

North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

11 February 2014

Dear Councillor Les

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL –  
PRECEPT PROPOSAL**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

On 31 January, I notified the Police and Crime Panel of my proposed precept for 2014/15. On 6 February, the Panel formally considered that proposal and, as it is required to do by law, has issued me with their report on that proposal on the 7 February.

I proposed a council tax precept for the police service of £57,956,989 which provides a Band D police council tax level of £208.62 (increase of 1.99%). In making that proposal, I had consulted with communities on how this would contribute towards the preservation of Police Officer numbers at the level which I inherited when I first arrived in office in November 2012 (1,392 FTE), overturning a decision by the old Police Authority to reduce those numbers to 1,270 FTE.

The commitment that I have made with the Chief Constable is to maintain Police Officer Full Time Equivalent (FTE) number at 1,392 and Police Community Support Officer FTE number at 183. As explained, the plans I inherited from the previous Police Authority would have seen these numbers reduce to 1,270 Police Officers. The precept increase equates to a contribution of 24 police officers towards maintaining the November 2012 level with the remainder funded from savings plans.

This commitment is supported by a comprehensive Information Technology and Estates programme to provide Officers and Staff with the right resources and assets in the right place at the right time. The investment programme is funded from separate capital funding including the use of reserves.



## **2. THE PANEL'S CONCLUSIONS**

I have been advised by the Police and Crime Panel, in its formal report to me, that the Panel supported my proposal. I am also advised that the Panel took into account the following requirements when making this decision: -

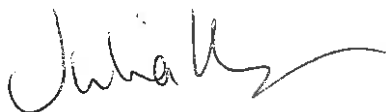
- Increasing Council Tax in 2014/15 by 1.99% (£4.07 per annum for a Band D property) following a freeze over the past three years.
- The key priority of maintaining Police Officer numbers of 1,392 and Police Community Support Officer numbers of 183.
- Being able to maintain the General Balance and Other Earmarked reserves at an acceptable level.
- To continue to progress and implement a comprehensive Capital and Revenue Development Programme.
- Continuing reductions in Government funding requiring additional savings.

## **3. COMMISSIONER'S RESPONSE**

I welcome the Panel's support of my precept proposal. The North Yorkshire public have told me from day one that the visibility of police is a top priority for them. The £4.07 a year increase means 24 police officers can be funded, with efficiency savings going towards the other hundred or so .

I can now finalise the police service's budget for 2014/15 based on the approved precept level, and will issue notices to the Council Tax billing authorities accordingly.

Yours sincerely



Julia Mulligan

Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire