



ORIGINATOR: PCC CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

DECISION NO. 6-2018

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: PRECEPT LEVEL AND COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT 2018-19

SUMMARY:

1. This paper provides for a decision to be made upon the precept level and council tax requirement for 2018-19, following consideration of the PCC's proposal by the Police and Crime Panel on 26 January 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The PCC issues this Decision Report in response to the PCP's report on the proposed precept.
2. The PCC notes the Council Tax Requirement and issues the 2018-19 precept summarised in Appendix G- Option 2.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendations set out above are agreed.

Signature *Tim Pannone*

Date *5th February 2018*

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. On 16 January 2018 the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) considered the draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2018-19 to 2021-22 and approved the recommendations contained therein (Decision 1-2018).
- 1.2. The PCC also considered and approved the recommendations contained in a paper which explained the steps that had been taken in determining his proposed precept level and council tax requirement for 2018-19 (Decision 2-2018). The two recommendations are set out below:
- 1.3. On 16 January 2018 the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) agreed that;
 - (i) The Police and Crime Panel are notified of the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by 6.7684% in 2018-19.
 - (ii) This proposal is submitted to the Police and Crime Panel for consideration at its meeting on 26 January 2018.

2. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING 26 JANUARY 2018

- 2.1 In reviewing the proposed precept, the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) considered the PCC's response to a number of questions from the Panel, before voting whether to veto the proposed precept increase of 6.7684% in 2018-19. The PCP voted unanimously to not veto the proposed precept increase.
- 2.2 A copy of the Panel's written report is attached to this paper.

3. RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION

- 3.1 Accordingly, as a consequence of the PCC's precept proposal and the Police and Crime Panel's response, it is now recommended that the PCC;
 - issues this Decision Report in response to the PCP's report on the proposed precept;
 - notes the Council Tax Requirement, and issues the 2018-19 precept summarised in Appendix G Option 2.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	Yes
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	The PCC CFO is the originator of this report
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Yes
Have all ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

Signature:



Date 2 February 2018



Suffolk Police and Crime Panel Outcomes of Consideration of the PCC's Proposed Policing Precept for 2018/19

On January 26th 2018 the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel considered a recommendation of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Suffolk regarding the proposed precept level and Council Tax requirement for 2018-19 for policing in Suffolk. Nine of the thirteen members of the Panel were present, including two substitute members. The PCC was accompanied by his Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Chief Constable (CC) and the Chief Finance Officer (CFO). The agenda and papers for the meeting are available on the [Suffolk County Council website](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk).

The Panel reviewed the PCC's proposed precept report, the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by 6.7684% in 2018-19, and the associated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

The PCC explained to the Panel that just days before Christmas the Home Office had made no change to the funding grant settlement but had announced a relaxation of the rules such that PCCs would be able to raise up to £12 a year more from Band D properties, equating to a 6.8% increase in Suffolk. The majority of households in Suffolk are in Band A – C properties; for a Band A property the annual increase would be just £7.98, equivalent to the cost of a postage stamp each month.

The PCC expressed his regret at having to put taxes up, and the burden that this places on people on lower incomes. The PCC, with support also from the Panel, had lobbied the Home Office during the year, without success, to review the policing funding formula, from which Suffolk currently gets one of the worst deals in the country. In addition, rising demand and increasing cost pressures meant that without the proposed increase in the precept he would have been faced with having to cut resources such as dog units and roads policing.

The precept increase would raise an additional £2.9m. The PCC was not able to be specific at that stage about what the money would be spent on, as the operational detail was still being finalised by the Chief Constable. He indicated that there would be continued focus on working with the voluntary and community sector, which was seen as very good value for money. There would also be investment on road safety and Body-Worn-Video technology. There would be improved proactive capability to combat youth gang violence and drug misuse, improved emergency response, more effective safer neighbourhood teams, and prudent management of the financial reserves. The PCC reiterated the need for continued effective, proactive joint working with other agencies, including criminal justice, ambulance and mental health services. The Chief Constable assured the Panel that the Constabulary is looking to be more engaging and visible with local communities.

The Panel urged the PCC to continue the campaign to secure a better funding deal for Suffolk from the government. Panel members questioned the PCC about the concerns about engagement and visibility of police officers and PCSOs in local

communities, the brief online public survey that the PCC had undertaken, the resources deployed and the benefits arising from having the 'gold-standard' Suffolk/Norfolk joint cybercrime unit, the 'Seven Forces' regional collaboration, and the need for clear and frequent communication to the public communities and the media about exactly what the precept money is being spent on.

The Decision of the Panel

The Panel:

- 1) Unanimously supported the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to increase the precept by 6.7684% in 2018-19.
- 2) Recommended to the PCC that he provide the Panel with further detailed information at its next meeting in March, regarding the staffing proposals and specific initiatives on which the additional precept money will be spent.
- 3) Recommended to the PCC that he ensures that there is robust and timely communication with the public regarding what the additional precept money is being spent on, and the plans for more visibility and engagement with local communities.
- 4) Agreed that the Panel Chairman would make a formal report, on behalf of the Panel, on the PCC's precept, by the statutory deadline of 8 Feb 2018.

A copy of this report of the Panel will be put on the County Council's [website](#).

Councillor Patricia O'Brien
Chairman of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

31 January 2018

COUNCIL TAX and BUDGET OPTIONS 2018/19				
	1		2	
Options for Percentage Increase in Council Tax Bills:	1.98470%		6.76840%	
2018/19 Recommended Budget Summary:	£-p		£-p	
Operational costs before Savings	119,693,436.29		119,693,436.29	
Specific Grants (excluding Council Tax Freeze Grants)	-4,797,480.00		-4,797,480.00	
New Savings from 2018/19	-2,349,000.00		-2,349,000.00	
Savings to be identified	-863,034.33			
Known Changes	2,562,322.00		3,362,322.00	
Revenue Funding of Capital	2,001,420.00		2,001,420.00	
Appropriations to / from (-) Reserves	-1,710,603.84		-1,281,147.29	
Total Budget	114,537,060.13		116,629,551.00	
Budget financed by:				
Police Grant	40,154,673.00		40,154,673.00	
Business Rates	22,546,666.00		22,546,666.00	
Council Tax Freeze Grant (for no precept increase in 2011/12)	1,030,300.00		1,030,300.00	
Council Tax Freeze Grant (for no precept increase in 2012/13)	0.00		0.00	
Council Tax Freeze Grant (for no precept increase in 2013/14)	430,720.00		430,720.00	
Council Tax Freeze Grant (for no precept increase in 2014/15)	433,830.00		433,830.00	
Council Tax Freeze Grant (for no precept increase in 2015/16)	0.00		0.00	
Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit	439,696.00		439,696.00	
CT Support Funding Allocation	4,890,925.00		4,890,925.00	
Council Tax Requirement (based on 247,340 taxbase)	44,610,250.13		46,702,741.00	
	114,537,060.13		116,629,551.00	
Council Tax Rate Bands 18/19 (& increase over 17/18):	Rate	Annual Increase	Rate	Annual Increase
A	120.24	2.34	125.88	7.98
B	140.28	2.73	146.86	9.31
C	160.32	3.12	167.84	10.64
D	180.36	3.51	188.82	11.97
E	220.44	4.29	230.78	14.63
F	260.52	5.07	272.74	17.29
G	300.60	5.85	314.70	19.95
H	360.72	7.02	377.64	23.94

