

Report of the PFCC for North Yorkshire to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel

31st January 2019

Status: For decision

The 2019/20 Precept Proposal

1 Purpose

- 1.1 Legislation requires that I agree my budget and associated precept and basic council tax for the forthcoming year before 1st March each year. However before doing so I must notify this Panel of the precept which I propose to issue for the following year.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to consider my proposal to set the Band D Police Element of the Council Tax within North Yorkshire for 2019/20 at £256.77. This is an increase of £23.95 over the 2018/19 level.
- 2.2 The Panel is asked to note that in making this proposal I have taken into account the results of consultation with the public of North Yorkshire in relation to the level of precept for 2019/20. This consultation had 2,741 responses, a summary of the results is provided at Appendix 4.
- 2.3 The Panel is asked to support this proposal.

3 Reasons

- 3.1 The balance of the cost of the police service not paid for by central government is met by local taxpayers through a precept on their council tax. In North Yorkshire this will equate nearly 50% of the overall income that I will receive in 2019/20. It is the responsibility of the eight local billing authorities to collect this.
- 3.2 Legislation requires the precept for 2019/20 to be set before 1st March 2019 and that the first step in enabling this to happen is that I am required to inform this panel of my proposed precept by the 1st February 2019. Which I did by submitting this report prior to that date.

- 3.3 In making my proposal on the Police precept I have taken into account the following:
- The views of the public of North Yorkshire
 - The financial impact on the people of North Yorkshire.
 - The financial needs of the organisation as currently projected both for 2019/20 and in the future.
 - The limits imposed by the Government on a precept increase before a referendum would be triggered in North Yorkshire.
 - I have discussed my proposals with both the Chief Constable and engaged and consulted with the public on the options available to me.

Overall Financial Context

3.4 Police Funding Settlement 2019/20

3.5 The Final 2019-20 Police Settlement was announced in a written ministerial statement by the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service Nick Hurd MP on Thursday 24 January 2019. Full details of the settlement can be found on the Home Office pages of the gov.uk website.

3.6 Headlines

The main points within the settlement are a headline of £970m additional funding for the service which includes:

- £161m additional formula funding,
- £153m of pension grant,
- £59m additional funding for Counter Terrorism,
- £90m additional funding to tackle Serious and Organised Crime and
- £509m as a result of additional council tax flexibilities.

Of the £970m approximately £813m is for local policing

- £509m precept
- £143m pension grant
- £161m additional Funding.

Precept flexibility of up to £24 for all PCCs (or equivalents) in 2019-20.

£161m additional grant funding – made up of primarily £146m increase in core grant.

- 3.7 The settlement, including and assuming that each Police Force area increases the Police element of council tax by £24, and pension grant, represents an average cash increase (total funding) of 7.2% between 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- 3.8 £160m additional Counter Terrorism funding (announced at the 2018 Autumn Budget) equivalent to an annual increase of £59m; an 8% increase on total CT funding.
- 3.9 New Requirements - The minister's letter refers to the requirement to "drive efficiency, productivity and effectiveness".

3.10 It is important to reflect that this increase in funding does not reflect the significant increased Pension costs that have been passed to Forces to pay from 2019/20 onwards.

3.11 What is expected in return for this Flexibility and improved funding position?

3.12 The 2019-20 settlement provides more funding than had been previously expected. A letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) outlines the Policing Minister's 4 priority areas to "drive efficiency, productivity and effectiveness next year":

- Continued efficiency savings in 2019-20 through collective procurement and shared services. There will be an expectation that every force contributes substantially to procurement savings and the Home Office will be working with the police to agree the "right force level objectives for 2019-20 and 2020-21".
- Major progress expected to resolve challenges in investigative resource identified by HMICFRS, including recruitment of more detectives to tackle the shortfall.
- Continue to improve productivity, including smarter use of data to deliver £50m of productivity gains in 2019-20.
- Maintain a Serious and Organised Crime response that spans identification and management of local threats as well as support for national priorities.

3.13 What does this mean for North Yorkshire in 2019/20 in terms of Funding and Costs?

- An increase in Police Grant of £1,423k or 2.1%
- A Pension's Grant of £1,449k

HOWEVER

- The impact of Police Pension changes to North Yorkshire is £3.6m

Therefore in overall cash terms, before Precept is considered, the organisation has less Cash than it had last year, from the Government, taking into account the additional Pensions Costs that have been passed from the Government to Local Forces.

3.14 In real terms therefore this is a further cut to Government Funding of circa £2.2m.

3.15 Based on the increase in precept being proposed then the overall impact on the Core funding for the organisation, taking into account the additional Pensions costs is set out in the table below:

Funding the Net Budget Requirement				
	2019/20	2018/19	(Increase)/Reduction	Year on Year Change
	£000s	£000s	£000s	%age
Government Funding				
Police Grant	(41,994)	(41,100)	(894)	2.2%
RSG/National Non Domestic Rate	(27,191)	(26,662)	(529)	2.0%
Council Tax Freeze Grant	(2,152)	(2,152)	0	0.0%
Council Tax Support Grant	(5,746)	(5,746)	0	0.0%
Total Government Funding	(77,083)	(75,660)	(1,423)	1.9%
Additional Police Pensions Grant	(1,449)	0	(1,449)	
Additional Police Pension Contributions	3,600	0	3,600	
Actual Impact of Settlement changes	(74,932)	(75,660)	728	-1.0%
Impact of a £23.95 increase in Band D Precept - 10.3% increase				
Net Surplus on Collection Funds	(318)	(492)	175	-35.5%
Council Tax Requirement	(77,296)	(69,168)	(8,128)	11.8%
Total Local Funding	(77,614)	(69,661)	(7,953)	11.4%
Total Government + Local Funding	(152,546)	(145,320)	(7,225)	5.0%

3.16 How does North Yorkshire compare to the National Picture

3.17 Setting aside the additional Pension Costs, the government has stated that the settlement, including council tax (assuming a £24 increase for a Band D property) and pension grant, represents an average cash increase (total funding) of 7.2% between 2018-19 and 2019-20.

3.18 It is important to recognise that these increases do not take into account the additional Pension Costs, only the additional Pensions Grant.

3.19 Based on these assumptions North Yorkshire would fare better than average with a 7.65% increase. This is the equivalent to an additional £600k more than the average Police Force Area.

