

ORIGINATOR: PCC CFO

DECISION NUMBER: 3 - 2023

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRECEPT LEVEL AND COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT
2023/24

SUMMARY:

1. This paper describes the steps that have been taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner in determining his proposed precept level and council tax requirement for 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. The Police and Crime Panel are notified of the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by £14.94 for a Band D property in 2023/24.
2. This proposal is submitted to the Police and Crime Panel for consideration at its meeting on 27 January 2023.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendations set out above are agreed.

Signature: *Tina Pamme*

Date: *13th January*
2023

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1 Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the process for issuing a precept, including the Police and Crime Panel's role in reviewing the proposed precept, their power to veto the precept and the steps to be taken if they do veto the proposed precept.
- 1.2 The Home Office has previously issued guidance that supports the process described above, and includes the requirements of Section 5 of the Act, the Regulations' requirements and reporting requirements, together with the process for Police and Crime Panel scrutiny of the PCC's proposed precept, including key dates.
- 1.3 This report is based on figures within the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2023/24 to 2026/27, the recommendations within which were approved by the PCC on 13 January 2023 (Decision number 2 – 2023).

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The MTFP includes particular sections and appendices relating to the two options under consideration, which are:
 - **Option 1** - increase Band D council tax by 4% (£9.99) in 2023/24 and 2% in each of the three remaining years of the MTFP.
 - **Option 2** - increase Band D council tax by 6% (£14.94) in 2023/24 and by 2% in each of the three remaining years of the MTFP.
- 2.2 Based on the planning assumptions set out in the MTFP, Option 1 results in the Constabulary delivering a balanced budget in 2023/24. There is no surplus precept funding for further investment.
- 2.3 Option 2 would result in the Constabulary delivering a balanced budget in 2023/24 **and** additional funding of £1.3m more than Option 1 allowing investment in the following activities:
 - **Implementation of a Rapid Video Response for Victims of Domestic Abuse** to provide an immediate video response to a call that would otherwise require attendance in-person. Benefits will include:
 - The ability for victims of domestic abuse to report matters and engage at a time and in a place that suits them; and
 - Increased victim satisfaction levels due to the speed and ease with which victims are connected to trained police officers and staff.
 - **Increased Digital Engagement between the Public and Constabulary** to deal with calls through digital channels and deliver the capacity and capability to deal with public contact via the growing range of social media platforms in the same way the Constabulary currently deals with 999 and 101 telephone calls. Benefits will include:

- The provision of information promptly to the public at a time that suits them through digital systems and technology;
- Enabling the Constabulary to meet national policing requirements and provide more channels through which the public can contact the police and for the police to engage with the public;
- Easing of pressure on 999 and 101 call queues; and
- Enabling the Constabulary to communicate with more demographic groups and communities across Suffolk.

2.4 This investment is essential to ensure Suffolk Constabulary continues to deliver a high-quality service, catches criminals and keeps the public safe.

Under Option 2, increasing the precept by 6% in 2023/24 would result in an increase in the council tax bill from £247.68 per annum to £262.62 per annum (£14.94 per annum) for a council tax band D property.

2.5 Monitoring delivery of improvements in performance from the additional policing resources provided through the increased budget will occur at each of the publicly held Accountability and Performance Panel meetings, chaired by the PCC.

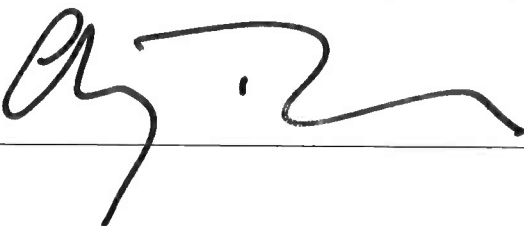
3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

3.1 In summary, after consideration of the detailed financial and non-financial aspects of the MTFP, the preferred option is to increase the precept by 6% (£14.94) in 2023/24.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
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 relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER

<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Signature:  Date: 13 Jan 2023</p>
