



## **Devon and Cornwall OPCC - Record of Decision**

Precept, Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)  
2021/22 – 2024/25

**Decision Record prepared by:**

**Nicola Allen**

**Date of Decision:**

**15<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **1. Background**

This decision record confirms the decision of the PCC to set the future four-year financial position for the financial years 2021/22 to 2024/25 and the proposals that were presented to the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Police and Crime Panel as follows:

- 1) The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) proposed a £14.92 increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2021/22 financial year.
- 2) Further items that were presented for the Police and Crime Panel to note:
  - The Commissioning Intentions Plan attached to the report.
  - That the Reserves Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and the Capital Strategy will be published online to enhance transparency.
  - Police Officers and Police Staff have received an overall 2.5% increase in pay for the year to August 2021, in accordance with government pay settlements. However, as part of the Spending Review announced in November 2020 the indicative pay award from September 2021 has been set at 0%.
  - That Devon and Cornwall will receive an uplift of 141 officers from the 6,000 additional officers allocated by the government for 2021/22 under Operation Uplift.

### **2. Decision Record**

The Police and Crime Panel did not exercise their power of veto to the PCC's proposals for a £14.92 proposed increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2021/22 financial year. It is therefore the PCC's decision to confirm the proposed £14.92 (6.73%) increase to the Band D equivalent

in the police precept proportion of council tax. This will take the Band D equivalent from £221.64 for 2020/21 to £236.56 for 2021/22. The bands are shown in the table below:

Valuation Band	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	Increase £	Increase %	Increase per day £	Increase per week £	Increase per month £
A	147.76	157.71	9.95	6.73%	0.03	0.19	0.83
B	172.39	183.99	11.60	6.73%	0.03	0.22	0.97
C	197.01	210.28	13.27	6.73%	0.04	0.26	1.11
<b>D</b>	<b>221.64</b>	<b>236.56</b>	<b>14.92</b>	<b>6.73%</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>1.24</b>
E	270.89	289.13	18.24	6.73%	0.05	0.35	1.52
F	320.15	341.70	21.55	6.73%	0.06	0.41	1.80
G	369.40	394.27	24.87	6.73%	0.07	0.48	2.07
H	443.28	473.12	29.84	6.73%	0.08	0.57	2.49

### 3. Consultation, Engagement and Communication

Publication of the provisional Police Finance Settlement was made on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Following consultation, the final settlement was confirmed on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

As part of the commitment to actively engage with the communities of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly the annual policing survey was launched on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic face-to-face engagement to promote surveys and polls was not possible so there was a greater reliance on using traditional media, social media, virtual meetings and email newsletters to engage participants.

The quantitative survey was designed to seek significant levels of engagement on questions around policing and investment priorities before the 2021/22 budget proposals were finalised. It was supplemented with a series of qualitative telephone interviews with members of the public that took place once budget proposals were finalised to gain a more in-depth understanding of policing priorities. The digital survey ran from 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021. Telephone interviews were carried out between 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The PCC submitted her proposals to the Police and Crime Panel on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021. These were scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The Police and Crime Panel supported the proposals and made recommendations.



Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel Chair has written to the PCC to formalise the agreement of the Police and Crime Panel at the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and to make recommendations. A response dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 has been provided by the PCC. A copy of the letter has been provided in the supporting documents with this decision and will be published.

#### **4. OPCC Officer Advice**

##### **4.1 Legal, Management and Equality Implications – Current and Future**

In considering the increase of £14.92 (per Band D equivalent) in council tax funding, the PCC has taken into account this year's funding settlement and seeks to ensure that funding for the Force keeps pace with inflation at current levels. The increase in precept along with continued delivery of financial savings means that the MTFS allows for growth. The opportunity for growth is being targeted at the areas that the Chief Constable has identified to support delivery of a high quality policing service that meets the changing nature and complexity of demand. The MTFS will deliver a further increase in police officer numbers to 3,422. This is an increase of 181 above the levels proposed in 2020/21 and includes the national uplift in officer numbers along with additional officers as part of the budget growth proposals.

There are new and different demands being placed upon policing and resources need to be freed up to address these. Many of the new areas of policing require investment in new technology before any operational savings can be generated. Increases in the council tax will allow these investments to be made and still provide opportunity for a further increase in police officer numbers and co-funded blue light officers. There will be additional resources in the contact centres, crime investigation, enhancing data reliability, accuracy and security, professional standards and the Special Constabulary.

##### **4.2 Financial and Commercial – Current and Future**

The national police funding announced is for one year only. It is assumed that this will increase by inflation over this MTFS based upon the Minister's statements in the settlement being fulfilled. It is also assumed that the full cost of the officer uplift will be provided within the grant funding. These statements are far from certain and subject to more risk than normal due to the impending CSR. A risk register is attached to the Police and Crime Panel Report.

Although it is indicated that the implementation of the amended funding formula will be deferred until after the next Comprehensive Spending Review,



this remains a significant future risk. The new funding formula allocation could remove annual funding. It is planned to use a significant proportion of the current reserves which will restrict any use to support a smooth transition to new base levels of expenditure.

## 5 Supporting documents:

- Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 from the Police and Crime Panel Chair to the PCC agreeing with the proposed council tax increase and making recommendations:  
[Click here](#)
- Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 from the Police and Crime Commissioner replying to the Police and Crime Panel Chair’s letter:  
[Click here](#)
- The PCC’s precept, budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 – 2024/25 as presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021, which comprises the following documents:
  - [Proposed Precept, Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy \(MTFS\) 2021/22 – 2024/25 – Main Report](#)
  - [Appendix 1 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25](#)
  - [Appendix 2 – Letter from the Chief Constable](#)
  - [Appendix 3 – Commissioning Intentions Plan 2021 to 2022](#)
  - [Appendix 4 – Risk Assessment](#)
  - [Appendix 5 – The budget survey results](#)
  - [Appendix 6 - Glossary](#)

## 6 Official approval

Following the appropriate approval, this decision sheet will be published, subject to FOIA classification, on the OPCC website.

If FOI Closed at the current date under Section 22, please provide details of the future date by which this decision can be reconsidered for publication	N/A
Is there a publication schedule that lists the documents relating to this decision that will also be published at a later date in the future? If yes, please attach a copy with this decision.	no

# FOIA Classification – Open for the Purposes of FOI



## For OPCC office use:

The Recommendation for Decision as outlined in this report is formally approved and subject to Freedom of Information Classification will be published on the OPCC website:

**Police and Crime Commissioner**  
Alison Hernandez

-----  
Signed  
Print: Alison Hernandez  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Chief Financial Officer**  
Nicola Allen

-----  
Signed  
Print: Nicola Allen  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Monitoring Officer**  
Richard Martin

-----  
Signed  
Print: Richard Martin  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Decision logged in register?  [Tick if completed]

✓

Decision published on OPCC website?  [Tick if completed]

✓