3.20 The range in percentage increases (assuming all PCC's increase their precept by £24 for a Band D property) range from an increase of 5.77% in Cleveland to 8.48% in Hertfordshire.

3.21 Government Funding for 2020/21 and beyond

There was no further mention of future settlements other than to repeat "this is the last settlement before the next Spending Review, which will set long term police budgets and look at how resources are allocated fairly across police forces. The Home Office is grateful to the police for the good work they are doing to build the evidence base to support that work, and we will also want to see evidence that this year's investment is being well spent."

3.22 There are no plans to review the Police Allocation Formula until after the Spending Review. The reference to looking at "how resources are allocated

fairly across police forces” is likely to refer to the ongoing work between the Home Office and the Police Sector to support the submission to the Spending Review. There are work streams investigating funding streams and funding models – i.e. regional/local arrangements but no plans yet to review the current police allocation formula.

- 3.23 Top-slices/Reallocations totalling £1,029m have been announced for 2019/20. This is £84m, or 9% higher than 2018/19. The areas this funding will now be spent on, instead of being allocated to PCC’s is as follows:

Police Funding	2017/18 (£m)	2018/19 (£m)	2019-20 (£m)
o/w Reallocations and adjustments	812	945	1,029
PFI	73	73	73
Police technology programmes	417	495	495
Arm’s length bodies	54	63	63
Top-ups to NCA and ROCUs			56
Strengthening the response to Organised Crime	28	42	90
Police transformation fund	175	175	175
Special Grant	50	93	73
Pre-charge bail	15	4	4

- 3.24 Legacy Council Tax funding is still separately identifiable and has not changed from 2018/19.

- 3.25 Police Capital Grant that is to be allocated to PCC’s has been increased by £11k (or 2.2%) with the PCC only receiving £440k which won’t even be enough to pay for the replacement of Police vehicles during 2019/20.

3.26 Counter Terrorism (CT)

At the Autumn Budget the Chancellor announced an additional £160m for counter terrorism policing, which is a £59m increase (8%) on the 2018-19 CT funding. The Police settlement confirmed these figures saying this additional funding will bring the total CT funding to £816m, including a £24m uplift in armed policing from the Police Transformation Fund.

It is estimated that approximately £20m of this funding is likely to be capital funding but this is subject to an in-year review in consultation with the national counter terrorism policing headquarters.

3.27 Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Funding

- 3.28 The Ministry of Justice have confirmed the level of the Victims and Witnesses Grant for 2019/20, and while the overall amount allocated to PCC’s has remained static at £67,855k, the grant is allocated based on population with little change seen for North Yorkshire during 2019/20.

3.29 MTFP Assumptions

When the 2018/19 budget was set in February 2018 the forecasts were underpinned by the following assumptions:

- Pay Awards: 2% increase per annum
- Precept: Increases of:
 - 2018/19 - £12 or 5.2%
 - 2019/20 - £12 or 5.15%
 - 2020/21 - 1.99%
 - 2021/22 - 1.99%
- Tax Base increases of 1.0% per annum
- Collection Surplus of £400k per annum
- Government Grants: Frozen until 2019/20 and the increases of 2% thereafter
- Impact of Funding Formula Review - Nil

3.30 In line with good planning our assumptions remain under review and are updated with the best information available and it is expected that the MTFP for 2019/20 and beyond will assume the following:

- Pay Awards: 2% increase p.a
- Precept: Increases of:
 - 2019/20 - £23.95 or 10.3%
 - 2020/21 - £12 or 4.7%
 - 2021/22 - 1.99%
 - 2022/23 - 1.99%
- Tax Base increases 1.0% per annum, Collection Surplus £400k p.a
- Government Grants: Frozen until 2020/21 and the increases of 2% thereafter
- Impact of Funding Formula review – Nil

3.22 Risks and Additional Pressures that North Yorkshire may face

There are a number of areas, beyond the results of the Public Consultation, which are worth the PFCC considering before making a decision in relation to the level of Precept to propose for consideration by the Police and Crime Panel for 2019/20. These are set out in following paragraphs:

3.23 Police Allocation Formula

Each 1% of reduction that results from the funding formula review would reduce the government grant received by North Yorkshire by approximately £700k per annum. In terms of assessing the likely risk from a revised funding formula, the 'Simplified Funding Formula' that was initially proposed for implementation in 2016/17 would have seen the government grant available to North Yorkshire reduce by approximately £3.5m to £4.0m per annum on a recurring basis.

3.24 Comprehensive Spending Review

It is likely to be difficult for Policing as a service to make the case that they need more funding if they have the opportunity to raise more money through the Precept but decided either than they didn't need it or wouldn't.

3.25 From a North Yorkshire specific perspective it might be difficult to make the case as part of the review on any Funding Formula that Policing in North Yorkshire either needs as much as it currently receives from the Funding Formula or should receive more if the opportunity to raise funds via the precept are not taken.

3.26 ESMCP

The Home Office (HO) are leading a national programme to deliver a replacement for the current Airwave system. This new system is called the Emergency Services Network (ESN).

3.27 The Programme is known as the ESMCP – (Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme) and will oversee this updated system implementation for the three emergency services (police, fire & ambulance) and other public safety users (over 300 active user organisations).

3.28 ESMCP will see a fundamental change to how each force will receive critical voice and mobile broadband as part of a national Emergency Service Network for the UK.

3.29 The scope and complexity of the ESN roll out will have a significant impact on North Yorkshire Police. It will require a force-wide review of any plans or considerations for refreshing or awarding contracts in the areas of airwave, mobile data, mobile telephony, network replacement (or any equipment that has a SIM card, a network connection and a monthly charge), together with due consideration for collaborative and operational arrangements that the transition may impact upon.

3.30 Both the timing and costs of this programme of work are very difficult to assess as both have moved and continue to move significantly. The latest set of figures would suggest costs to North Yorkshire Police of circa £5.2m across the life of the MTFP.

3.31 Currently the MTFP does not specifically provide for any of these costs and should they prove to be in addition to the currently budgeted spend in the areas of airwave, mobile data, mobile telephony, network replacement (or any equipment that has a SIM card, a network connection and a monthly charge) then these costs will need to be funded from within current resources.

