



Devon and Cornwall OPCC - Record of Decision

Precept, Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
2022/23 – 2025/26

Decision Record prepared by:

Nicola Allen

Date of Decision:

9th February 2022

1. Background

This decision record confirms the decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to set the future four-year financial position for the financial years 2022/23 to 2025/26 and the proposals that were presented to the 28th January 2022 Police and Crime Panel as follows:

- 1) The Police and Crime Commissioner proposed a £10.00 increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2022/23 financial year following consultation with the Chief Constable.
- 2) Further items that were presented for the Police and Crime Panel to note:
 - The Commissioning Intentions Plan attached to the report.
 - That the Reserves Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and the Capital Strategy published online to enhance transparency.
 - That Devon and Cornwall will receive an uplift of 188 officers from the 8,000 additional officers allocated by the government for 2022/23 under the final year of Operation Uplift. This will be the highest number of police officers ever recorded for Devon and Cornwall taking the force up to 3,610.

2. Decision Record

The Police and Crime Panel did not exercise their power of veto to the Commissioners proposals for a £10.00 proposed increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2022/23 financial year. It is therefore the Commissioners decision to confirm the proposed £10.00 (4.23%) increase to the Band D equivalent

FOIA Classification – Open for the Purposes of FOI



in the police precept proportion of council tax. This will take the Band D equivalent from £236.56 for 2021/22 to £246.56 for 2022/23. The bands are shown in the table below:

Valuation Band	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Increase £	Increase %	Increase per day £	Increase per week £	Increase per month £
A	157.71	164.37	6.67	4.23%	0.02	0.13	0.56
B	183.99	191.77	7.78	4.23%	0.02	0.15	0.65
C	210.28	219.16	8.89	4.23%	0.02	0.17	0.74
D	236.56	246.56	10.00	4.23%	0.03	0.19	0.83
E	289.13	301.35	12.22	4.23%	0.03	0.24	1.02
F	341.70	356.14	14.44	4.23%	0.04	0.28	1.20
G	394.27	410.93	16.67	4.23%	0.05	0.32	1.39
H	473.12	493.12	20.00	4.23%	0.05	0.38	1.67

3. Consultation, Engagement and Communication

Publication of the provisional Police Finance Settlement was made on 16th December 2021. Following consultation, the final settlement was confirmed on 2nd February 2022.

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 over a two week period from 23rd December 2021 to 9th January 2022. Two focus groups were also held. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic face-to-face engagement to promote surveys and polls was not possible so there was a greater reliance on using traditional media, social media, virtual meetings and email newsletters to engage participants.

The quantitative survey was designed to seek significant levels of engagement on questions around policing and investment priorities before the 2022/23 budget proposals were finalised. It was supplemented with two qualitative focus groups with Councillor Advocates from across Devon and Cornwall to gain a more in-depth understanding of policing priorities.

The Commissioner submitted her proposals to the Police and Crime Panel on 20th January 2022. These were scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel on 28th January 2022. The Police and Crime Panel supported the proposals and made recommendations.



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 28th January 2022 and to make recommendations. A copy of the letter has been provided in the supporting documents with this decision and will be published.

4. OPCC Officer Advice

4.1 Legal, Management and Equality Implications – Current and Future

In considering the increase of £10.00 (per Band D equivalent) in council tax funding, 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 deliver a further increase in police officer numbers to 3,610. This is an increase of 188 above the levels proposed in 2021/22 and includes the national uplift in officer numbers.

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 vulnerability services.

4.2 Financial and Commercial – Current and Future

The spending review announced in October 2021 provided three year indicative spending levels. The national settlement has confirmed the first years funding in line with those levels announced. The full cost of the officer uplift has been provided within the grant funding for 2022/23. The pay freeze announced in the Autumn Statement in 2020 which covered the financial year 2021/22 has now been lifted. The pay award has not yet been agreed for 2022/23 and therefore has been included as a risk. A risk register is attached to the Police and Crime Panel Report.

Work on the amended national funding formula has now started. It is anticipated that all Police and Crime Commissioners will be formally consulted on the intended formula later in the year.

FOIA Classification – Open for the Purposes of FOI



This remains a significant future risk. The new funding formula allocation could remove annual funding. If this happens it is planned to use a significant proportion of the current reserves to support a smooth transition to new base levels of expenditure. This will restrict the use of these reserves to support other projects and initiatives.

5 Supporting documents:

- Letter dated 28th January 2022 from the Police and Crime Panel Acting Chair to the Police and Crime Commissioner agreeing with the proposed council tax increase and making recommendations:
[Click here](#)
- Letter dated 9th February 2022 from the Police and Crime Commissioner replying to the Police and Crime Panel Chair's letter:
[Click here](#)
- The Police and Crime Commissioners precept, budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2025/26 as presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 28th January 2022, which comprises the following documents:
 - [Proposed Precept, Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy \(MTFS\) 2022/23 – 2025/26 – Main Report](#)
 - [Appendix 1 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26](#)
 - [Appendix 2 – Letter from the Chief Constable](#)
 - [Appendix 3 – Commissioning Intentions Plan 2021 to 2022](#)
 - [Appendix 4 – Risk Assessment](#)
 - [Appendix 5 – The budget survey results](#)
 - [Appendix 6 – Glossary](#)

6 Official approval

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

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	N/A
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.	no

FOIA Classification – Open for the Purposes of FOI



For OPCC office use:

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:

Police and Crime Commissioner

Chief Financial Officer

Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer

Handwritten signature of Alison Hernandez in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Nicola Allen in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Frances Hughes in blue ink.

Signed
Print: Alison Hernandez
Date: 9th February 2022

Signed
Print: Nicola Allen
Date: 9th February 2022

Signed
Print: Frances Hughes
Date: 9th February 2022

Decision logged in register? *[Tick if completed]*

✓

Decision published on OPCC website? *[Tick if completed]*

✓