

To:	The Police & Crime Panel for Sussex
From:	The Police & Crime Commissioner for Sussex
Subject:	Precept Option 2016/17
Date:	22 January 2016
Recommendation:	That the Police & Crime Panel – <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> i) review the proposed precept; and ii) report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept. </div>

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Police & Crime Commissioner to notify the Police & Crime Panel of the proposed precept for the coming financial year. The Panel in response is required to provide a report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept, including if appropriate, recommendations as to the precept that should be issued for the financial year.
- 1.2 The Commissioner has sought public opinion on the precept options and the results are set out in this report. The Panel is asked to review the proposed precept increase and to note the investment areas identified by the Chief Constable.
- 1.3 The provisional police finance settlement for 2016/17 was announced on 17 December 2015. It confirmed that the Chancellors commitment of a protection to police funding over the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period is predicated on all Police and Crime Commissioners' increasing council tax by the maximum limits permitted in each of the next four financial years.
- 1.4 The precept limits for the CSR period have been announced and, as in previous years, any proposed increase of 2% or more will require a referendum for most police areas. An exception has been granted to the ten force areas with the lowest level of precept in England limiting these areas to a £5 cash increase on a Band D property per annum.
- 1.5 Sussex has the fourth lowest Band D council tax in England and is therefore able to increase the annual Band D rate by £5 (3.4%) per household, per annum in 2016/17 without triggering a referendum.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The HMIC 2014/15 Value for Money profiles show that nationally, Sussex has the 4th lowest Band D council tax and has the 5th lowest net expenditure per head of population of all police force areas in England and Wales. The current

Band D council tax police precept is £143.91.

- 2.2 The draft budget for 2016/17 is based on 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 2014/15 and 2015/16. The draft budget includes nearly £12m of savings through efficiencies and improvements. It is based on Police & Crime Plan priorities with any new demands and risks being managed within existing resources.

3.0 Investment proposal

- 3.1 The new investment proposals for 2016/17 are based on the Police and Crime Plan priorities. The most immediate priority areas identified by the Chief Constable are investments in digital forensics and protecting vulnerable people. The proposal is detailed in Appendix A and outlined below.

- 3.2 **Digital Forensics:** To provide one off and on-going investment in equipment and training to enable fast time retrieval of evidence from digital sources plus greater capability and resources to deal with larger and more complex digital evidence investigations. This is a rapidly changing and growing area of evidence and investigation and the investment will enable Sussex Police to respond to this, manage the demand for digital evidence based investigations and ensure these investigations are completed quickly to deliver better criminal justice outcomes for victims.

- 3.3 Total new investment required for 2016/17 is £1.8m; the on-going annual investment required is £0.9m.

- 3.4 **Protecting Vulnerable People:** to fund an increase in the level of resourcing and skills to deal with the increase in the volume and range of reporting of crimes and incidents of sexual offences and domestic and other abuse of vulnerable adults and children. This investment provides additional police officers and investigative skills and capacity to manage and respond to the current and predicted workload. This is in addition to previous investments in safeguarding hubs and dedicated sexual liaison officers and reflects the continuing significant level of increases in reported crime and complexity of cases.

- 3.5 Total new investment required for 2016/17 is £1.3m; the on-going annual investment required is £2.1m.

3.6 Investment

	2016/17 £'m	2017/18 £'m	2018/19 £'m
Digital Forensics	1.8	1.2	0.9
Protecting Vulnerable People	1.3	2.1	2.1
Total	3.1	3.3	3.0

- 3.7 Other priorities for investment will be considered over the four year period to 2020. These include investments in Counter Terrorism and prevention, neighbourhood policing, firearms, cyber-crime, and further digitisation of policing services and criminal justice plus implementation of new emergency

services network infrastructure. These will be considered as part of the current Local Policing and Policing Together Programmes and national initiatives and changes programmes as they are developed.

4.0 Precept Proposal

- 4.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner is proposing a precept increase of 3.4% in order to fund the investment proposal. A public consultation has been carried out, as detailed in section 5 of this report, and shows public support with 65.8% of respondents in favour of an increase.
- 4.2 The current medium term financial forecast (MTFF) is modelled on a 0% precept increase for 2015/16 and beyond. A precept increase of 3.4% (£5 per Band D Household per annum), provides £3m per annum of additional funding over and above the current draft budget proposal. This is sufficient to fund the one off and on-going costs of investment in digital forensics and protecting vulnerable people in 2016/17 and subsequent years.

5.0 Public Consultation

- 5.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner has a statutory obligation to set the police budget and has sought the views of Sussex taxpayers regarding a potential increase in the budget precept. The consultation was open from 28 October 2015 to 9 January 2016.
- 5.2 A total of 3,738 Sussex residents completed the survey and 65.8% of the respondents said that they would support an increase. The level of support is similar to previous years and this year there has been a significant increase in the number of respondents.
- 5.3 The breakdown of the consultation results are attached at Appendix B.

