

**BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE ON THE PROPOSED PRECEPT
FOR 2014/15**

7 FEBRUARY 2014

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document constitutes the report of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel in respect of the Commissioner's proposed precept for the financial year 2014/15 and is submitted to the Commissioner in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act) and Regulation 4 of the Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).
- 1.2 Under the Act, the Panel is able to make recommendations to the Commissioner to amend the proposed precept and, if 2/3 of the whole membership of the Panel vote to do so, may veto the proposed precept. Having reviewed the proposed precept, the Panel has decided not to propose any changes, and has not exercised its power to veto the proposed precept. The report advises the Commissioner that the Panel supports the proposed precept for 2014/15 as submitted.
- 1.3 In submitting this report, the Panel would like to thank the Commissioner and his staff for their attendance at the Panel's meeting on 6 February 2014 and for the responses provided to the Panel's questions.

2. PROPOSED PRECEPT

- 2.1 The Panel's Secretariat received notification of the Commissioner's proposed precept on 29 January 2014, and notified the Panel of the Commissioner's proposals on the same day.
- 2.2 Having received notification of the precept by the statutory deadline of 1 February 2014, the law requires the Panel to review and make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept by 8 February.
- 2.3 The Panel reviewed the proposed precept at its meeting on Thursday 6 February 2014. The following Panel Members were present:

Councillor Fiona Chapman (Panel Chair)
Councillor Colleen Atkins
Lay Member, Paul Cain
Councillor Brian Spurr
Councillor Sarah-Jayne Holland
Councillor Alison Field Foster
Councillor Alison Graham
Councillor Peter Hollick

Councillor Raja Saleem
Councillor Roxanna Whittaker

Officers of the Panel's Host Authority (Bedford Borough Council) were also present.

- 2.4 The Panel had the benefit of a detailed [report](#) submitted in support of the proposed precept and was advised at the meeting that the final financial settlement had resulted in a reduction in funding of 4.8% from that received in 2013/14.
- 2.5 The Panel understands that the revenue budget requirement of £101,691,000 will require a Council Tax increase of 1.99%, which equates to an increase of £3.06 per annum for a Band D Council Tax home.
- 2.6 The Panel was persuaded by the information provided in your report and the responses provided to its questions that this level of funding increase is required to continue to maximise the effort in delivering effective policing to Bedfordshire, focussing on the three key themes of the Police and Crime Plan:
 - ⇒ Protecting the Public;
 - ⇒ Partnership Working;
 - ⇒ Preventing Crime.
- 2.7 In addition the Panel noted that this budget took into consideration the likely further reductions in Government funding in future years.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 Having considered:
 - ⇒ the need for you to set a budget which will enable you to deliver the objectives in your Police and Crime Plan;
 - ⇒ the impact of the 2014/15 financial settlement for Bedfordshire;
 - ⇒ your proposed budget reductions for 2014/15;
 - ⇒ your medium term financial strategy;
 - ⇒ the impact of the proposed budget on the level of the Council Tax and
 - ⇒ your Chief Financial Officer's report on the robustness of the estimates included in your proposed budget,

the Panel resolved to accept the following recommendations set out in your report:

- a) The estimated revenue expenditure be set at **£101.691M**, including a contingency provision for pay and price inflation of **£0.565M**.

b) The budget requirement of £101.691M be met through:

	£'M
Police Core Settlement	43.211
DCLG Funding Formula	24.264
Legacy Council Tax	4.637
Grants	

and that subject to adjustments at c) the Commissioner's precept requirement be determined at **£29.579M**.

c) The precept in b) be reduced by £0.192M, being the Commissioner's share of the estimated surplus on Council Tax Collection Funds for 2013/14 for each of the Unitary Councils to £29.387M.

d) That pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Finance Acts 1992 and 1999 and all other relevant statutory powers, the Commissioner's Monitoring Officer issue Precepts in the necessary form to each of the Unitary Councils indicated in column 1, requiring those Authorities to make payments of the sum indicated in column 2 in eleven equal instalments and payments for the Commissioner's share of the estimated surplus on the Council Tax Collection funds for 2013/14, in ten equal instalments on the agreed dates, of the sum indicated in Column 3.

e)

(1)	(2)	(3)
Unitary Councils	£'000	£'000
Bedford Borough	8,118	100
Luton Borough	6,960	87
Central Bedfordshire	14,309	5
Total	29,387	192

f) That the amount of Council tax calculated at 1.99%, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to be payable in respect of each category of dwelling be confirmed as follows:

Valuation Band	Council Tax for Band £
A	104.37
B	121.76
C	139.16
D	156.55
E	191.34
F	226.13
G	260.92
H	313.10

Fiona Chapman MBE
Chair, Bedfordshire
Police and Crime Panel

Philip Simpkins
Clerk, Bedfordshire
Police and Crime Panel