

Meeting: Police and Crime Panel for Essex
Date: 2.30pm; 20th February 2014
Venue: County Hall, Chelmsford

Revised Proposed Precept for 2014/15

Contacts: Nick Alston, Essex Police and Crime Commissioner,
Charles Garbett, Treasurer

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 In compliance with the letter from the Chairman of this Panel to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) dated 5 February the PCC is reporting back to this Panel with a revised proposed precept.
- 1.2 To highlight changes to the 2014/15 Budget Summary (Appendix A) to that presented to the last meeting of this Panel.

2 Proposed Precept 2014/15

- 2.1 On the 5th February the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government set out the principles which would enable the PCC to determine whether a particular precept increase would be excessive. If excessive, a referendum must be held in relation to that amount. The principles set were a precept increase of 2% or more would be deemed excessive.
- 2.2 As presented to the last meeting of this Panel, the PCC proposes a precept increase just below the trigger point for a referendum. This equates to an increase of 1.97% in order to ensure that a referendum being invoked through 'rounding upwards' is avoided and also that the resultant police element of the council tax for a Band D property, at £144.27, is divisible by 9 in order to facilitate its implementation by billing authorities.
- 2.3 As a direct consequence of moving from a precept increase of 3.5% to 1.97% the total Evolve and Reform activity savings required in 2014/15 shown in Appendix A have increased by £1.2m from £9.9m to £11.1m.

3 Changes to the Revised 2014/15 Budget Summary

- 3.1 The following changes have been made to the revised budget summary:
 - i) A reduction in the council tax precept income from £85,809k to £84,612k arising from a reduction in the proposed precept from 3.5% to 1.97%.
 - ii) An increase in the savings required of £1.2m as highlighted in paragraph 2.3 above.

- iii) An increase in the collection fund surplus of £101k from £821k to £922k reflecting the buoyancy of council tax collection.
- iv) An increase in the budgeted cost of supporting billing authorities through the council tax sharing agreement by £55k from £318k to £373k, again reflecting the increased performance of council tax collection.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The PCC proposes a precept increase of 1.97%, equivalent to an increase of £2.79 a year from £141.48 to £144.27 for a Band D property, thus raising £1.6m of additional council tax receipts.
- 4.2 The Police and Crime Panel is invited to review and report on the revised proposed precept.