabulary staffing numbers have fallen over the past few years:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Police Officers	1,507	1,140	- 367
PCSOs	174	152	- 22
Special Constables	131	76	- 55
Police Staff	930	883	- 47
Apprentices	-	56	+ 56



The newly recruited PCSOs with Chief Constable Mike Barton

The force continues to be committed to neighbourhood policing, and I am pleased that when we have been able to afford to, we have undertaken successful recruitment campaigns for Police Constables, PCSOs and the Special Constabulary. The force recently recruited 20 new PCSOs, for example.

We are spending your money wisely. Durham is the most efficient force in the country.

Durham Constabulary is always looking for new ways of reducing the harm to our society, and to save money. That's why the force is the most efficient in the country.

Here are some of the ways in which we have done this:

- Introduction of Checkpoint: reducing crime and the number of victims by addressing the reasons why people reoffend . This has led to reduced reoffending and fewer arrests.
- The force has purchased cheaper ICT and office supplies, in order to save money. The force is also obtaining grants to spend on staff and equipment to provide services to communities.
- Using sophisticated techniques to understand the demand on policing, so that officers can be deployed where they are most able to make a difference.
- Using restorative justice to help recover individuals and reduce reoffending.
- Generating income from providing training and IT to other forces.
- A problem solving approach to ensure more crimes and incidents are dealt with.
- Reviews in the 999 call room which has reduced costs in terms of employing fewer staff.
- Increased use of volunteers in initiatives such as Community Peer Mentors.



Ron and the new rural vehicle

I need to increase the precept to protect local policing

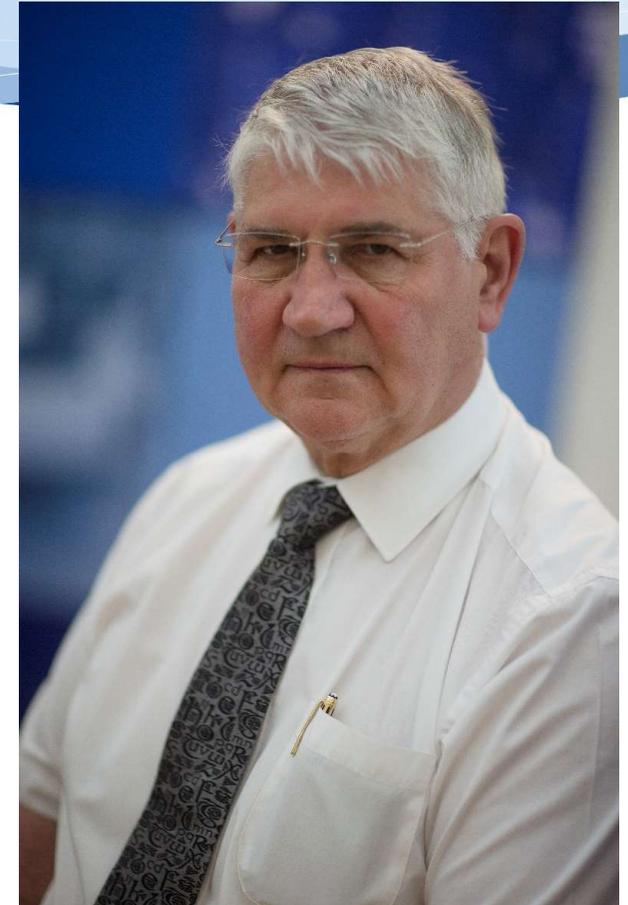
I recognise that households are under pressure, and that the government has decided to pass the cost of policing onto local people. But in order to maintain the excellent police force we have, I feel that this increase is necessary. Rising costs, plus the looming threat of a new funding formula which would disadvantage us further, mean it is essential we maximise our resources.

If the precept does not increase this year, the baseline for the budget in future years will be lower, so I would be permanently reducing the income which the precept can generate for policing. I don't want to do this because it would inevitably mean there would be fewer Police Officers in your communities, preventing and solving crime.

Here's what that would mean for you:

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Precept 2017-18	£112.83	£131.63	£150.44	£169.24	£206.85	£244.46	£282.07	£338.48
7.09 % Increase								
Proposed Precept 2018-19	£120.83	£140.96	£161.11	£181.24	£221.52	£261.79	£302.07	£362.48
Increase per year	£8.00	£9.33	£10.67	£12.00	£14.67	£17.33	£20.00	£24.00
Increase per week	£0.15	£0.18	£0.21	£0.23	£0.28	£0.33	£0.38	£0.46

In 2018-19, this increase will mean that I expect the total amount of money raised through the precept to be £31.5m, including a one-off payment of £0.45m from a Council Tax surplus, and growth in the tax base. When I add this to the £84.67m I will receive from the Government, this makes the expected total budget £116.168m.



*Your Police, Crime and Victims'
Commissioner Ron Hogg*

Summary

Increasing the precept by 7.09% will help to protect services at the current level.

We will also continue to make efficiencies and challenge every element of our business, to make your money go further.

I will continue to lobby Government to provide a fairer level of Government Grant.

We welcome views. Please use this space below:

You can also contact me by:

Letter: OPCVC, Police Headquarters, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TT

Phone: 0191 3752001

Email: General.Enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Or you can contact us via social media:

[Facebook: PCC.Durham](#)

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