Mark Streater
Chief Executive, Office of PCC

Giles York
Chief Constable

Carl Rushbridge
Chief Finance Officer, Office of PCC

Mark Baker
Director of Finance

Contact: Carl Rushbridge, Chief Finance Officer

Email: carl.rushbridge@sussex-pcc.gov

Tel: 01273 481582

Contact: Mark Baker, Director of Finance

Email: mark.s.baker@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Tel: 01273 404008

Appendices

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

Digital Forensics**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The investment proposal for digital forensics is based on transforming the service and implementing a new model of delivery which will be jointly managed across Surrey and Sussex Police to meet the growing volume and complexity of managing digital evidence.
- 1.2 This investment will enable this service to become properly funded and capable of supporting all necessary examinations of digital devices across the whole spectrum of investigations. It will be delivered both locally and by specialists and within timescales that meet the requirements of the criminal justice systems putting victim needs first. The impact of not transforming digital forensics could result in criminal justice failures where some of the most serious offenders are not brought to justice.

2.0 Business Need

- 2.1 The core business of digital forensics is to examine the contents of computers, mobile phones and other digital storage devices. This service supports some of the highest risk, priority investigations and the work done impacts on some of the most vulnerable within our communities.
- 2.2 The requirement for digital forensic services has grown with the increased use of digital devices. The rapid growth and development of digital technology creates unique challenges. This, along with the national focus on child sexual exploitation and force level focus on protecting vulnerable people, means the service provided must evolve to meet these changes.
- 2.3 HMIC inspections in both Surrey and Sussex forces have highlighted the need to address the existing backlogs. In addition, recent HMIC thematic reports on safeguarding children make it clear that the police service must focus on developing the skills, capabilities and application needed to improve in this area. Delays in the examination of digital devices pose a significant risk to delivering this improvement.
- 2.4 Both Surrey and Sussex Police are seeing backlogs and long turn round times even in higher risk, high priority cases. The immediate impact of this is extended bail times and some high risk offenders remain uncharged resulting in a loss of confidence from victims and witnesses. The longer term impact is that this isn't the ability to service a wider spectrum of crime types.
- 2.5 Sussex Police has seen a significant increase in demand for digital forensics services in the last 4 years. The current demand is at approximately 3,060 phones and 1,092 computer exhibits; an increase of 27% and 21% respectively. As at November 2015 there are 154 phones and 213 computers awaiting examination.
- 2.6 Even if robust demand response strategies are applied to manage this increase, everyday data usage is evolving from gigabytes to terabytes. A recent case identified over a million indecent images on one device and

another where 56,000 emails had to be analysed. These cases can take weeks of a specialist's time. This is a significant step change in the number of images and the amount of data required. Everyday computers are now capable of storing up to 2 terabytes of data as standard.

2.7 The other factors influencing the need to make change are:

- to ensure that service delivery is victim focussed, lengthy backlogs deprive victims and witness of their personal devices for too long and in some cases they are reluctant to hand over items and evidence.
- a reliance upon outsourcing; this is not cost effective or sustainable as outsourcing costs are on average £350 per phone and £1,000 per computer exhibit; to fully outsource current demand would cost in the region of £2.5m, compared to in house delivery of £1.2m.

3.0 Proposal

3.1 The proposed model has a minimum of three local hubs to support low risk, high volume cases and to manage technical issues at a local level and a central specialist resource.

3.2 A summary of the main features of the proposed model are:

- **Locally** delivered digital forensic service using self-assist kiosk technology to deliver real time forensics, including the availability of enhanced technology.
- **Locally** delivered digital forensic technical support hub designed to offer turn round times of 24-48 hours for lower risk, simple examinations and designed to support quick criminal justice outcomes, reduce bail times, elicit early guilty pleas and support the ongoing transformation of summary justice with real time forensics.
- **Central** Hub based on the existing model in Surrey and Sussex to process complex and high risk cases and deliver a specialist digital forensic analysis service.

3.3 Investment is required initially in new equipment, training and implementation of new operating model and on-going in additional resources. The investment requirement and profile is set out below:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Equipment	492		
Training	375	265	
Staff Resources	885	885	885
Total	1,752	1,150	885

Protecting Vulnerable People

4.0 Introduction

- 4.1 The investment proposal for protecting vulnerable people is based on providing additional resources and capability into the new model of service delivery. This has been implemented to meet significant increasing demand and reporting of serious sexual offences and domestic and other abuse.
- 4.2 Further investment is required to deliver these services, recognising the complexities within them and the level of risk to victims and the communities of Sussex and ensure safeguarding investigations are delivered to a consistently high standard.

5.0 Business Need

- 5.1 Sussex Police has implemented changes to the way it provides services to protect vulnerable people. The first phase in August 2014 brought the existing Child Protection Teams (CPT) and Adult Protection Teams (APT) under central line management, the second phase in October 2015 increased the resources of these teams and expanded their investigative remit. The model is acknowledged by the HMIC, partners and support services as being best practice.
- 5.2 During that time the national landscape changed with increases in reporting of Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Abuse. The level of understanding around Child Sexual Exploitation has grown significantly over the last 2 years. In 2013/14 there was a 41% increase in Rape and Serious Sexual Assaults, 38% in Domestic Abuse and 18% in Child Protection Referrals.
- 5.3 In September 2015 a demand report was published articulating the increases in demand and outlining the complexities that have grown as the demand has increased. The conclusion of that report acknowledged that the traditional APT and CPT teams had not increased their investigative resources since 2009 in line with the demand. The demand profile highlighted the increase in demand and for the first time outlined the complexities and hidden demand within SIU.

6.0 Proposal

- 6.1 The proposal is to increase resources to meet the following demands:

Safeguarding Investigation Units (SIUs): investment in new resources of up to 20 FTE to reflect the appropriate caseload for each investigating officer for rape and serious sexual offences of 11-12 cases, against current levels of 14-18.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH): investment in 12 police officer posts across the 3 divisions for the MASH and 3 case conference attendees to enable fully resourced hubs across each Division and manage child protection, missing children and increase in children presenting through immigration.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): investment in dedicated analyst post to support new service model and new SOLO resources.

Complex Abuse Investigations: investment in 4 additional posts to manage the increase in complex investigations and historic investigations, this will enable the team to manage two Organised Crime investigations at any one time in addition to their existing remit and ensure large scale investigations do not limit SIU's capacity.

POLIT: investment in capacity to meet the growing threat of on line child abuse, the targeted use of resources to those most at risk can be better managed through the development of a researcher/analyst.

VISOR: investment in additional resources of 4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) to meet new requirements for management of sex offenders.

6.2 Investment is required in new resources and implementation costs. The following investment is proposed for each of the areas identified above.

	FTE	£'000
SIU	20	974
MASH	12	585
MASH Case Conference	3	79
CSE Analyst	1	32
POLIT Research Analyst	1	29
Complex Abuse Unit	4	195
VISOR	4	195
TOTAL	45	2,089

6.3 The implementation of changes will be undertaken in phases during 2016. Taking into account lead times for recruitment and training it is estimated that the new model can be fully implemented in the second quarter of the financial year such that investment of £1.3m is required in 2016/17 increasing to the full £2.1m in 2017/18.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner ran a public consultation from 28 October 2015 to 8 January 2016 on a potential precept increase. The consultation asked the residents of Sussex “Would you be prepared to pay an additional amount for policing?”.
- 1.2 Information about the consultation and a link to the online survey was shared with residents in a number of ways to maximise the response rate. Dedicated communications were issued via the OPCC website (+10,000 visitors), social media (+3,000 followers on Twitter and Facebook), and weekly email newsletter (+4,500 subscribers).
- 1.3 An alert was sent to all residents signed up to receive Sussex Police community messaging (+40,000 subscribers and NHW coordinators) and 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).
- 1.4 A proactive media relations campaign was delivered by the OPCC to ensure that news of the consultation and a link to the survey was communicated to residents through the print press and broadcast media.
- 1.5 Stakeholders with an interest in crime and community safety were engaged and encouraged to share a link to the survey with their professional and residential networks. This involved Sussex MPs, Council Leaders, Community Safety Partnerships, SSALC members, Neighbourhood Watch, voluntary and community sector organisations, the Sussex Youth and Elders’ Commissions, as well as numerous community groups located county-wide.
- 1.6 Paper copies of the survey were made available on request by Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and distributed at selected public engagement events across the county. Locations were chosen based on district response rates to the online survey to ensure a representative sample.

