



SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Tony Kershaw

Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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Dear PCP Member,

29 January 2020

Sussex Police and Crime Panel Meeting - Friday 31 January 2020

Please find enclosed the following document for consideration at the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel on 31 January 2020 which was unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda No Item

6. Proposed Precept 2020/21

This paper was delayed, awaiting publication of the Government's policing settlement for 2020/21.

Yours sincerely

Tony Kershaw

Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

To all members of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel

To:	The Sussex Police & Crime Panel
From:	The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
Subject:	Proposed Precept 2020/21
Date:	31 January 2020
Recommendation:	That the Police & Crime Panel – i) review the precept proposal; and ii) report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) to notify the Police & Crime Panel of the proposed precept for the coming financial year. The Panel is required to respond with a report to the PCC on the proposed precept including, if appropriate, recommendations as to the precept for the financial year.
- 1.2 Financial planning sits at the heart of good public financial management. Alongside budget preparation, performance management and reporting, the ability to look strategically beyond the current budget period is a crucial process to support the PCC's resilience and long-term financial sustainability.
- 1.3 The report presents the PCC's precept proposal which is underpinned by a revised and extended draft four-year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) – see Appendix 1 – that sets out the financial context for the PCC's draft revenue budget, capital programme and proposed precept decision for the next financial year 2020/21, and estimates for a further three financial years.

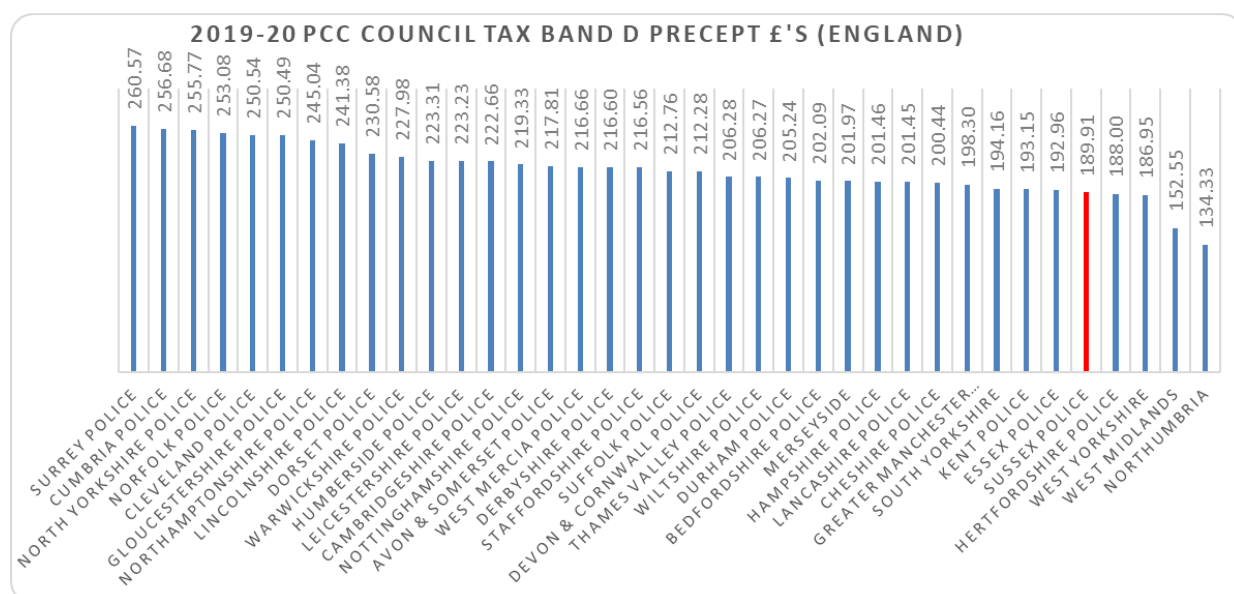
2.0 Where We Have Come From

- 2.1 By 2016/17, Sussex Police had made savings and efficiencies totalling £76m to balance the books because of reductions in core grants, limited increases to the precept and inflationary increases to costs since 2010/11.
- 2.2 In 2017/18, the four year MTFS set out a challenging financial situation in which further reductions of £26.5m and the loss of a further 476 police officer posts were essential to balance the books, despite the opportunity to increase the precept by £5. Faced with such a significant reduction in budget, the PCC authorised the release of £17m of reserves to provide the Chief Constable with one-off cash so he could defer the immediate impact of the loss of those posts.
- 2.3 The PCC lobbied hard during 2017 to secure the best possible funding arrangements for policing. This led to the Government allowing PCCs to raise the police precept above the previous limit per household/dwelling of £5 to £12 per annum. With Sussex Police facing such significant reductions

in funding and officers, this extra funding was an opportunity not to be missed.

