

OPCC Record of Decision

The decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to set the future four-year financial position for the financial years 2024/25 to 2027/28 and the proposals that were presented to the 2nd February 2024 Police and Crime Panel.

Decision Record prepared by

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| Name: | Nicola Allen |
| Role: | Treasurer |
| Date of Decision: | 2 nd February 2024 |

1. Background

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner sets the future four-year financial position for policing for the financial years 2024/25 – 2027-28 and these proposals were presented to the 2nd February 2024 Police and Crime Panel as follows:
- 1.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner proposed a £12.94 increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2024/25 financial year following consultation with the Chief Constable.
- 1.3 Further items that were presented for the Police and Crime Panel to note:
 - The Commissioning Intentions Plan
 - The Reserves Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and the Capital Strategy are published online to ensure transparency.
 - The Chief Constable's resources summary letter detailing his operational policing requirements for the coming year.

2. Decision Record

- 2.1. The Police and Crime Panel did not exercise their power of veto to the Commissioners proposals for a £12.94 proposed increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2024/25 financial year. It is therefore the Commissioners decision to confirm the proposed £12.94 (4.95%) increase to the Band D equivalent in the police precept proportion of council tax. This will take the Band D equivalent from £ £261.56 for 2023/24 to £274.50 for 2024/25 The bands are shown in the table below:

| Valuation band | Government multiplier | | Council Tax by band | | Increase per week | % |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | Ratio | | 2024/25 | 2023/24 | | |
| A | 6 / 9 | 0.667 | £183.00 | £174.37 | + 16.6 p | } 4.95% |
| B | 7 / 9 | 0.778 | £213.50 | £203.44 | + 19.3 p | |
| C | 8 / 9 | 0.889 | £244.00 | £232.50 | + 22.1 p | |
| D | 1 | 1.000 | £274.50 | £261.56 | + 24.9 p | |
| E | 11 / 9 | 1.222 | £335.50 | £319.68 | + 30.4 p | |
| F | 13 / 9 | 1.444 | £396.50 | £377.81 | + 35.9 p | |
| G | 15 / 9 | 1.667 | £457.50 | £435.93 | + 41.5 p | |
| H | 18 / 9 | 2.000 | £549.00 | £523.12 | + 49.8 p | |

3. Consultation, Engagement and Communication

- 3.1. Publication of the provisional Police Finance Settlement was made on 14th December 2023 with the final settlement published on 31st January 2024. There were no changes between the provisional and final settlement.
- 3.2. As part of the commitment to actively engage with the communities of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly on the totality of the budget a public survey was run from 28th November 2023. The survey was promoted on social media platforms, through Neighbourhood Alert, at public engagement events and via community networks. The Police and Crime Panel members were also invited to an informal briefing on the totality of the budget settlement, in January 2024.
- 3.3. The survey was designed to seek significant levels of engagement on questions around policing and investment priorities before the 2024/25 budget proposals were finalised. There were 2,487 responses to the engagement, which is statistically significant.
- 3.4. The Commissioner submitted her written proposals to the Police and Crime Panel on 25th January 2024. These were scrutinised in public by the Police and Crime Panel on 2nd February 2024. The Police and Crime Panel supported the proposals and made one recommendation.
- 3.5. Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel Chair has written to the Commissioner to formalise the agreement of the Police and Crime Panel at the meeting on 2nd February 2024 and to make one recommendation. A copy of the letter has been provided in the supporting documents with this decision and will be published.

4. OPCC Monitoring Officer advice

4.1 Legal, Management, Equality and GDPR Implications – Current and Future

- 4.1.1 The Commissioner has taken into account this year's funding settlement and seeks to ensure that funding for the Force keeps pace with inflation at current levels. The increase in precept along with continued delivery of financial savings means that the MTFs allows for growth. The opportunity for growth is being targeted at the areas that the Chief Constable has identified to support delivery of a high quality policing service that meets the changing nature and complexity of demand. The MTFs will maintain police officer numbers at 3,610, the highest level ever seen.
- 4.1.2 There are new and different demands being placed upon policing and resources need to be freed up to address these. Many of the new areas of policing require investment in new technology before any operational savings can be generated. There will be additional resources in the contact centres and the reopening of the police enquiry offices.

4.2 Financial and Commercial – Current and Future

- 4.2.1 Indicative spending levels. The national settlement has confirmed the final year of the current Comprehensive Spending Review funding in line with those levels announced in 2021. A risk register is attached to the Police and Crime Panel Report.
- 4.2.2 Work on the amended national funding formula has started. It is anticipated that all Police and Crime Commissioners will be formally consulted on the intended formula later in the year. However, this remains a significant future risk. The new funding formula allocation could remove annual funding.

5. Supporting documents:

- 5.1 Letter dated 2nd February 2024 from the Police and Crime Panel Chair to the Police and Crime Commissioner agreeing with the proposed council tax increase and making one recommendation.
- 5.2 The Police and Crime Commissioners precept, budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2027/28 as presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 2nd February 2024 comprises the following documents:
- Proposed Precept, Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 – 2027/28 – Main Report
 - Appendix 1 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2027/28
 - Appendix 2 – Letter from the Chief Constable
 - Appendix 3 – Commissioning Intentions Plan 2024 -2025
 - Appendix 4 – Risk Assessment
 - Appendix 5 – “Your Safety, Your Say” survey results summary
 - Appendix 6 – Glossary of Terms

6. Official approval

Following the appropriate approval, this decision sheet will be published, subject to FOIA classification, on the OPCC website.

The Recommendation for Decision as outlined in this report is formally approved and subject to Freedom of Information Classification will be published on the OPCC website:

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| <p>Police and Crime Commissioner</p>  <p>Signed: Print: Alison Hernandez Date: 02/02/2024</p> | <p>Governance Signature by Monitoring Officer</p>  <p>Signed Print: Fran Hughes Date: 02/02/2024</p> | <p>Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer</p>  <p>Signed Print: Nicola Allen Date: 02/02/2024</p> |
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| Equality Impact Assessment attached <i>[Tick if completed]</i> | |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment attached <i>[Tick if completed]</i> | |
| Decision logged in register? <i>[Tick if completed]</i> | |
| Decision published on OPCC website? <i>[Tick if completed]</i> | ✓ |

For OPCC office use:

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| If FOI Closed at the current date under Section 22, please provide details of the future date by which this decision can be reconsidered for publication: | <p>[DD/MM/YY] <i>[insert date]</i></p> |
| Is there a publication schedule that lists the documents relating to this decision that will also be published at a later date in the future? If yes, please attach a copy with this decision. | <p>yes / no <i>[delete as appropriate]</i></p> |