3.32 Police Pay

In was announced in September 2018 that Scottish police officers would receive an immediate 6.5% pay increase backdated to 1 September 2018 and which applies until 31 March 2021.

- 3.33 Given that Police Officers in England and Wales received a pay increase that, was in reality, worth less than 1% in September 2018 then there is likely to be some significant pressure for a better pay increase from September 2019.
- 3.34 There are a number of scenarios currently being modelled and all of these would cost more than the currently budgeted position of 2% increases per annum across the life of the MTFP.
- 3.35 All of these scenarios would cost more in 2019/20 – between £0.7m and £1.1m and across a 3 year period would cost more by between £1.5m and £2.5m.
- 3.36 Should any of these scenarios materialise then savings/reductions would need to be made to meet these costs. There will be no additional funds from the government to meet these costs – the Government have been clear in the recent past that the additional precept flexibility that they have provided to PCC's would need to cover any pay awards.
- 3.37 Staff Pay
While the above risk arises because of the settlement in Scotland it is also important to recognise that it would be very challenging to agree a Pay deal for 'Staff' that wouldn't be along similar lines.
- 3.38 All of these scenarios being looked at for Police, if then applicable to Staff would similarly cost more in 2019/20 than budgeted – between £0.4m and £0.7m and across a 3 year period would cost more by between £0.9m and £1.5m.
- 3.39 To mitigate the risks of the potential costs from both ESMCP and Pay Awards would require an increase in precept of between £7 and £9 on top of the £12 required to balance the current budget.
- 3.40 The Funding Formula is more of an unknown quantity at this stage and unlikely to have any impact before 2021/22 and therefore while the organisation needs to be mindful of this it is perhaps an area that will need to be addressed in the future

3.41 Gaps in Service Delivery and Neighbourhood Policing

Over the last few years there has been significant investment in those areas that are assessed as those providing the greater areas of Threat, Risk and Harm, this included a £3m strategy to improve protection for vulnerable people that was announced in 2016. The recent Neighbourhood Policing Survey provided a timely reminder however of the concerns that the public have about the erosion of local policing services in North Yorkshire. The summary findings of the survey were that:

- Overall, residents feel less safe than they did a year ago
- 40% of people feel crime and anti-social behaviour is getting worse in their area
- Policing comes at the bottom of the list when residents are asked to rate local public services
- Less than one third of people are satisfied with the level of police presence in their area
- Scarborough and Richmondshire are standout areas for good practice and community confidence
- There is support for partners to take more action over mental health related issues
- Communities feel they should be given a greater say on resolving anti-social behaviour issues in their area

3.42 In response to these concerns, and the strategic direction of the PFCC to deliver the 'Reinforcing the Front Line' goal set out in the Police and Crime Plan, the Force have drawn up plans to address the areas that were raised within this survey and have proposed the following:

- Community Resilience Teams with a visible presence dedicated to prevention and facilitating multi agency working.
- Mental Health Coordinators to support our most vulnerable residents and reduce the need for emergency secondary interventions
- Increased and structured engagement with communities to understand what matters to the place with a focus on volume acquisitive crime and volume offenders. Subsequently this will reduce the fear of crime through increased traditional community presence and engagement. This would include:
 - Integrated Offender Management
 - Uniformed Officers focused on volume acquisitive crime and volume crime prevention and engagement
 - Bail Management
- Creation of a Public Safety Officer across public sector organisations.

- Online PCSOs to provide prevention advice and support investigations such as online crime
- A City Task Force, focused on primary interventions to ensure that our more urban communities problems are being solved

To deliver these proposals would result in an increase in both Police Officers (50 FTEs) and PCSO and Community Safety Staff (20 FTEs) and once fully implementing would costs in the region of £3.3m on an annual basis. These are the priority areas, in terms of where the additional precept funding would be invested. Ideally those risks and potential costs identified elsewhere would be funded from the internal savings and transformation programme and the additional precept would be focussed on spend in this vital area.

The Commissioner will be closely holding the Force to account to ensure that this investment improves those priority areas identified above and this then helps improve the areas of public concerns that have been highlighted.

4 **Public Consultation**

- 4.1 To further inform the decision around the proposed precept for 2019/20 consultation has been undertaken with the public to ascertain their feedback and thoughts on this subject
- 4.2 In total, 2,741 responses were received from North Yorkshire residents. The consultation was undertaken in numerous ways. A representative telephone survey was conducted, supported by an open, online survey. The open survey was publicised on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s website and promoted via social media. Leaflets located in libraries and other accessible locations across North Yorkshire further promoted the survey as well as providing a paper-based return option. The results of the consultation are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The results of consultation with the public of North Yorkshire in relation to the level of precept for 2019/20, which had 2,741 responses, which is 24% more than 2018/19, has resulted in 65% of the telephone survey and 68% of the Open On-Line survey supporting an increase.
- 4.4 A summary of the results is shown below with more than two-thirds (67%) support an increase in the police precept of at least £11.50. Over a third (37%) opted for an increase in excess of the £11.50, up to the cap of £24 (includes those who said ‘more than £24’).

	Telephone (n=975)	Online (n=1732)	Total (n=2707)
Freeze	35%	32%	33%
£11.50 as per last year	34%	28%	30%
£11.50 - £24	24%	24%	24%
More than £24	7%	16%	13%
TOTAL who support an increase	65%	68%	67%

- 4.5 In looking at the public opinion, a clear majority support an increase to the precept.
- 4.6 To estimate the level of increase those who opted for an increase would be prepared to pay, a Weighted Average calculation was undertaken based on the level of support for an increase of £11.50, an increase of £24 and an assumption that those who opted for an increase above £24 would be prepared to pay £3 per month more – so a £36 increase.
- 4.7 This calculation produced a Band D increase of £20.73 per annum.

