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Your ref:  
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Ms Joy Allen  
Durham Police Crime Commissioner  
Durham Constabulary Headquarters  
DURHAM  
DH1 5TT

01 February 2023

Dear Joy

### **Response to Police and Crime Commissioner Precept Consultation 2023/24**

On behalf of the Durham Police and Crime Panel, I would like to thank you for attending the Panel's meeting on 1 February 2023 to present your report and respond to questions from Panel members.

Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Police and Crime Panel to provide a report to its Police and Crime Commissioner following consideration of the proposed precept for 2023/24.

The Police and Crime Panel considered your report and voted to agree your precept proposal for a Council Tax increase of £15 for a Band D property with the same percentage increase applied to all Council Tax bands as detailed in your report.

The Panel reviewed the OPCC achievements in the context of your Police and Crime Plan. Progress in technology, recruitment, estate, fleet and the operational priorities and challenges were considered together with performance and details of officer numbers.

The Panel considered the significant financial pressures that faced Durham Constabulary and the financial settlement that had been received. They considered the findings in terms of Levelling Up for the residents of County Durham and Darlington and the impact this had on delivering an efficient and effective police service.

The outcome of your consultation on the proposed precept was fully considered. It was noted that if the precept was raised to £20 for a Band D property this would require a referendum.

It was recognised there was a difficult balance to be found between an increase in the precept and the revenue funding this would achieve, and the impact of the rise on residents during the cost of living crisis.

### **Resources**

Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UF  
Main Telephone (03000) 26 00000

Text Messaging Service 07860 093 073– Your message must start with the word: INFO

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Brian Jones  
Chair of the Durham Police and Crime Panel

Cc:

Sweety Sahani, Head of Private Office, Office of the Durham PCC  
Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources, Durham County Council  
Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Durham County Council  
Luke Swinhoe, Assistant Director Law and Governance