

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel

Press Release
Monday 9 February 2015

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel Responds to Commissioners Budget Plan

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel have considered budget proposals for 2015/16 from Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Olly Martins.

Mr Martins has explained that his proposals highlight his determination to restore neighbourhood policing in the county and to put Bedfordshire Police on a firmer financial footing. **To achieve the points set out in his budget plan the Commissioner has put forward a proposal to increase the amount Council Tax payers pay, through the council tax, towards policing in the county by 15.85%.** This would mean an extra £24.88 a year on a Band D property.

The Panel considered the Commissioners Budget report at its meeting on Thursday 5th February. After discussing the report the Panel decided that they recognised the funding difficulties facing Bedfordshire Police and noted the Commissioner's proposals to overcome this. As a result of this the Panel has asked that the Commissioner produce a plan to show the public why they should support the proposals. The Panel has also asked that this plan should show how the Commissioner expects the increased funding and resulting increase in the number of Police Officers will improve the forces performance.

Chair of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel, Cllr 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. The Panel has reviewed the proposals put forward by Mr Martins and clearly recognises that neighbourhood policing is a priority which needs to be in place across Bedfordshire. I believe that the vast majority of people want more visible policing and the Panel believes that the officers afforded by the extra money could go some way to achieving this. I therefore urge everyone to have their say by taking part."

-ENDS-