4.8 The Tax Base

The eight local Councils have notified me of their tax bases for 2019/20 as set out in the table below:

Tax Base	2019/20	2018/19
	Net Tax Base	Net Tax Base
Craven District Council	22,525	22,455
Hambleton District Council	36,847	36,033
Harrogate Borough Council	62,461	61,898
Richmondshire District Council	19,831	19,608
Ryedale District Council	21,812	21,581
Scarborough Borough Council	38,397	38,007
Selby District Council	31,395	30,837
York City Council	67,706	66,671
Total	300,974	297,090
Annual Increase	3,884	
Percentage Increase	1.31%	

- 4.9 The tax base is expressed in terms of Band D equivalent properties. Actual properties are converted to Band D equivalent by allowing for the relevant value of their tax bands as set down in legislation (ranging from 2/3rds for Band A to double for Band H; discounts for single person occupation, vacant properties, people with disabilities etc;) and a percentage is deducted for non-collection. Allowance is also made for anticipated changes in the number of properties.
- 4.10 The tax base calculated by the billing authorities differ from the figures used by the Government (which assumes 100% collection) in calculating Grant Formula entitlements.
- 4.11 As can be seen from the table above the number of Band D equivalent properties across North Yorkshire has increased in 2019-20, in comparison to 2018-19, by 3,884 – this equates to an increase of 1.31%.
- 4.12 The financial impact of this permanent increase in the number of calculated Band D properties of 3,884 is a recurring increase in precept funding of circa £1m from 2019/20 onwards, which has helped to reduce budget reductions and savings.
- 4.13 The 2019/20 tax base is therefore 300,974.02 Band D Equivalent properties.

4.14 Setting the Council Tax

The precept calculation needs to take account of any net surplus or deficit on the billing authority collection funds. Projected surplus/deficits on the individual funds are shown in the table below.

Collection Funds Surplus/ (Deficit)	
	£
Craven District Council	98,173
Hambleton District Council	51,240
Harrogate Borough Council	(41,002)
Richmondshire District Council	(12,905)
Ryedale District Council	(13,500)
Scarborough Borough Council	168,843
Selby District Council	(23,020)
York City Council	89,709
Net Surplus on Collection Fund	317,538

4.15 The surpluses/deficit that have arisen need to be returned through the precept. The final precept to be levied will reflect the position on each council's collection fund.

4.16 In the 6 years prior to the Localisation of Council Tax benefits, the overall surplus on the collections funds of the 8 Councils, averaged just under £140k per annum. In the following 6 years the collection surpluses have been as follows:

- 2014/15 - £385k
- 2015/16 - £757k
- 2016/17 - £971k
- 2017/18 - £993k
- 2018/19 - £492k
- 2019/20 - £318k

4.17 This results, in part, from continued house building, changes made to Localisation of Council Tax benefit schemes, a review of single person discounts and the implementation of new powers on council tax application, such as on empty properties. There is however no guarantee that this level of surplus will continue into future years and therefore the current financial plans assume a surplus on the collective collection funds of £400k per annum across the eight councils.

4.18 Financial Summary

Net Budget Requirement

Based on the proposed precept increase of £24 the Net Budget Requirement (NBR) for 2019/20, in comparison to 2018/19, is set out in the table below:

Funding the Net Budget Requirement				
	2019/20	2018/19	(Increase)/Reduction	%age Change
	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Funding				
Police Grant	(41,994)	(41,100)	(894)	2.2%
RSG/National Non Domestic Rate	(27,191)	(26,662)	(529)	2.0%
Total Formula Funding	(69,185)	(67,762)	(1,423)	2.1%
Net Surplus on Collection Funds	(318)	(492)	175	-35.5%
Council Tax Freeze Grant	(2,152)	(2,152)	0	0.0%
Council Tax Support Grant	(5,746)	(5,746)	0	0.0%
Council Tax Requirement	(77,281)	(69,168)	(8,113)	11.7%
Net Budget Requirement	(154,681)	(145,320)	(9,361)	6.4%

4.19 As a result of the Government Grant settlements being better than expected, and the flexibility to increase precept by more than previously forecast, then the overall funding available to the PCC is higher than projected in February 2018 by £9.4m.

4.20 This needs to be viewed in the context of the increased Police Pension contribution requirement that totals £2.2m per annum, after allowing for an additional pensions grant. In overall terms the PCC will therefore have around £7.2m more income, at the Net Budgetary Requirement level, in 2019/20 than was expected a year ago. It is worth noting that this increase is absorbed by unavoidable additional costs to the organisation in 2019/20, in comparison to 2018/19, primarily from 2% National Pay Awards and more general inflation, where CPI is currently 2.1% and RPI 2.7%

4.21 This should therefore provide some opportunity to invest in 2019/20 in priority areas.

4.22 Precept Calculations

The final precept calculations are set out in the tables below based on a £23.95 increase:

Proposed Precepts - £23.95 Increase			
	Unadjusted Precept	Collection Fund Balance	Council Tax Requirement
	£	£	£
Craven District Council	5,881,917	98,173	5,783,744
Hambleton District Council	9,512,501	51,240	9,461,261
Harrogate Borough Council	15,997,035	(41,002)	16,038,037
Richmondshire District Council	5,079,106	(12,905)	5,092,011
Ryedale District Council	5,587,111	(13,500)	5,600,611
Scarborough Borough Council	10,028,041	168,843	9,859,198
Selby District Council	8,038,323	(23,020)	8,061,343
York City Council	17,474,604	89,709	17,384,895
Total Precept	77,598,637	317,538	77,281,099

4.23 The 'basic amount' of council tax is the rate for a Band D property. It is calculated by dividing the Council Tax Requirement by the total tax base i.e. £77,281,099 by 300,974.2 giving a council tax rate for Band D properties of £256.77.

4.24 The proposed council tax rate for each property band is determined in accordance with the statutory proportions and is set out in the table below, it also shows the increases for each Band in comparison to 2018/19. It is advised that the tax rates should be calculated to more than 2 decimal places.

Council Tax Band Amounts and Increases				
Property Band	£23.95 increase			
	2019/20	2018/19	Increase per Annum	Increase per Week
	£	£	£	£
A	171.180	155.213	15.97	0.31
B	199.710	181.082	18.63	0.36
C	228.240	206.951	21.29	0.41
D	256.770	232.820	23.95	0.46
E	313.830	284.558	29.27	0.56
F	370.890	336.296	34.59	0.66
G	427.950	388.033	39.92	0.77
H	513.540	465.640	47.90	0.92

4.25 As you will see from the table above the impact of my proposal to increase the Police precept by £23.95 will increase a household council tax bill by 46 pence per week for a Band D property.

