

**BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE ON THE PROPOSED PRECEPT
FOR 2015/16**

6 FEBRUARY 2015

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 2015/16 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 exercise its power of veto.
- 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 5 February 2015 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 30 January 2015, 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 2015, 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 5 February 2015. The following Panel Members were present:

Councillors Fiona Chapman (Panel Chair), Colleen Atkins, Amanda Dodwell, Michael Dolling, Alison Field Foster, Alison Graham, Sarah-Jayne Holland, Peter Hollick, and Lay Member, Paul Cain

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 2014/15.

- 2.5 The Panel understands that the revenue budget requirement of £104.606M will require a Council Tax increase of 15.84%, which equates to an increase of £24.80 per annum for a Band D Council Tax home.
- 2.6 The Panel appreciated that the information provided in your report and the responses provided to its questions demonstrated that this level of funding increase is required to continue to maximise the effort in delivering effective policing to Bedfordshire, and to increase the number of Officers by 100 during 2015/16 and sustain this for at least the next 5 years, focussing on the two key themes of the Police and Crime Plan:
- ⇒ Confident Communities;
 - ⇒ Preventing Crime.
- 2.7 In addition the Panel noted that this increase will also place slightly less reliance on the police grant received by the Force and place Bedfordshire Police in a stronger financial position over the medium term.

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 2015/16 financial settlement for Bedfordshire;
- ⇒ 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 as follows:

1. That the Panel understands the funding difficulties facing Bedfordshire Police and notes the PCC's proposals to overcome this;
2. That the Panel asks the PCC to produce a plan which will convince the public to support the proposals, including the improved performance he expects to deliver with the increased number of officers;
3. That in the event that the referendum supports the increase the Police and Crime Plan is amended to reflect those revised targets.

Fiona Chapman MBE
Chair, Bedfordshire
Police and Crime Panel

Philip Simpkins
Clerk, Bedfordshire
Police and Crime Panel