

To:	The Sussex Police & Crime Panel
From:	The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
Subject:	Precept Option 2017/18
Date:	20 January 2017
Recommendation:	That the Police & Crime Panel – i) review the proposed precept; and ii) report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) to notify the Police & Crime Panel of the proposed precept for the coming financial year. The Panel is required to respond with a report to the PCC on the proposed precept including, if appropriate, recommendations as to the precept for the financial year.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The 2016/17 the Band D council tax police precept in Sussex was £148.91. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary published their 2016/17 Value for Money Profile in November 2016, which demonstrated that Sussex has the 5th lowest Band D council tax in England and Wales. The profile also highlighted that Sussex has the 4th lowest net expenditure per head of population.
- 2.2 At this stage, the draft budget for 2017/18 assumes a 0% precept increase and does not include any increase in investment for operational policing, over and above on-going investment funded from the precept increases in 2016/17 and previous years. The draft budget also includes nearly £32.6m of savings between 2017/18 and 2020/21 to be achieved through efficiencies and improvements. The budget considers Police & Crime Plan priorities, with any new demands and risks covered from within existing resources.

3.0 Settlement and Precept Options

- 3.1 Provisional police finance settlement figures for 2017/18 were publicised by the Government on 15 December 2016. It confirmed the Chancellor's commitment to protect police funding over the remaining Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period, and assumes that all PCCs will increase council tax by the maximum limits permitted in each year.
- 3.2 Precept limits were set for the CSR period and any proposed increase of 2% or more requires a referendum for most police force areas. An exception granted to the ten Force areas with the lowest level of precept in England limits these areas to a £5 increase on a Band D property per annum.

- 3.3 Sussex had the 5th lowest Band D council tax in England and Wales in 2016/17 at £148.91. Sussex is therefore able to increase the annual Band D rate by £5 to £153.91 per household, per annum in 2017/18 without triggering a referendum.
- 3.4 The proposal to increase the precept would provide a further £3m of recurring funding over and above the current draft budget proposal. In addition, Sussex Police can contribute a further £1.2m that it has generated through efficiencies to provide a total potential annual investment of £4.2m.

4.0 Investment Proposals 2017/18

4.1 The PCC, in consultation with the Chief Constable, has identified four areas of local policing that could be strengthened through further investment. The investment will see over 100 additional police officers and specialist staff employed in the following areas:

- **Community Priority Crime Teams (£1.03m)** – 24 posts dedicated to intervene proactively to prevent and disrupt local crime gangs and take offenders off the streets;
- **Specialist Firearms Officers (£1m)** – 52 posts across Sussex and Surrey to uplift the counter terrorism and firearms capabilities;
- **Public Protection Investigators (£1.25m)** – 30 posts to provide additional capacity for public protection, within the Safeguarding Investigation Units;
- **Expert Youth Teams (£0.92m)** – 20 posts to work directly with schools, colleges and universities to provide community policing that focuses on prevention advice and interventions, supporting the vulnerable and those most at risk, and dealing firmly and quickly with incidents.

4.2 The investment proposals are detailed in Appendix A.

5.0 Public Consultation

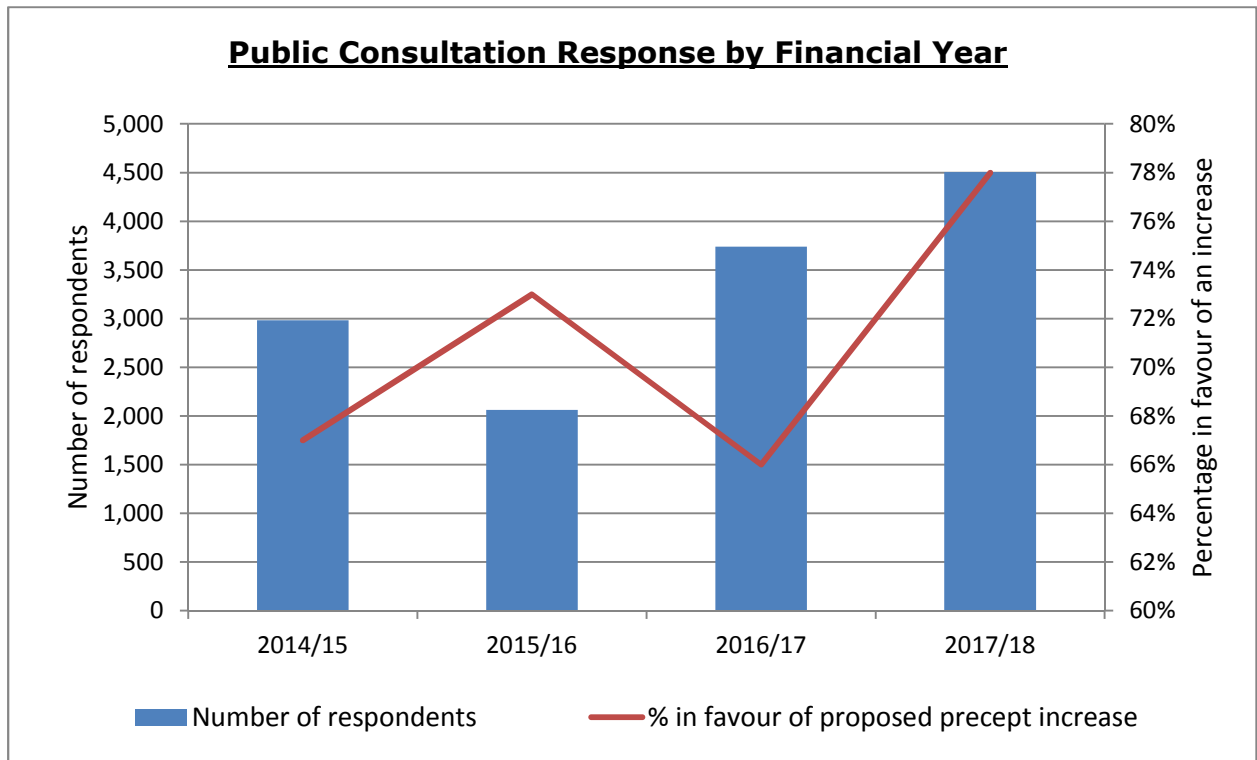
5.1 The PCC has a statutory obligation to set the police precept and budget and has sought the views of Sussex residents regarding a potential increase in the budget precept.

5.2 A public consultation took place between 11 November 2016 to 8 January 2017 on a potential precept increase. The consultation asked the residents of Sussex:

"Would you be prepared to pay an additional average of £5.00 per household for over 100 more police officers and specialist staff?"

5.3 A total of 4,504 responses were received across the above period and the percentage in favour of an increase was the highest to date.

5.4 Almost 8 out of 10 responses (78%) were in favour of an increase of £5 or more.



5.5 Further detail and analysis of the consultation results and feedback received is included within Appendix B.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Detailed Investment Commentary
 Appendix B – Public Consultation Results – Sussex Police Budget Precept

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), in consultation with the Chief Constable, has identified four areas of policing that could be strengthened through further investment. Through a combination of the additional funds raised by the precept and efficiencies identified by the Force, investment will be made in over 100 additional police officers and specialist staff. The investment proposals are detailed below.

Investment Summary	Annual Investment £
Community Priority Crime Teams	1.03
Specialist Firearms Officers	1.00
Public Protection Investigators	1.25
Expert Youth Teams	0.92
Total	4.20

2.0 Community Priority Crime Teams (£1.03m)

- 2.1 The new model for local policing is changing to match the changes in crime. This approach is evidence-based, intelligence-led and focuses on vulnerability.
- 2.2 Sussex Police have asked the PCC to support an investment in dedicated Community Priority Crime Teams to intervene proactively to prevent and disrupt local crime gangs and take offenders off the streets.
- 2.3 The new teams will provide extra resources to crack down on the small groups and individuals committing low-level crime and anti-social behaviour. They will also concentrate on known organised crime gangs involved in drug dealing and robbery.
- 2.4 The new investigators will monitor known high-risk offenders and work closely with offender management services to reduce re-offending.
- 2.5 The cost of creating new teams through an investment would be £1.03m on an ongoing annual basis; an uplift of 24 police officers.

