



Councillor Christian Mitchell
Chairman
Sussex Police & Crime Panel
County Hall
West Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ

7 February 2022

Dear Councillor Mitchell

Proposed Precept 2022/23

Thank you for your letter dated 31 January 2022.

I am grateful that the Sussex Police & Crime Panel unanimously supported the proposed £10 increase in the precept to £224.91 on a Band D property for 2022/23.

I have worked closely with Chief Constable Shiner and her senior team to understand in detail the operational needs of Sussex Police for 2022/23. The Force has already made tremendous strides to increase their capacity in crime prevention, response and investigations and re-establish vital communication and engagement with local people. The additional funding will be allocated in line with the three public priorities in my Police & Crime Plan 2021/24 as follows:

Public Priority 1 – Strengthen local policing, tackle crime and prevent harm.

- Continue to invest in local policing, particularly in volume crime investigations.
- Increase the number of sergeants in the Sexual Investigation Unit (SIU) and Violent Offender and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR).
- Invest in youth engagement with an increase in Neighbourhood Youth Officers.
- Continue to extend the contracts for staff statement takers to reduce the pressure on investigators around case file disclosure and complexity.
- Continue to implement the public engagement tool across the Force with business change activity to maximise usage and engagement opportunities with local neighbourhoods.
- Increase the number of District Engagement Officers on each policing division.

Public Priority 2 – Relentless disruption of serious and organised crime.

- Further investment in 'county lines' disruption.
- Explore and embrace digital technology opportunities to improve investigative capabilities. For instance, specialist software for remote statement taking, using video conferencing and automatic transcription.
- Continued review of the impact of the new Digital Investigation Support Unit and look at further opportunities to nurture the culture of digital policing across the Force through upskilling and training opportunities.
- Investment in solving unsolved serious crime to try and bring closure to the families of victims.



Public Priority 3 – Support and safeguard victims and tackle violence against women and girls.

- Continued design and implementation of the Improving Volume Crime Project to improve the timeliness and quality of investigations, maximise outcomes, and improve victim satisfaction and therefore trust and confidence in Sussex Police. This will include an uplift in officers available to deal with crimes and incidents through the officer uplift.
- Further uplift to the ViSOR team, managing some of the highest harm perpetrators.
- Uplift to Professional Standards Department (PSD) in recognition of the challenges faced by the service around policing legitimacy.
- Investment in the Firearms and Explosives Licencing Unit (FELU) managing the licensing of firearms, shotguns, firearms dealers, explosives, shooting/gun clubs, clay grounds and licensing of storage facilities for explosives.
- Uplift the number of researchers to support the Multi-Agency Referral Assessment Conference (MARAC) process, supporting the risk assessment and management of high-risk domestic abuse cases.

I do not underestimate the financial pressures that many residents in Sussex will likely face next year. However, it remains vital to ensure the Force is supported and that residents continue to receive the best possible policing service in Sussex.

An 83p a month increase [for a Band D property] is essential so that Sussex Police can meet the increased costs of the pandemic, pay and inflation and preserve the improvements in capacity, visibility and accessibility I have built up with your help since 2018.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katy Bourne'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner