

## **CUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**Meeting date: 7 February 2020**

**From: Director of Finance (Cumbria County Council)**

### **DRAFT PRECEPT PROPOSALS (2020/2021)**

#### **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1. *The purpose of this report is to accompany the report from the Police and Crime Commissioner which will set out the proposed budget and precept for 2020/2021. This report explains the Panel's options for decision making.***

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1. *The Panel is asked to review the proposed precept report from the Police and Crime Commissioner accompanying this report.***

**2.2. *The Panel is then asked to decide whether to:***

- a) support the precept without qualification or comment;***
- b) support the precept and make recommendations, or***
- c) veto the proposed precept.***

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

**3.1.** The Police and Crime Panel are consulted on the level of precept (Council Tax demand) requested by the Police and Crime Commissioner as he looks to set the budget for the Cumbria Police Force for 2020/21. The precept proposal from the Police and Crime Commissioner is set out in today's agenda.

**3.2.** The Police and Crime Panel are required to review the proposed precept and upon consideration of the proposed precept decide whether to:-

- a) support the precept without qualification or comment;**
- b) support the precept and make recommendations, or**
- c) veto the proposed precept (by the required majority of at least two thirds of the persons who are members of the Panel at the time the decision is made).**



- 3.3. If the Panel were to decide (b) to support the precept but make comments/recommendations, the Panel would need to make these comments clear in the meeting and then have those comments conveyed to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner by 8 February 2020. In practice, that will mean reporting the comments after the Panel meeting.
- 3.4. The Commissioner must then consider such recommendations/comments in reconsidering the precept, and advise the Panel of his decision as well as publishing that decision. The Panel can decide what steps it wishes to take at this point.
- 3.5. If the Panel were to decide (c) and exercise its veto, the Panel would need to provide a statement to the Commissioner setting out its reasons, and indicating whether the precept proposed is too high or too low.
- 3.6. The Commissioner would then consider the statement and issue a response, including a revised precept by 15 February 2020. The Panel would need to meet to review the revised precept before 22 February 2020 and make a further report to the Commissioner. A special meeting date would need to be agreed to achieve this. Then the Panel would need to consider the precept and set out if they accept or reject the revised precept – but there is no further veto at this meeting. If the Panel did not meet before 22 February 2020 in this way, the scrutiny process for the precept would be considered to be at an end.
- 3.7. If the Panel did meet and prepare its report, the Commissioner would then have regard to this second report and would issue a response by no later than 2 March. However, the rejection by the Panel of the revised precept would not prevent the Commissioner from issuing the revised precept as precept for the financial year 2020/21.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1. The Police and Crime Panel is asked to review the proposed precept report from the Police and Crime Commissioner and decide whether to support, or veto the precept proposal.

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## **APPENDICES**

No appendices.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers.

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