3.0 Specialist Firearms Officers (£1m)

- 3.1 After the terrorist attacks in Europe over the last year and with security assessments showing that the UK threat level is "Severe", PCCs and Chief Constables in the South East region have been planning how best to prepare and respond to possible attacks in our communities. The details of how police and other agencies would respond is not made public but it is important that people can be reassured that in Sussex we have enough specialist armed officers and equipment.

3.2 This proposal would increase the number of Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) officers available by 52 and add three new specialist vehicles (across Sussex and Surrey). When they are not being deployed or in training, ARV teams already support local policing teams. An uplift of 52 officers would result in more highly trained officers on the streets to strengthen local policing.

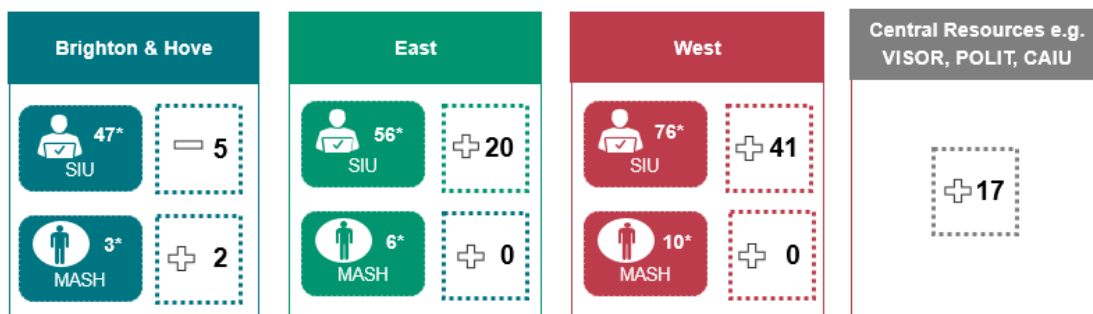
4.0 Public Protection Investigators (£1.25m)

4.1 Following previous precept consultations, the PCC approved additional funding to enhance the public protection capacity of Sussex Police. Although this helped increase the number of police officers and staff, the Force still spends less per head of population on public protection than similar sized forces, as these types of crime continue to rise. For example, there has been a 217% increase in recorded rape and serious sexual offences since 2013.

4.2 This year, there is a compelling business case to provide more investigators in the Safeguarding Investigation Units (SIUs). As a result of the public's increased confidence in how reports of rape, serious sexual offences and offences against children are managed, Sussex Police is dealing with significantly more cases.

4.3 The demand analysis supports an uplift of 30 posts in addition to the 45 identified last year; delivered through a mixed economy of police officers and staff. The majority of the requirement is for additional investigators in SIUs, with the focus on hubs based in West Sussex where the growth in demand is most acute. A proportion of the uplift supports smaller more specialised units that have already experienced increased demand or where the trend is rising.

4.4 The table below sets out how the total resource uplift (45 plus 30) would be distributed.



4.5 As part of delivering an uplift in public protection, Sussex Police has also examined working practices and identified 12 optimisation opportunities to improve productivity and reduce waste. In addition, the Force is also seeking to bring forward a new module in the case management system (Niche) designed especially to streamline public protection case management. A target to find 20% efficiency savings through these changes has been set, which would offset the impact of increases in demand in future years.

4.6 An uplift of 30 posts would cost £1.25m on an ongoing basis. The cost estimate is based on the average cost of a police constable.

5.0 Expert Youth Teams (£0.92m)

- 5.1 The Chief Constable has drawn on the Force's previous experience of youth interaction and expert advisors to develop a proposal for a dedicated team of police officers and staff who will work directly with schools, colleges and universities, focusing on prevention advice and interventions, supporting the vulnerable and those most at risk, and dealing firmly and quickly with incidents.
- 5.2 It is recognised nationally that early intervention can help steer young people away from crime. Working across the agencies that interact with young people means there are more opportunities to identify when the most susceptible are in danger of crossing the line. Past experience shows that positive interventions and avoiding criminalising young people has a better chance of long-term success.
- 5.3 Evidence from the Early Intervention Foundation and the College of Policing has identified that intervening early and appropriately can reduce demand by preventing crime happening in the first place. There is a strong body of evidence to show that the right help given at the earliest opportunity, can significantly improve the life chances of vulnerable children and young people, and steer them away from crime.
- 5.4 An investment of £0.92m is required each year to provide a team of 20 officers.

Public Consultation Results – Sussex Police Budget Precept

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) ran a public consultation from 11 November 2016 to 8 January 2017 on a potential precept increase. The consultation asked the residents of Sussex:

“Would you be prepared to pay an additional average of £5.00 per household for over 100 more police officers and specialist staff?”

1.2 Information about the consultation and a link to the online survey was shared with residents and police staff in a number of ways to maximise the response rate.

1.3 A page was created on the PCC’s website (+10,000 visitors per annum), social media (+3,000 followers on Twitter and Facebook), and weekly email newsletter (+4,500 subscribers).



PCC Website 1

www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/priorities/budget/

1.4 The consultation was also highlighted on the front page of the Sussex Police public-facing website and social media channels (+100,000 followers on Twitter and Facebook), and force-wide internal messages were posted three times.

1.5 An email alert was sent to all 23,000 residents signed up to receive Neighbourhood Watch community messaging.

- This was sent three times, with over 42,000 projected as read;
- The survey email was shared 1,124 times; and
- It resulted in 1,331 hits on the website.

- 1.6 A proactive media relations campaign was delivered by the PCC to ensure that news of the consultation and a link to the survey was communicated to residents through the print press, broadcast and social media. The PCC was also interviewed on regional TV and radio and in the print media.
- 1.7 As in previous consultations, the PCC worked with stakeholders who have crime and community safety interests and responsibilities. These stakeholders were asked to share the survey with their professional and residential networks.
- 1.8 This involved Sussex MPs, Council Leaders, Community Safety Partnerships, Sussex and Surrey Associations of Local Councils members, Neighbourhood Watch, the Pan-Sussex Communicator's network, the Sussex Elders' Commission and voluntary and community sector organisations.
- 1.9 Paper copies of the survey were made available at public consultation events and PCC speaking engagements.



Police Budget

The PCC holds a shared responsibility with the Chief Constable for providing effective financial and budget planning for the short, medium and longer term. In consultation with the Chief Constable, the PCC is required to set a budget for the forthcoming year.

Have your say in this year's precept consultation [Take the survey >](#)

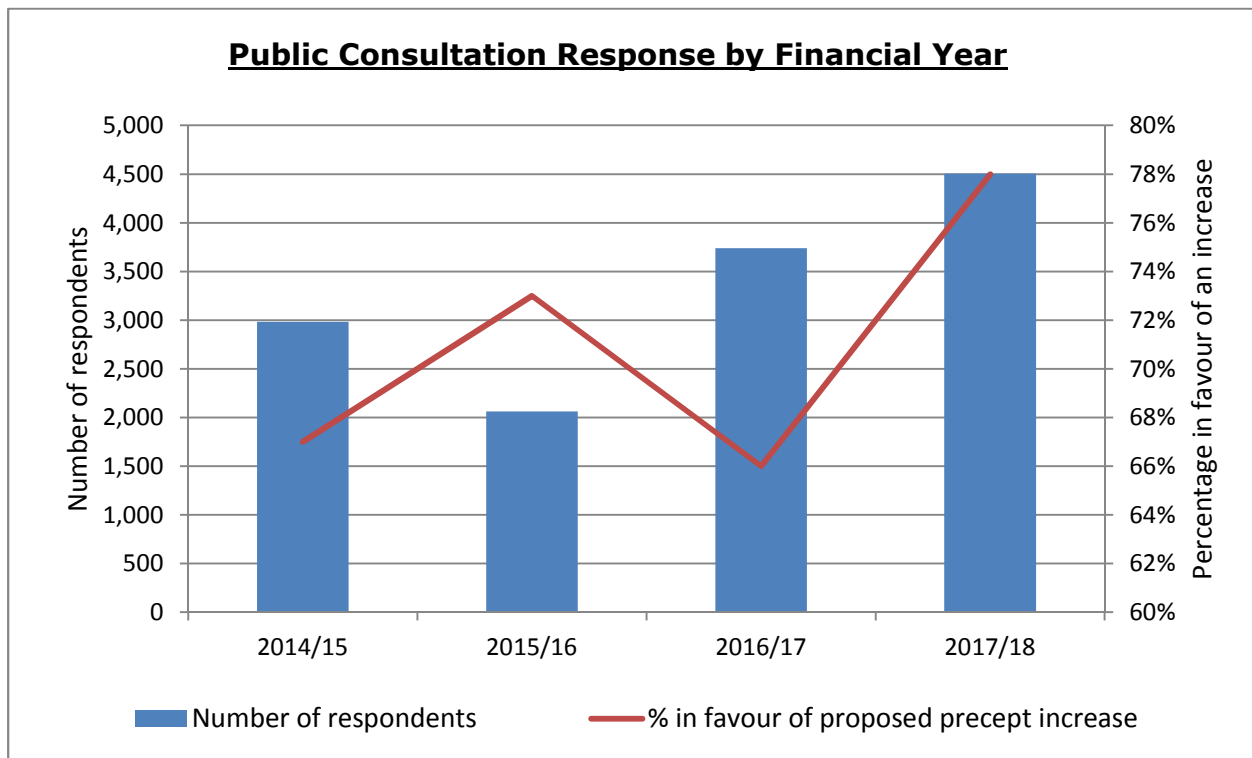
OSPCC Website 2
www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/priorities/budget/

2.0 Consultation Results

2.1 4,504 responses were received within the consultation period. This is the highest public over the last few years. Almost 8 out of 10 responses (78%) were in favour of an increase of £5 or more.

Financial Year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of respondents	2,983	2,061	3,738	4,504
% in favour of proposed precept increase	67%	73%	66%	78%

2.2 The survey responses were monitored for unusual patterns of response but none were observed. Response rate volume was more closely connected to the timing and frequency of messages about the precept.



2.3 A summary of responses is provided in the table below:

Would you be prepared to pay an additional amount for policing?

Option	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percentage
Yes: £5.00 a year	3,062	68.0%	68.0%
Yes: Any other amount a year	452	10.0%	78.0%
No	990	22.0%	100.0%
Total	4,504	100.0%	

2.4 The following chart shows the proportion of respondents by policing district:

District	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Adur & Worthing	293	6.5%	6.5%
Arun	366	8.1%	14.6%
Brighton & Hove	555	12.3%	27.0%
Chichester	270	6.0%	32.9%
Crawley	107	2.4%	35.3%
Eastbourne	306	6.8%	42.1%
Hastings	172	3.8%	45.9%
Horsham	328	7.3%	53.2%
Lewes	292	6.5%	59.7%
Mid Sussex	339	7.5%	67.2%
Rother	324	7.2%	74.4%
Wealden	1,064	23.6%	98.0%
Outside of Sussex	10	0.2%	98.3%
Don't Know	8	0.2%	98.4%
Prefer not to say	70	1.6%	100.0%
Total	4,504	100.0%	

