

North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel



Key Messages from meeting

6 February 2018

Policing precept approved for 2018/19

The Panel formally reviewed and approved the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) proposal for the policing precept for 2018/19. The proposal agreed represented a rise of £11.50 for a Band D property, resulting in a charge at that level of £232.82 for 2018/19.

The government has recently given an additional flexibility to all PCCs to be able to increase their precept by up to £12 per year (Band D) in 2018/19. The Panel heard that this flexibility is set against a finalised police funding settlement which will see the grant remain at the same level for 2018/19 as was allocated last year. In looking to give greater certainty on plans for 2019/20, the Home Office wants to see evidence of a serious commitment to improve productivity and efficiency from all forces, including reviewing the use of reserves (particularly where there are forces whose levels remain high). The PCC wants to see transformational change delivered across the police force to ensure that it continues to improve its service performance, its ability and flexibility to meet changing demand and to embrace new technology to support this.

The Panel emphasised the need for the PCC to be clear for the public about where the uplift from the precept increase will be invested. The PCC intends to invest the increase back into the public's priorities and key areas supporting delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. This will include further investment in areas such as the Force Control Room and victims' services. The PCC was clear that efficiency savings will pay for improved wage increases and other inflationary pressures. These include savings across estates, ICT and staffing vacancies.

The PCC will be asking the force to bid for funding for investment going forward. This will require a clear business case and demonstration of how greater productivity and efficiency will be delivered.

The Panel expressed concerns regarding the low level of general reserves but were reassured that these will be kept under close review and that there are earmarked funding streams to help deal with unforeseen external circumstances, such as major incidents. The Panel also challenged the target of £7.5m in savings over the next three years but noted that the plans for achieving this indicated that it was an attainable target. The Panel emphasised the need for clear communications with staff and officers during a period of transformational change.

The Panel will continue to scrutinise the PCC's progress against the plans for savings and investment over the course of the next year.

Next meeting – 19th April 2018, County Hall, Northallerton

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