

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel

Press Release
Monday 12th January 2015

Response To Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Budget Consultation

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Olly Martins has today released details of his budget plans for 2015/16 which include proposals to consult the public on a 15.85% increase in the amount they pay, through the council tax, towards policing in the county. Mr Martins has explained the move highlights his determination to restore neighbourhood policing in the county and to put Bedfordshire Police on a firmer financial footing.

The Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP) is made up of elected Members from all three local authorities in Bedfordshire as well as two independent co-opted members, who cannot be Councillors. One of their roles is to act as a critical friend and provide feedback on his key policies and the budget he proposes to set each year to pay for the services provided by Bedfordshire Police. The PCC is required by law to notify the PCP about his budget and how much will need to be raised through Council tax to fund it by 1 February each year. This is in order for the Panel to scrutinise the plans and report back to him on his proposals.

Chair of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel Fiona Chapman said:

“ Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Olly Martins is responsible for determining the priorities for Bedfordshire Police and setting the budget to achieve this. Clearly neighbourhood policing is a priority which needs to be in place across Bedfordshire. As chair of Bedfordshire Police and Crime panel I welcome greater consultation with the public over these proposals and I urge everyone to have their say by taking part in this consultation.”

Details of the consultation and how to take part will be posted on the Commissioners website www.bedspsc.org.

The PCP will consider the budget proposals from the Commissioner at its next meeting on the 5th February.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

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