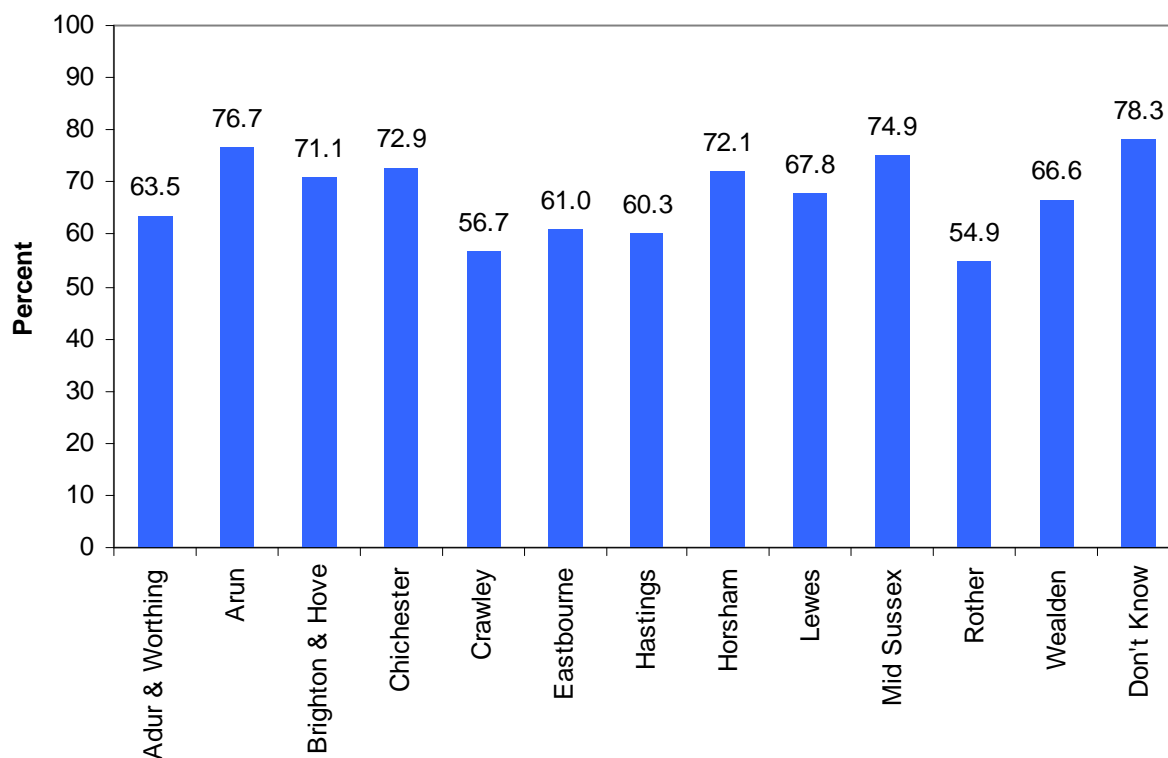
2.0 Consultation Results

- 2.1 The survey responses were monitored for unusual patterns of response but none were observed. This included monitoring the impact of two key Government announcements; the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement on 25 November 2015 and the Home Secretary’s draft Police Grant settlement on 17 December 2015. There was no significant change in responses as a result of these announcements.

2.2 A total of 3,738 Sussex residents completed the survey and a summary of responses is provided in the table below:

District	Respondents		'Yes' to increase	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of respondents
Adur & Worthing	282	7.5%	179	63.5%
Arun	339	9.1%	260	76.7%
Brighton & Hove	266	7.1%	189	71.1%
Chichester	221	5.9%	161	72.9%
Crawley	141	3.8%	80	56.7%
Eastbourne	210	5.6%	128	61.0%
Hastings	174	4.7%	105	60.3%
Horsham	201	5.4%	145	72.1%
Lewes	214	5.7%	145	67.8%
Mid Sussex	267	7.1%	200	74.9%
Rother	697	18.6%	382	54.9%
Wealden	703	18.8%	468	66.6%
Don't know	23	0.6%	18	78.3%
Total	3,738	100.0%	2,460	65.8%

2.3 The following chart shows the proportion of respondents in each Sussex Police District that supported an increase in their precept:



2.4 Residents who supported an increase were asked what amount of additional precept they would be prepared to pay per annum. The majority supported a £10 increase, as summarised in the table below:

	£5.00 a year		£10.00 a year		Other amount	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Brighton & Hove	32	12.0%	124	46.6%	33	12.4%
East Sussex	220	11.0%	851	42.6%	158	7.9%
West Sussex	185	12.7%	686	47.3%	154	10.6%
Don't Know	6	26.1%	10	43.5%	2	8.7%
Total	443	11.9%	1,670	44.7%	347	9.2%

2.5 The most common responses to 'other amount' were £50 a year (17%), £20 a year (15%) and £100 a year (13%).

2.6 Those not willing to pay an additional amount for policing were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning behind this. There were 782 comments.

2.7 The first one hundred responses were analysed for common themes and a further dip check was conducted on additional responses. The themes that appeared from most common to least common were;

- Different priorities - people who do not agree with the suggested allocation of funds.
- Opposing taxation - people who do not want to pay extra council tax, cannot afford to or suggest that this should come from central government/income tax.
- Current police service not efficient - people suggesting that the Police already have a budget and they need to stick to it and/or manage it better.
- Not content with the service- people who are not happy with the way policing operates in Sussex