

## *Appendix 1*

# **Scrutiny Management Board Briefing from Chair of Cumbria Police and Crime Panel**

### **1.0 Purpose of Update**

- 1.0 This report updates Scrutiny Management Board (SMB) on the work of the Cumbria Police and Crime Panel and any issues and developments that have occurred since the last meeting of SMB.

### **2.0 Board Meeting Update**

- 2.0 The Police and Cumbria Panel last met on 7th February 2020. The main purpose of the meeting was to consider the Council Tax precept for policing for 2020/21.
- 2.1 Government is proposing a total settlement for police forces of up to £15.2bn in 2020/21, an increase of £1.1m compared to 2019/20. The settlement includes £700m for the recruitment of 6,000 additional officers by the end of March 2021, which represents an almost 10% increase on the core grant provided to forces last year.
- 2.2 Assuming full take up of precept flexibility, overall funding available to PCCs will increase by 7.5% next year. In 2020/21, PCCs will have flexibility to increase local funding by setting the council tax referendum limit to £10 per year for a Band D property. This is a reduction from the £24 limit, set for 2019/20.
- 2.3 Members were provided with budget updates for the Commissioner and Constabulary as well as detailed background to the decision to raise the council tax precept. The Panel was made aware of the current funding pressures facing the force both in the immediate term and in the future.
- 2.4 Panel Members agreed that the proposed precept of 3.47% be supported. Members also made representations to the Commissioner that the establishment provision of 95 Police Community Support Officers is maintained.

### **3.0 Additional Scrutiny activity undertaken by the Board**

3.0 The next full Panel meeting in May will be immediately after the Police and Crime Commissioner election. The main focus of that meeting will be to discuss the broad direction and priorities for the emerging new Police and Crime Plan:

3.1 Panel will also receive budget updates from both the Commissioner's Office and Constabulary.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

4.1 The Panel continues to develop a strong working relationship with the Commissioner and is keen to explore joint areas of interest with the Commissioner over the coming year to develop the Panel's work programme.

**Chair: Cllr William McEwan**