

Police and Crime Panel

9 January 2020

Precept Consultation

Report of the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner



1. Purpose

To enable the Panel to discuss with the acting PCVC, consultation on the level of the policing precept in 2020-21. Consultation will need to take place during January 2020.

2. Background

Normally in December every year, the PCVC is informed by the Home Secretary of the amount of Government grant that will be provided for policing for the following financial year. That enables the PCVC to formulate plans for the level of precept that he will need to ask Council Tax payers to contribute, in order to deliver policing in County Durham and Darlington in line with the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan. The Government normally puts a cap on the level of precept increase.

3. This year is different. The timing of the General election made it impossible for the Government to announce police funding allocations in December, and they are now expected at some point in January. The Government cap on an increase will be made known at the same time. Nonetheless, there is still a statutory requirement for the PCVC to inform the Panel of the proposed level of precept in 2020-21 by 1 February.

4. The net effect of this is:

- The PCVC is unable to develop a proposal for precept levels in 2020-21 at this stage, but should be able to during January
- Any consultation exercise will only be meaningful once the PCVC's proposal has been developed
- The consultation exercise is likely to be compressed, and shorter than the Cabinet Office's guideline four-week period

5. Consultation

With those constraints taken into account, the following consultation arrangements are proposed.

The Office has scheduled a number of consultation events, with Area Action Partnerships in County Durham and in the Cornmill Centre in Darlington, on the following dates:

County Durham

date	AAP
08.01.20	4 Together (Ferryhill)
08.01.20	Mid Durham (Brandon/Ushaw Moor)
16.01.20	Bishop & Shildon (BASH)
16.01.20	Spennymoor
22.01.20	Durham

22.01.20	Teesdale
27.01.20	East Durham Rural Corridor
27.01.20	Chester le Street
28.01.20	Greater Aycliffe and Midridge
29.01.20	Derwent Valley (Consett)
30.01.20	3 Towns (Crook)
Darlington	
30.01.20	Cornmill Centre

In addition, we are planning to run an on-line survey, and to run an awareness-raising campaign on social media. There will also be press releases to gain the attention of the press and broadcast media, and material on the ODPCVC website.

In addition, further meetings with local residents will take place in Weardale on 6 February and Darlington on 4 February.

The intention is to attend the above events as shown, and in the earlier ones to have an open discussion about policing, police funding, and the timing of the Government announcement. Once the PCVC is able to make a firm proposal, a more meaningful discussion will be able to take place at the later meetings. The social media and survey activities will commence at that point.

6. Recommendations

The Panel is asked to comment on this report.

Jon Carling
acting Chief Executive

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance

The outcome of consultation will influence the size of the PCVC's, and the Constabulary's, budget in 2019-20

Staffing

None

Equality and Diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Children's Act 2004

None

Stakeholder/Community Engagement

A consultation exercise will take place as set out in the report

Environment

None

Collaboration and Partnerships

None

Value for Money and Productivity

None

Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

Size of budget will influence delivery of priorities

Commissioning

None

Other risks

None

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