

Your Reference:

Our Reference: Lincolnshire PCP

Contact: John Medler

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Date: Tuesday 6 February 2018

Marc Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for
Lincolnshire
Deepdale Lane
Nettleham
Lincoln
LN2 2LT

Dear Mr Jones,

Re: Lincolnshire Police Precept 2018/19

On behalf of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel I write to thank you, your office colleagues and the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire Police for attending the Panel meeting on 5 February 2018 to present, discuss and answer the Panel's questions in relation to your proposed Police Precept for 2018/19.

As ever the Panel found the discussion informative and appreciated your open approach to providing information. An audio recording of the meeting is available on the Panel's website and details will be included in the Minutes of the Meeting which will be available in due course on the Panel's website.

Prior to and during the meeting the Panel thoroughly scrutinised the financial information provided. The Panel noted the following key information in relation to your proposed Precept:

- For 2018/19 the Government has increased the flexibility for raising the Police Precept to recognise the financial pressures experienced by police forces. The referendum threshold is now set at £12 per annum for a Band D property. A proposal above this limit would require a referendum to be held and funded locally, the cost of which you estimate for Lincolnshire to be in excess of £1.0million. Your proposed increase in the Precept of £11.97 per annum (5.8%) for a Band D property, equivalent to 23p per week, was within the threshold and would provide £2.7 million of addition funding.
- Your budget consultation exercise received almost 3,000 responses and was statistically robust. The majority of respondents indicated a willingness to pay an additional 5% or more on the Police Precept for more Police Officers and a better policing service in Lincolnshire. There is a planned recruitment exercise to recruit up to 60 new police officers in spring 2018 which will bring numbers back up to circa 1,100 officers. This increase will help to manage the additional demand on the service which in 2017 saw a 10% increase in recorded crime.

- Even with additional funding from the Police Precept you estimate that in 2018/19 you will be required to utilise £5.3million of reserves to balance the budget. This is in addition to the £3.9million of reserves which are forecast to be utilised to balance the budget in 2017/18. It is of course recognised that the continued use of reserves to balance the budget is unsustainable.
- Significant cost reductions (£26.4million to date) have been achieved by Lincolnshire Police in recent years. Whilst efficiencies and productivity gains will continue to provide savings it is likely that a future cost reduction programme will result in fewer Police Officers and/or PSCOs which will impact negatively on the service provided to the public.
- Despite ongoing and wide ranging recognition that the national police funding formula is not fit for purpose it now appears that change will not be implemented until 2020 at the earliest. This is hugely disappointing. The Panel remains strongly of the view that a fairer police funding formula should be introduced and that in the interim funding support should be provided to forces such as Lincolnshire's that are disadvantaged by the current methodology.

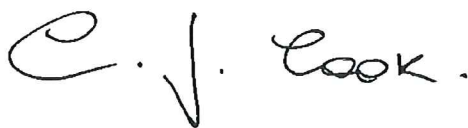
Given the above information the Panel was satisfied that you had been able to demonstrate that an increase in the Police Precept is required to ensure that a robust and effective standard of policing can be provided to the people of Lincolnshire in the year ahead.

As such, and in accordance with Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 I write to confirm that the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel voted unanimously to accept your proposal to increase the Police Precept by £11.97 for a Band D property in 2018/19.

The Panel notes that the Police Precept flexibility is likely to be retained in 2019/20 subject to the police service delivering clear progress against agreed milestones on productivity and efficiency in 2018. The Panel would like you to report details of these milestones and progress against them to future meetings of the Panel.

Finally please note that the Panel will publish this correspondence on its website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. J. Cook." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a small 'J'.

Christopher Cook
Chairman - Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel

CC: Members of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel
Malcolm Burch and Julie Flint, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire
Bill Skelly, Chief Constable for Lincolnshire Police
Chief Executives of Lincolnshire Local Authorities