

Suffolk Constabulary Policing Funding (Precept) 2022/2023

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This paper provides:

- a summary regarding what has been achieved through the additional precept funding in 2021/22
- a summary regarding the national uplift programme in Suffolk
- information regarding additional funding through the increase of the policing element of council tax in 2022/23.

2.0 Update - Police funding (precept) for 2021/22

2.1 The additional funding made available through the increase in the policing element of council tax by the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2021/22, enabled the Chief Constable to make operational changes and improvements within the 2021/2022 financial year, and saw the introduction of an additional **25** police officers and **26** police staff. The plan focussed on the following themes:

- Improving investigations and protecting vulnerable people
- Enhanced public engagement and improved communication
- Modernisation and transformation.

2.2 The Chief Constable provided the Police and Crime Commissioner with regular updates throughout the year which can be found on the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

3.0 National Uplift programme for 2022/23

The Constabulary's share of the Home Office funding from the national programme is **72** officers in 2022/23. All Forces are required to provide officers to special operations units across the country and Suffolk is required to provide **4** to the Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit (ERSOU). In addition, **1** Suffolk officer will be allocated to a collaborated post with Norfolk Constabulary.

4.0 Police funding (precept) for 2022/23

4.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner is proposing an increase in the policing element of the council tax of **19p** a week (for a Band D property) for the 2022/23 financial year. He will take his proposal to the Police and Crime Panel on 28th January 2022. This precept increase of **4.2%** equates to **£9.99** a year for a Band D property.

	Income £m	Costs £m	Budget £m	Budget £m
4.2% increase	£2.5m			
2% required for existing commitments		£1.1m		
Budget available			£1.4m	
Total amount for operational plans for Precept 22/23				£1.4m

4.2 It is important to recognise the following:

- savings of **£2.0m** are programmed for 2022/23 in accordance with the medium-term financial plan
- Suffolk is one of the lowest funded forces per person in England and Wales
- the increase of 4.2% is below the current inflation rate of 5.1%.

4.3 The Police & Crime Commissioner's proposed precept investment of **£1.4m** within the financial year 2022/23 would be allocated to the Contact and Control Room (CCR) Transformation and Modernisation Programme.

4.4 The CCR at Martlesham Police Headquarters deals with 999 and 101 calls, managing necessary calls for service from partners and front-line resources. It is much more than a 'call centre' and is responsible for the command, control and deployment of resources and managing operational matters whilst protecting vulnerable people at time of crisis through to high-risk major and critical policing events.

4.5 Demands on policing are growing exponentially and it is essential that the CCR is properly resourced and equipped to deliver a high-quality service and ensure Suffolk continues to be a safe place in which to live, work, travel and invest. The importance of the CCR cannot be overstated as it performs a crucial service to the public, partners and the Constabulary.

4.6 Suffolk Constabulary continues to face the challenge of bringing about improvements at a time of increased and more complex demand within the resources available. The organisation has undergone significant change over recent years. The focus remains on continuing to adapt, transform and improve our public service.

4.7 To achieve this Suffolk Constabulary is proposing a CCR transformation and modernisation programme. £1.4m is necessary to invest in:

- making it easier and quicker for the public to contact Suffolk police
- improving 101 call answering and digital opportunities for multi-channel contact
- increased public confidence and satisfaction
- additional capacity to effectively manage threat, harm and risk



- the most up to date technology to be more efficient and effective
 - raising service standards.
- 4.8 This comprehensive and ambitious programme will be led by the Assistant Chief Constable and is necessary to ensure the CCR continues to be able to deliver these essential services effectively and efficiently.
- 4.9 Investment of £1.4m will enable the Constabulary to recruit additional staff to deal with calls and contact from the public more quickly and manage resources responding to calls for service more effectively. Furthermore, additional Police Sergeants can be recruited to manage operations and the Constabulary will be able to create a digital desk to ensure it has the required capacity and capability to deal with public expectations regarding online and social media contact.
- 4.10 The Constabulary will produce a business case in March 2022 that sets out how best to use this funding to ensure the CCR is sufficiently resourced and equipped to deliver critical policing functions effectively and meet the needs of the public. This investment will enable this programme to be implemented.
- 4.11 This programme supports the PCC's Police and Crime Plan by ensuring that a modern, innovative, agile and flexible CCR is created and that all opportunities identified and agreed are maximised, enabling the Constabulary to respond effectively and efficiently to calls for urgent assistance. The Chief Constable needs to make operational changes and improvements focussing on how the Constabulary manages all contact in the Contact and Control Room (CCR) in a way that is in line with national standards and meets the needs of Suffolk communities.
- 4.12 The PCC will monitor the progress of this programme and hold the Chief Constable to account for outcomes, deliverables and return on public investment through the Accountability and Performance Panel.