5. Conclusion

I have considered various options and various factors in deliberating on my proposal for precept in 2019/20. I have spoken with the Chief Constable and have consulted with the public. I have taken into account both the current and likely risks facing the Police service in terms of finances, and have considered the clear messages within the recent Neighbourhood Policing Survey, from the public of North Yorkshire, of the need for more visible local policing.

Based on these views and the financial needs of the organisation over the medium term I formally propose a police precept for 2019/20 of £256.77 for a Band D property within North Yorkshire. This would be an increase of £23.95 per annum, from the 2018/19 level.

To aid the Panel in considering my proposal on Precept I attach to this report:

A Decision Note on 'Proposing the 2019/20 Precept'

Further to this the following additional Appendices are also attached:

- Appendix 1 – Draft Budget based on a £23.95 Precept Increase
- Appendix 2 – Draft Capital and Revenue Development Programme
- Appendix 3 – Draft Forecast Reserves Schedule
- Appendix 4 – Report on Police Precept Consultation

Glossary

Band D council tax - This is the council tax payable on a Band D dwelling occupied as a main residence by two adults, before any reductions due to discounts, exemptions or council tax benefit. This definition is widely regarded as a benchmark when comparing council tax levels in different areas or over time.

Billing Authorities - Billing authorities are the 326 authorities (354 before 1 April 2009) that are empowered to set and collect council taxes, and manage a Collection Fund, on behalf of themselves and other local authorities in their area.

Budget requirement – This is an amount calculated, in advance of each year, by each billing authority, by each major precepting authority and by each local precepting authority (primarily parish councils). It is broadly the authority's net revenue expenditure allowing for movement in reserves. It is therefore, the amount to be met from revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates, principal formula police grant, GLA general grant and council tax.

Chargeable dwellings - Those domestic dwellings in an area for which council tax is payable. It excludes dwellings on the valuation list which are exempt from paying council tax. Each chargeable dwelling is counted as one dwelling, whether or not a full council tax bill is payable for it. The total number of chargeable dwellings in an area is the denominator used to calculate the average council tax per dwelling. In April 2013 council tax exemptions for short term empty properties and properties undergoing major structural repairs were abolished and replaced with a flexible discount rate for all empty properties. This change significantly increased the number of chargeable dwellings in England,

Collection Fund - The fund administered by a billing authority into which council taxes are paid, and from which payments were made to the general fund of billing and precepting authorities.

Council tax - This is a local charge (or charges) set by the billing authority in order to collect sufficient revenue to meet their demand on the collection fund and the precepts issued by the precepting authorities. It replaced the community charge on 1 April 1993 and is calculated based on the council tax band assigned to the dwelling. The Valuation Office Agency assesses the properties in each district area and assigns each dwelling to one of eight valuation bands; A to H. Council tax is set on the basis of the number of Band D equivalent properties. Tax levels for dwellings in other bands are set relative to the Band D baseline.

Council Tax Band - There are eight council tax bands, A to H. Each domestic dwelling is assigned a council tax band by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). Council tax bands are based on the value of the dwelling as at 1 April 1991. Any dwelling built after this date is given a notional 1991 value for council tax purposes.

Council Tax Freeze Grant – a scheme introduced in 2011-12 to pay a grant to local authorities that froze or reduced their council tax in that year. Further schemes have been offered to authorities that froze or reduced their council tax in all subsequent years.

Council Tax Referendums - The Localism Act 2011 abolished central government capping and made provision for binding referendums to be held on excessive council tax increases. A referendum must be held where an authority's council tax increase is higher than the

principles proposed annually by the Secretary of State and approved by the House of Commons.

Council tax requirement - This is an amount calculated, in advance of each year, by each billing authority and by each major precepting authority. It is the amount of revenue to be met from council tax, and is equivalent to an authority's Band D council tax multiplied by its council tax base.

Localisation of council tax support – From 1 April 2013 council tax benefit, the means of helping people on low incomes meet their council tax obligations, was replaced by new localised support schemes. This means that, at least for working age people, local councils are now free to design almost any scheme they wish to provide help with council tax.

Local precepting authority – parish / town councils, chairmen of parish meetings, charter trustees and the treasurers of the Inner and Middle Temples are all local precepting authorities. These local authorities make a precept on the billing authority's general fund.

Major precepting authority - These are county councils in two-tier areas, police and crime commissioners, fire and rescue authorities and the Greater London Authority. These local authorities make a precept on the billing authority's Collection Fund.

Precept - The amount of money (council tax) that a local or major precepting authority has instructed the billing authority to collect and pay over to it in order to finance its net expenditure.

Relevant basic amount of council tax – It is used as the basis for deciding if a referendum is required to approve or reject a local authority's level of council tax for the year.

Tax base - This is the number of Band D equivalent dwellings in a local authority area. To calculate the tax base for an area, the number of dwellings in each council tax band is reduced to take account of discounts and exemptions. The resulting figure for each band is then multiplied by its proportion relative to Band D (from 6/9 for Band A to 18/9 for Band H) and the total across all eight bands is calculated. An adjustment is then made for the collection rate. The tax base figure that is used by a local authority when it sets its council tax uses an adjustment for the collection rate, the actual discount for second homes and any premium applicable to empty homes.

Budget - A statement of an organisation's plans in financial terms. A budget is prepared and approved before the start of each financial year and is used to monitor actual expenditure throughout the year.

Government Grants - Assistance by government and inter-government agencies and similar bodies, whether local, national or international, in the form of cash or transfers of assets to an authority in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the authority.

National Non-Domestic Rate (NDR) - The business rate in the pound is the same for all non-domestic ratepayers and is set annually by the government. Income from business rates goes into a central government pool that is then distributed according to resident population.

Police Grant - A grant paid by the government to Police and Crime Commissioners as a proportion of the Formula Spending Share or FSS.

Precept - The income which the Police and Crime Commissioner requires the District Council to raise from Council Tax on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG) - General government grant support towards expenditure.



Decision Notice

Police Precept Proposal 2019/20

The PFCC has decided, after consultation with the public, after taking into account both the current and likely risks facing the Police service in terms of finances, and after considering the clear messages within the recent Neighbourhood Policing Survey, from the public of North Yorkshire, of the need for more visible local policing, to propose to the Police and Crime Panel a police precept for 2019/20 of £256.77 for a Band D property within North Yorkshire. This would be an increase of £23.95 per annum, from the 2018/19 level.

