

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Date of meeting: 3 February 2023

Report of: Brian Reed, Head of Governance and Democratic Services

Subject: Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed Precept for 2023/24

1. Report Summary

1.1 This report outlines the process that the Panel must follow for reviewing the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed Precept for 2023/24.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Panel reviews the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed Precept for 2023/24 in accordance with the Police and Crime Panels (Precept and Chief Constable Appointment) Regulations 2012, and reports on its decision to the Commissioner.

3. Precept 2023/24

3.1 The arrangements for determining the Police Precept are set out in Section 26 and Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and Part 2 of the Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012.

3.2 Having considered the Precept, the Panel must either:

- Support the Precept without qualification or comment;
- Support the Precept and make recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner; or
- Veto the proposed Precept (by the required majority of at least two thirds of the persons who are members of the Panel at the time the decision is made).

- 3.3 If the Panel vetoes the proposed Precept, the report that is made to the Commissioner must include a clear statement that the Panel has vetoed the proposed Precept, with the Panel's reasons. In such circumstances the Regulations require that the Panel will receive a response from the Commissioner. If a veto is applied a further meeting of the Panel would be required; a reserve date has been set for 17th February, should such a meeting be required.
- 3.4 A Police Precept is issued annually by the Commissioner under Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Precept forms part of the Council Tax bills issued by the four constituent authorities within the Police Force area. The Commissioner may not issue a Precept for a financial year until the end of the scrutiny process by the Police and Crime Panel is reached.
- 3.5 The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner met informally with the Panel's Chair and Deputy Chair on 12th January to explain the consultation exercise that was being conducted in reaction to Precept and related Police budget and to outline the likely financial scenario facing the Constabulary in 2023/24.
- 3.6 The Commissioner is due to consider a report on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Precept at his Management Board meeting scheduled for 25th January 2023. Following that meeting it is envisaged that the Commissioner will notify the Panel formally of this proposed Precept. In previous years this information has always been provided very promptly.
- 3.7 A representative of the Commissioner's Office plans to make a presentation on budgetary issues to Panel members at an informal meeting of the Panel on 27th January.
- 3.8 A copy of a Home Office guidance note is attached as Appendix I. This comprehensively outlines the process for a Police and Crime Panel's scrutiny of their Commissioner's proposed precept. The guidance note clearly outlines the timescales related to the process and the various deadlines that must be met.

4. Summary and conclusion

- 4.1 The Panel must review and make a report and or recommendations in connection to the Commissioners proposed Precept. Should a veto be applied a further meeting of the Panel would need to be convened.

5. Equality Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific equality implications related to this report.

6. Financial Considerations

- 6.1 There are no financial implications for the Panel in considering these matters, except insofar as an additional meeting would need to be arranged if the Precept is vetoed. The cost implications of any such arrangement could be contained within the Panel's existing budget.

7. Contact Information

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