

**BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE ON THE PROPOSED PRECEPT
FOR 2016/17**

5 FEBRUARY 2016

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 2016/17 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 approves the proposed precept for 2016/17 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 4 February 2016 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 25 January 2016.
- 2.2 Having received notification of the precept by the statutory deadline of 1 February 2016, 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 4 February 2016. The following Panel Members were present:

Councillor Fiona Chapman (Panel Chair)
Councillor Mohammed Farooq (Panel Vice-Chair)
Councillor David Agleby
Mr Paul Cain
Councillor Alison Foster
Councillor Ayesgul Gurbuz
Councillor Peter Hollick
Councillor Mohammad Yasin

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.
- 2.5 The Chairs of the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were also present and were able to give their opinions on the proposed precept.
- 2.6 The Panel understands that the revenue budget requirement of £101.483M will require a Council Tax increase of 1.99%, which equates to an increase of £3.18 per annum for a Band D Council Tax home.
- 2.7 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.

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 2016/17 financial settlement for Bedfordshire;
- ⇒ your proposed budget for 2016/17;
- ⇒ the impact of the proposed budget on the level of the Council Tax;

the Panel resolved:

1. To accept the following recommendations set out in your report:

a) The estimated revenue expenditure be set at **£101.483M**, including a contingency provision for pay inflation of **£0.389M**.

b) The budget requirement of **£101.483M** be met through:

	£'M
Police Core Settlement	40.335
Funding Formula	23.327
Legacy Council Tax Grants	4.637

and that subject to adjustments at c) the Commissioner's precept requirement be determined at **£33.184M**.

c) The precept in b) be reduced by **£0.606M**, being the Commissioner's share of the estimated surplus on Council Tax Collection Funds for 2015/16 for each of the Unitary Councils to **£32.578M**.

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	8,949	278
Luton Borough	8,004	(117)
Central Bedfordshire	15,625	445
Total	35,092	606

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	108.57
B	126.66
C	144.76
D	162.85
E	199.04
F	235.23
G	271.42
H	325.70

2. That the Commissioner be recommended to share with the three Bedfordshire CSP Chairs further details around the savings proposals for the coming years as referred to in the Commissioner's report and;

a) the extent to which these will impact on the partnership working with CSPs (and with their constituent members) and;

- b) the resources to be applied to community policing activities and the protection from harm of the vulnerable (particularly missing and absent children, victims of domestic abuse and children at risk of sexual exploitation).

Fiona Chapman MBE
Chair, Bedfordshire
Police and Crime Panel

Philip Simpkins
Clerk, Bedfordshire
Police and Crime Panel