- 2.4 The PCC worked with the Chief Constable to develop a new financial strategy that would seek to provide the resources to enable Sussex Police to protect those 476 posts under threat, enable the recruitment of additional officers, and replace those that were due to leave.
- 2.5 The PCC, therefore, decided to increase the precept in 2018/19 by £12 per year for an average band D property. Combined with the £17m that the PCC had already authorised from reserves, it substantially reduced the previously planned savings requirements for 2018/19.
- 2.6 In addition, the PCC set out in the MTFS a proposed increase to the precept of £12 in 2019/20, £5 in 2020/21 and £5 in 2021/22. The plan reduced the overall savings target to £3.0m from £26.5m, which protected the 476 posts that would have been lost. It also provided funds to replace 600 police officers over the 4 years of the plan and, most significantly, to recruit an additional 200 police officers. Police officer establishment, as at 31 March 2018, would increase by 200 officer posts to 2,700 by 31 March 2022.
- 2.7 The 2019/20 settlement offered further resources to strengthen local policing and allowed the PCC to raise the precept by £24 and generate more funds to recruit 50 more police officers, 100 extra PCSO's and 50 additional specialist staff. This investment would increase the Police officer establishment by a further 50 officer posts to 2,750 by 31 March 2023. The number of PCSO posts would increase to 296.
- 2.8 Sussex residents still pay the 5th lowest for policing in England despite the previous years increases (see Table 1 below).

Table 1 - Sussex has the fifth lowest precept 2019/20



3.0 Where We Are Now

- 3.1 The Government is determined to strengthen the police service and tackle the unacceptable levels of crime, particularly violent crime, across our country, deal robustly with the criminals exploiting the vulnerable and to improve outcomes for the victims of crime. It has undertaken to deliver on its commitment to recruit 20,000 additional officers over the next three years.
- 3.2 The Government have already invested in this uplift programme, providing £45 million of additional funding for the first tranche of 6,000 officers in the current financial year to ensure the programme gets off the ground.
- 3.3 The United Kingdom General Election held in December 2019 led to over a month's delay in the date of the announcement of the provisional police funding settlement which was announced last Wednesday, 22 January 2020.
- 3.4 The Home Office has forecast that the settlement could benefit Sussex with total grant and precept resources of £309.90 million, an increase of £22.95 million for 2020/21. The 2019/23 MTFS forecast that resources would be £291.38 million so this settlement offers a further £18.52 million to plans.
- 3.5 The 2020/21 funding settlement gives the PCC additional ring-fenced investment to recruit a further 129 police officers in Sussex. This is in addition to the 250 police officers that Sussex Police are already recruiting.
- 3.6 The Government also propose enabling PCCs to raise further funding through the precept. This empowers PCCs to increase their Band D precept by £10 in 2020/21, the equivalent of less than twenty pence per week, without the need to call for a local referendum. If all PCCs decide to maximise their precept, this would result in an additional £248 million of funding for local policing next year.
- 3.7 Taking all funding from the Government and PCCs precept raising power of £10 into account, up to an extra £1.1 billion will be available for investment in the policing system in 2020/21. This would represent an increase of 8% funding on top of 2019/20 levels and is the single biggest increase in Government investment in policing for a decade.
- 3.8 Full details of the 2020/21 settlement can be found in the MTFS.

4.0 Chief Constable's Investment Requirement

4.1 In the context of the 2020/21 national policing settlement and the £10 precept increase the Chief Constable has presented a compelling investment case that will allow Sussex Police to meet more demand and accelerate their recruitment plans.

4.2 The Chief Constable's plan is prioritising investment in the following three key areas:

✓ **More enforcement:**

- Increase the number of **Divisional Tactical Enforcement Units** to accelerate high visibility, pro-active policing across the County. This will enable more disruption of local crime groups, an increase in arrests, seizures, searches and warrants.
- More investment to tackle organised crime groups, disrupt County Lines, arrest more violent offenders and increased targeted activity to bring criminals to justice through the creation of a Central Tactical Enforcement unit.
- More Funding for Roads Policing – more officers to keep us safer on the roads, tackling dangerous and anti social drivers and criminals that use our roads.
- Dogs Unit – More money for the dog unit.

✓ **More investigation:**

- **More detectives and Investigators** - Substantially increased investigative teams with more Detective Constables and Investigators, as well as specific roles to tackle complex crimes like Modern Slavery and County Lines. Providing the capability to act on additional intelligence and improved enforcement activity.
- **More Support for Criminal Investigations** – To build more quality case files and secure more convictions.
- **Investing in local Investigations and Resolution Centres** – improving the service that is provided to victims of hidden crime such as domestic abuse and stalking and harassment, enabling a better focus on victims, with a service more tailored to their needs.

✓ **Even greater policing presence particularly in towns, villages and online:**

- Further investment into the PCSO rural team.
- Better intelligence officer capability; and,
- Investment into community engagement both in person and online, particularly through social media - the fastest growing means by

which the public are engaging with the police.