Background

Legislation requires that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PCC) agrees their budget and associated precept and basic council tax for the forthcoming year before 1st March each year. However before doing so the PCC must notify the relevant Police and Crime Panel, by the 31st January, of the precept which they propose to issue for the following financial year.

The Police Settlement for 2019/20 has provided the PFCC with:

- An increase in Police Grant of £1,423k or 2.1%
- A Pension's Grant of £1,449k

HOWEVER

- The impact of Police Pension changes to North Yorkshire is increased annual costs of £3.6m.

Therefore in overall cash terms, before Precept is considered, the organisation has less Cash than it had last year, from the Government, taking into account the additional Pensions Costs that have been passed from the Government to Local Forces.

In real terms therefore this is a further cut to Government Funding of circa £2.2m.

Precept flexibility of up to £24 has been provided for all PCCs (or equivalents) in 2019-20, which means that the Band D level of the Police Precept can be increased by up to, and including, £24 before a referendum is required.

Given the above, a Precept increase of circa £12 per year, for a Band D property, would be required to deliver a standstill balanced budget and medium term financial plan, based on current assumptions. The main assumptions are that Pay Awards are no higher than 2% per

annum, that there is no negative impact from the Funding Formula review on North Yorkshire, that the Pensions Grant continues to be received and that government funding starts to increase as part of the next Comprehensive Spending Review.

Each £1 increase above £12 provides £300k on a recurring basis to invest in Policing services within North Yorkshire and/or mitigates the likelihood of cuts/reductions in service should some of the risks that currently exist materialise, the primary risks of note are:

- Funding Formula review – Potential reduction in Government funding of £3.5-£4.0m per annum.
- Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) – potential costs estimated at £5.2m across the current MTFP period. Of which £0.4m likely in 2019/20, but on average £1.3m per annum could be needed for each of the next 4 years.
- Pay Awards – estimated additional costs of £1.1m to £1.8m in 2019/20 and additional costs of £2.4m to £4.0m across a 3 year period.

To mitigate the risks of the potential costs from both ESMCP and Pay Awards would require an increase in precept of between £7 and £9 on top of the £12 required to balance the current budget.

The Funding Formula is more of an unknown quantity at this stage and unlikely to have any impact before 2021/22 and therefore while the organisation needs to be mindful of this it is perhaps an area that will need to be addressed in the future.

Consultation

The results of consultation with the public of North Yorkshire in relation to the level of precept for 2019/20, which had 2,741 responses, which is 24% more than 2018/19, has resulted in 65% of the telephone survey and 68% of the Open On-Line survey supporting an increase.

In looking at the public opinion, a clear majority support an increase to the precept. However, due to the way the options were offered, the additional amount they are prepared to pay varies.

To estimate the level of increase those who opted for an increase would be prepared to pay, a Weighted Average calculation was undertaken, based on the level of support for an increase of £11.50, an increase of £24 and an assumption that those who opted for an increase above £24 would be prepared to pay £3 per month more – so a £36 increase.

This calculation produced a Band D increase of £20.73 per annum which would be sufficient to firstly balance the 2019/20 budget and MTFP and then mitigate the risks of higher Pay Awards and the potential costs of ESMCP.

Neighbourhood Policing

Over the last few years there has been significant investment in those areas that are assessed as those providing the greater areas of Threat, Risk and Harm, this included a £3m strategy to improve protection for vulnerable people that was announced in 2016. The recent Neighbourhood Policing Survey provided a timely reminder however of the concerns that the public have about the erosion of local policing services in North Yorkshire. In response to these concerns, and the strategic direction of the PFCC to deliver the 'Reinforcing the Front Line' goal set out in the Police and Crime Plan, the Force have drawn up plans to address the areas that were raised within this survey and have proposed the following:

- Community Resilience Teams with a visible presence dedicated to prevention and facilitating multi agency working.
- Mental Health Coordinators to support our most vulnerable residents and reduce the need for emergency secondary interventions
- Increased and structured engagement with communities to understand what matters to the place with a focus on volume acquisitive crime and volume offenders. Subsequently this will reduce the fear of crime through increased traditional community presence and engagement. This would include:
 - Integrated Offender Management
 - Uniformed Officers focused on volume acquisitive crime and volume crime prevention and engagement
 - Bail Management
- Creation of a Public Safety Officer across public sector organisations.
- Online PCSOs to provide prevention advice and support investigations such as online crime
- A City Task Force, focused on primary interventions to ensure that our more urban communities problems are being solved

To deliver these proposals would result in an increase in both Police Officers (50 FTEs) and PCSO and Community Safety Staff (20 FTEs) and once fully implementing would costs in the region of £3.3m on an annual basis. These are the priority areas, in terms of where the additional precept funding would be invested. Ideally those risks and potential costs identified elsewhere would be funded from the internal savings and transformation programme and the additional precept would be focussed on spend in this vital area.

The Commissioner will be closely holding the Force to account to ensure that this investment improves those priority areas identified above and this then helps improve the areas of public concerns that have been highlighted.

Delivery Against last years' Plans

In increasing the Precept by £11.50 last year the Police and Crime Commissioner was clear that the Chief Constable needed to demonstrate real progress on delivering efficiency savings in order to justify a further increase in 2019/20.

The Chief Constable was asked to implement a programme of organisational change over the next two to three years, with a clear objective of saving £7.5m on top of those efficiencies and savings factored into the 2018/19 budget. Significant work has been done on this objective with plans in place to deliver these savings by 2020/21.

In addition to this the Force were required to maintain and increase frontline policing and PCSO numbers, ensuring we reach our recruitment targets of 1,400 police officers (an increase of 81 from December 2017 levels) and 200 PCSOs. Both of these are expected to be broadly achieved with PCSO number expected to have averaged 200 FTEs throughout 2018/19 and Police Officer numbers expected to be in excess of 1,390 FTEs by the end of the financial year.

