

Summary of decisions from the meeting of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel, held in Committee Room 1 at County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday 1 February 2024  
Please note that this is not a full record of the proceedings at the meeting; the full Minutes will be published in due course.

**Present:****Councillor**

Mary Cunningham  
Donna Eley  
Dave Harris (Substitute)  
Ross Playle  
Simon Burwood  
Lisa Newport  
James Courtenay  
Gina Placey  
Gary Collins  
Maggie Sutton  
Aidan McGurran  
Frankie Ricci

**Representing**

Braintree District Council  
Chelmsford City Council  
Colchester City Council  
Essex County Council  
Maldon District Council  
Rochford District Council  
Southend-on-Sea City Council  
Tendring District Council  
Thurrock Council  
Uttlesford District Council  
Co-opted Member for Balanced Appointment  
Co-opted Member for Balanced Appointment

**Co-opted Independent Members**

Sheila Murphy

**Also in attendance**

Gemma Bint	Democratic Services Officer
Pippa Brent-Isherwood	Chief Executive, Office of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC)
Sophie Campion	Senior Democratic Services Officer, Secretary to the Panel
Neil Cross	Chief Finance Officer, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
Jane Gardner	Deputy Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Ben-Julian Harrington	Chief Constable
Roger Hirst	Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)
Darren Horsman	Strategic Head of Policy and Public Engagement, OPFCC
Rick Hylton	Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
Janet Perry	Chief Financial Officer and Strategic head of performance and Resources (OPFCC)
Emma Tombs	Democratic Services Manager

**1 Membership, Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

The report of the Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received and the membership, apologies and declarations noted.

## 2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 3 Questions to the Chairman from members of the Public

A question, relating to agenda item 5 – 2024/25 Proposed Police Precept, was put to the Chairman by Mr Kieron Franks. The Commissioner provided a response. Details will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

## 4 2024/25 Proposed Fire and Rescue Precept

The Panel received report EPFCP/01/24 which set out the overall level of resources in the proposed budget for 2024-25. The budget had been set in line with the objectives included within the Fire and Rescue Plan 2019-2024.

### Resolved:

That the Panel endorsed without qualification or comment, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's decision to increase the Fire precept by 2.91% equivalent to an increase of £2.34 a year, from £80.28 to £82.62 for a Band D property, raising an additional £1.5m of council tax receipts.

## 5 2024/25 Proposed Police Precept

The Panel received report EPFCP/02/24 which set out the overall level of resources in the proposed budget for 2024/25 and how this would enable continuing to get crime down, protect the vulnerable, support victims and continue the strategic shift to prevention.

### Resolved:

That the Panel endorsed without qualification or comment, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's decision to increase the police precept by 5.55 percent equivalent to an increase of £12.96 a year, from £233.46 to £246.42 for a Band D property, raising an additional £8.695 million of council tax receipts.

## 6 Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman confirmed that the reserve meeting date of Thursday 15 February 2024 would not be required due to the Panel's decision to support the proposed precepts.

The Panel noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 14 March 2024.

There being no urgent business, the meeting closed at 3:16pm.