- 4.3 The attached case studies (Appendix 2) provide examples of how extra investment will improve enforcement, investigation and public contact.

5.0 Public engagement and consultation in 2019/20

- 5.1 The PCC began a rolling programme of consultation from the start of the 2019-20 financial year to broaden engagement across the county and across different demographic groups.

- 5.2 This included a combination of face to face focus groups, surveys at public events, the normal PCC engagement programme, and online polls, including one which is underway* at the time this report was submitted to the P&CP.

- **What the public want:**

- ✓ The majority of people attending the focus groups stated they would be happy to pay more if they could see more police officers or PCSOs.
- ✓ They wanted to see tougher enforcement with more criminals taken off the streets and more crimes investigated and solved.
- ✓ They also expressed unanimous support for continuing our early intervention youth programme called REBOOT.

- 5.3 **Focus groups:** We held 20 targeted consultation events across Sussex, involving around 300 residents and members of community groups. These provided valuable insight into the concerns of local people about policing in their specific area, while discussions with disability forums, interfaith groups and the LGBT community highlighted the particular issues experienced by participants.

- 5.4 The focus groups helped to measure levels of public confidence in Sussex Police and feelings of safety (see below). Feedback from each discussion was referred to the PCC and to the relevant part of the force.

- 5.5 Focus groups were held with residents in:

- ✓ Battle
- ✓ Bognor
- ✓ Crawley
- ✓ Lancing
- ✓ Midhurst
- ✓ Mid Sussex
- ✓ Rye
- ✓ Seaford
- ✓ Storrington
- ✓ Ticehurst
- ✓ Uckfield

- 5.6 Other focus groups were held with:
- ✓ Brighton & Hove Racial Harassment Forum
 - ✓ Hastings & Rother Disability Forum
 - ✓ Crawley Interfaith Network
 - ✓ LGBT community in Brighton & Hove
- 5.7 **Rural roundtables** – in Billingshurst, one in Battle, and one with the National Farmers Union.
- 5.8 **Road safety summit** - A webcast road safety summit in Chichester in November involved the Safer Sussex Roads Partnership and West Sussex County Council.
- 5.9 **Working with local councils:** The PCC's office works closely with all levels of local government including Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils (SALC), and invites representatives to participate in all consultation events. An officer from the OPCC regularly attends the SALC meetings for East and West Sussex to feed back the results of consultation and inform local towns and parishes about work alongside Sussex Police.
- 5.10 **Talk Sussex summer engagement:** During summer 2019 the OPCC attended nine Talk Sussex events across the county. At these events there was face- to-face engagement with a total of 3,246 residents completing survey forms. The events were attended by around 200,000 people.
- 5.11 **Online polls:** Since summer this year, five polls have been promoted via the PCC's newsletter and website on themes including road safety, anti-social behaviour, retail crime and the use of artificial intelligence in policing. Nearly 3,000 responses were received.
- 5.12 **Precept proposal following Police grant:** The Policing Minister's statement on the Grant was made on Wednesday 22nd January announcing a welcome overall rise in police funding that was contingent on all PCCs making full use of the flexibility to raise local precepts by £10 (20p a week average).
- 5.13 The PCC proposed a £10 increase and we issued press and social statements welcoming the funding announcement. We used these statements and emails to residents via partners to invite people to have their say in an online poll.
- 5.14 ***Snap poll update:** As of the time of this paper being submitted, over 5,500 responses have been received, with 65% saying yes and 35% saying no to an average annual increase of £10.
- 5.15 An update on the final poll will be presented at the Police and Crime Panel Meeting.

6.0 Overall Financial Picture and Four-Year Plan

- 6.1 The draft four-year MTFs (see Appendix) sets out the financial context for the draft revenue budget, capital programme and proposed precept decision for the next financial year 2020/21 and estimates for a further three financial years.
- 6.2 It brings together all resources including grant, precept, fees and charges, income for special policing and use of reserves and capital.
- 6.3 It sets out that the plans are affordable over the four financial years. It also addresses risk. The MTFs covers four years – but years two to four are uncertain. A spending review is due in 2020 and a new settlement is expected in 2021, including the possibility of a new funding formula.

7.0 Precept Proposal

- 7.1 The PCC has scrutinised the Chief Constable’s investment case. By raising the precept this year by £10, the PCC will provide the Chief Constable with the resources to continue the significant four-year recruitment programme and accelerate the ability of Sussex Police to reduce crime, deal robustly with criminals, improve outcomes for victims and meet the expectations of visitors, residents and tax payers.
- 7.2 The PCC is, therefore, proposing to increase the Band D precept by £10 for 2019/20 from £189.91 to £199.91.

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Appendix

Appendix 1 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2023/24

Appendix 2 – Case studies and realities of policing.