And finally there was a specific requirement on the Force to improve performance of the force control room (FCR) and the response to 999 and 101 calls made to the police by the public. The investment into the FCR following the precept increase in 2018/19 led to the introduction of a number of measures all aimed at improving call handling performance in respect of 999 and 101. Firstly there was an investment in people, coupled with the introduction of a learning and development hub which included a new building able to accommodate a higher number of new recruits at any one time. The FCR building itself was further extended to provide additional call handling provision and the equipment used was all upgraded to ensure that the call handlers had access to the best possible technology.

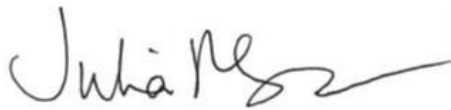
In order to enhance morale the Force have also invested in their staff by providing additional rest and refreshment facilities.

The impact has been a significant improvement to call handling performance. Demand has continued to increase and from being in a position in the Summer of 2017, where for 3 months the Force were on the Home Office list for breaching 999 response; and the average time to answer a 101 call was between 4-6minutes, the Force, after the investment, now answer all 999 calls with the average time to answer being less than 10 seconds. In addition the Force now answers 101 calls in an average of 1min 30 seconds – 48% are answered in less than 30 seconds. Now that performance has largely been stabilised, the Force is considering how further improvements can be made, which will be included in the Transform 2020 programme in due course

This would not have been possible without the investments being made. Staff morale is much higher as well which also impacts upon customer service.

Decision Record

The PFCC has decided, after consultation with the public, after taking the advice of her officers on both the current and likely financial risks facing the Police service, and after considering the clear messages within the recent Neighbourhood Policing Survey, from the public of North Yorkshire, of the need for more visible local policing, to propose to the Police and Crime Panel a police precept for 2019/20 of £256.77 for a Band D property within North Yorkshire. This would be an increase of £23.95 per annum, from the 2018/19 level.



Julia Mulligan
Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire

Statutory Officer Advice

Legal, Management and Equality Implications
The PCC's CEO and Monitoring Officer has advised that

Financial and Commercial

The PCC's Chief Finance Officer and S151 Officer has advised that the financial implications of this Decision are set out in the Executive Summary and/or the attached report. The decision will ensure that the PCC meets her legislative requirements in relation with the Police element of the precept and will also ensure that there is sufficient funding available in 2019/20 to fund the organisation to deliver against the Police and Crime Plan priorities.

APPENDIX 1

PCC Summary MTFP - Draft Projections at January 2019 based on £23.95 increase

	Actual Budget 2017/18	Forecast Budget 2018/19	Forecasts			2022/23
			2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
Core Funding	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Government Grant	(67,762)	(67,762)	(69,185)	(69,185)	(70,569)	(71,980)
Council Tax Precept	(66,029)	(69,661)	(77,597)	(82,279)	(84,742)	(87,279)
Council Tax Freeze Grant	(2,152)	(2,152)	(2,152)	(2,152)	(2,152)	(2,152)
Council Tax Support Grant	(5,746)	(5,746)	(5,746)	(5,746)	(5,746)	(5,746)
Funding for Net Budget Requirement	(141,689)	(145,320)	(154,680)	(159,361)	(163,208)	(167,157)
%age Change in Net Budgetary Requirement	1.1%	2.6%	6.4%	3.0%	2.4%	2.4%
Other Funding						
Specific Grants	(3,021)	(2,900)	(4,105)	(3,827)	(3,827)	(3,827)
Partnership Income/Fees and Charges	(9,970)	(8,702)	(8,129)	(7,931)	(7,923)	(8,022)
Total Funding	(154,680)	(156,923)	(166,914)	(171,120)	(174,958)	(179,006)
%age Change in Funding	3.1%	1.4%	6.4%	2.5%	2.2%	2.3%
Office of the PCC Planned Expenditure	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Total Planned Expenditure	911	1,011	1,080	1,100	1,120	1,140
Commissioned Services	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Commissioned Services	3,651	3,979	3,655	3,573	3,580	3,594
Total Planned Expenditure	3,651	3,979	3,655	3,573	3,580	3,594
Policing Priorities Fund	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Investment Fund	0	1,963	6,295	8,938	11,552	11,669
Total Policing Priorities Fund	0	1,963	6,295	8,938	11,552	11,669
Corporate Services	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Staff Pay	7,242	7,183	7,587	7,735	7,892	8,060
Other Non Salary	271	79	75	76	78	79
Premises	4,590	4,387	4,433	4,303	4,389	4,477
Supplies and Services	8,793	8,843	9,689	10,221	10,388	10,054
Transport	635	620	729	742	757	772
Asset Management	495	906	401	493	582	635
Total Corporate Services	22,027	22,018	22,914	23,571	24,086	24,078
Police Force Planned Expenditure	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Pay						
Police Pay	71,361	73,540	75,929	77,763	79,303	80,889
Police Overtime	2,005	2,070	2,033	2,073	2,115	2,157
PCSO Pay (incl Overtime)	6,717	6,605	6,719	6,853	6,990	7,130
Staff Pay (incl Overtime)	28,123	26,280	30,961	31,085	31,647	32,280
Pay Total	108,206	108,495	115,642	117,774	120,055	122,456
Non-Pay Budgets						
Other Non Salary	1,382	1,535	1,573	1,602	1,634	1,667
Injury and Medical Police Pensions	3,199	3,699	3,700	3,822	3,898	3,976
Premises	65	54	86	88	89	91
Supplies and Services	11,637	12,321	13,159	13,651	13,923	14,190
Transport	1,761	1,660	1,913	1,945	1,980	2,020
Non-Pay Total	18,044	19,269	20,432	21,108	21,525	21,944
Total Planned Force Expenditure	126,250	127,764	136,073	138,882	141,580	144,400
%age Change in Expenditure	4.0%	1.2%	6.5%	2.1%	1.9%	2.0%
Total Expenditure Budgets	152,839	156,735	170,017	176,064	181,918	184,881
Future Efficiency and Savings Target			(5,000)	(7,500)	(10,000)	(10,000)
Total Expenditure Budgets after Efficiencies and Savings			165,017	168,564	171,918	174,881
(Surplus)/Deficit before Reserves/Capital	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
(1,841)	(188)	(1,897)	(2,556)	(3,040)	(4,124)	
Planned Transfers to/(from) General Fund	(1,104)	(1,800)	0	0	0	0
Contribution to Capital Programme	3,885	1,492	2,342	2,771	3,010	4,094
Projects	3,586	2,219	991	140	20	0
Planned Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(4,526)	(1,724)	(1,436)	(356)	10	30
Net (Surplus)/Deficit After Reserves	0	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)
General Reserves	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
General Fund Balance b/f	9,697	6,774	5,974	5,974	5,974	5,974
Proposed (Use of)/Contribution to General Fund	(1,104)	(1,800)	0	0	0	0
Current Year Forecast (Over)/ Under spend	(1,819)	1,000				
General Fund Balance c/f	6,774	5,974	5,974	5,974	5,974	5,974
Employee Numbers	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs
Police Officers	1,363	1,390	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
PCSOs	200	200	200	200	200	200
Police Staff - Police Force	877	838	874	871	870	870
Corporate Services, Commissioning and Projects	292	214	219	219	219	219
PCC Private Office Staff	13	13	13	13	13	13
Assumptions						
Staff Pay Increases	1.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Police Pay Increases	1.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Non Pay Inflation	1.3%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Precept Increases	2.0%	5.2%	10.3%	4.9%	2.0%	2.0%
Government Grant Reductions (Cash Basis)	-1.4%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%

APPENDIX 2

Capital Financing and Expenditure						
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	5 Year Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Earmarked Reserve/Funding b/f	4,151	98	485	35	35	
Capital Grant	431	1,248	449	458	467	3,053
Capital Receipts	169	169	169	169	169	845
Capital Receipts from Estates Strategy	0	4,129	750	0	0	4,879
Contributions from Revenue	2,152	2,342	2,771	3,010	4,094	14,370
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves	184	184	19	19	0	405
External Funding	115	0	0	0	0	115
Borrowing	1,608	1,844	1,762	1,075	-275	6,014
Projected in-year funding available	4,658	9,916	5,921	4,731	4,455	29,680
Capital and Revenue Project Plans						
Fleet	1,470	2,159	1,738	1,016	1,505	7,888
ICT	3,012	2,314	1,623	1,393	739	9,082
Estates	1,877	3,918	2,111	1,562	896	10,363
Other Rolling Programmes	428	969	758	707	1,313	4,175
Other Schemes	1,809	168	140	53	0	2,170
Externally Funded	115	0	0	0	0	115
Total Agreed Programme	8,711	9,529	6,370	4,731	4,453	33,793
Earmarked Reserve/Funding c/f	98	485	35	35	38	

Forecast Usable Reserves				APPENDIX 3									
	Balance	Tranfers	Tranfers	Balance	Tranfers	Tranfers	Balance	Tranfers	Tranfers	Balance	Tranfers	Tranfers	Balance
	at 31 March	In	Out	at 31 March	In	Out	at 31 March	In	Out	at 31 March	In	Out	at 31 March
	2018	2018/19	2018/19	2019	2019/20	2019/20	2020	2020/21	2020/21	2021	2021/22	2021/22	2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Insurance Reserve	438			438			438			438			438
Capital Reserve	2,528	2,152	(3,872)	807	2,342	(3,150)	(0)	2,771	(2,771)	0	3,010	(3,010)	0
PCC Community Fund Reserve	841		(250)	591		(250)	341		(299)	43		0	43
Cost of Change Reserve	268		(47)	221			221			221			221
Commissioned Services Reserve	447		(161)	286	29	(161)	154	15		168			168
Major Incident Reserve	0	500		500			500			500			500
Revenue Initiatives	184	600	(140)	644		(600)	44			44			44
Confiscated Monies Reserve	231	130	(179)	182	130	(100)	212	130	(100)	242	130	(100)	272
Total Earmarked Reserves	4,937	3,382	(4,649)	3,669	2,501	(4,261)	1,910	2,916	(3,170)	1,656	3,140	(3,110)	1,686
General Reserves	6,774	1,000	(1,800)	5,974	0	0	5,974	0	0	5,974	0	0	5,974
Total Usable Reserves	11,710	4,382	(6,449)	9,643	2,501	(4,261)	7,883	2,916	(3,170)	7,630	3,140	(3,110)	7,660
Capital Receipts Reserve	2,431	169	(2,600)	0	4,298	(3,893)	405	919	(1,324)	(0)	169	(169)	(0)

Precept Consultation Results 2019/20**Approach**

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's precept consultation aimed to understand how much the North Yorkshire public would be prepared to pay via their council tax for policing and separately for the fire and rescue service next year (2019/20).

A representative telephone survey was undertaken with 1000 North Yorkshire residents, screened to ensure respondents were council tax payers, aged over 18. Quotas were set by gender, age and district to reflect the demography of North Yorkshire. The telephone interviews were undertaken by an independent market research company. In addition, an online, self-completion survey was publicised on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's website and promoted via social media and leaflets distributed to libraries and other public buildings. Residents could respond via post, phone, email or the online survey resulting in a further 1,741 responses. Combined, the total number of participants was 2,741. The consultation period ran from 8th December 2018 to 20th January 2019.

All districts were well represented:

Area	Craven	Hambleton	Harrogate	Richmondshire	Ryedale	Scarborough	Selby	York	Total
Responses	175	398	543	284	324	305	249	463	2741
% of Total	6%	15%	20%	10%	12%	11%	9%	17%	100%

Results

The results of the consultation have been analysed by methodology type (representative telephone survey vs open online survey) and are very similar.

Those who support a freeze for the fire and rescue precept are extremely likely (91%) to suggest a freeze for policing. There is a strong correlation between the amount people are prepared to pay and household income with lower income households most likely to opt for a freeze in both precepts and higher income households prepared to pay in excess of the caps.

Policing

The options, based on a Band D property were:

- **No more than you pay now – a precept freeze.** This would mean a real terms cut to the police budget when inflation is taken into account
- **As per last year – an extra £11.50 per year** for a Band D property raising £3.5m
- **Between £11.50 and £24** – raising up to £7m
- **More than £24** - raising more than £7m

Over two-thirds of respondents (67%) were prepared to pay an increase of at least £11.50 in their council tax for policing next year. This correlates directly with responses from the precept survey last year where there was support amongst two-thirds of residents for a £12 increase. In this survey, over a third (37%) would pay in excess of the £11.50, up to the cap of £24. (31% telephone survey and 40% online).

