

**ORIGINATOR: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND T/CFO**

**DECISION NUMBER: 6 - 2022**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION**

**SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**SUBJECT: PRECEPT LEVEL AND COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT 2022/23**

**SUMMARY:**

- 1 This paper provides for a decision on the precept level and council tax requirement for 2022/23 following consideration of the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal by the Police and Crime Panel on 28 January 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

- 1 The PCC issues this decision report in response to the Police and Crime Panel's report on the proposed precept.
- 2 The PCC notes the council tax requirement and issues the 2022/23 precept summarised in Appendix 1 – Option 2.

**APPROVAL BY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER:**

The recommendation set out above is agreed.

**Signature:**



**Date: 03.02.2022**

## **DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 On 17 January 2022 the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) considered the draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26 and approved the recommendations contained therein (Decision 3-2022).
- 1.2 The PCC also considered and approved the recommendations contained in a paper which explained the steps that had been taken in determining his proposed precept level and council tax requirement for 2022/23 (Decision 4-2022). The two recommendations are set out below.
- 1.3 On 17 January 2022 the PCC agreed that:
- (i) The Police and Crime Panel are notified of the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by £9.99 for a Band D property in 2022/23;
  - (ii) This proposal is submitted to the Police and Crime Panel for consideration at its meeting on 28 January 2022.

### **2. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING**

- 2.1 In reviewing the proposed precept, following the PCC's response to a number of questions from the Panel, the Panel supported the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by £9.99 (4.2%) for a Band D property in 2022/23 (9 votes in favour, 1 against).
- 2.2 A copy of the Panel's written report on the PCC's precept proposal is attached to this paper at Appendix 2.

### **3. AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL TAX FUNDING**

- 3.1 Following the Police and Crime Panel, further information has been received in respect of the tax base, resulting in an increase of £15k in council tax funding for 2022/23. Appendix 1 includes the amended funding levels for options 1 and 2.


### **4. RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION**

- 4.1 Accordingly, as a consequence of the PCC's precept proposal and the Police and Crime Panel's response, it is recommended that the PCC:
- (i) Issues this decision report in response to the Police and Crime Panel's report on the proposed precept;
  - (ii) Notes the council tax requirement and issues the 2022/23 precept summarised in Appendix 1 – Option 2.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	YES
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	YES
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	YES
Have human resource implications been considered?	YES
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	YES
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	YES
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	YES
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	YES

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

**APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER**

<p><b>Chief Executive</b></p> <p>I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.</p> <p>Signature:  Date: 03.02.2022</p>
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## Option 1 – 2% (£4.68) council tax increase

### SUFFOLK MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – 4-YEAR OVERVIEW

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Note
	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<b>REVENUE FUNDING</b>					
Home Office Grant	(77,549)	(78,450)	(79,801)	(79,801)	
Legacy Council Tax Grants	(6,786)	(6,786)	(6,786)	(6,786)	
Precept Income	(63,891)	(64,525)	(66,601)	(68,612)	1
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>(148,226)</b>	<b>(149,761)</b>	<b>(153,188)</b>	<b>(155,199)</b>	
<b>BASE REVENUE BUDGET INCLUDING INFLATION</b>					
Constabulary Revenue Budget before Savings	147,701	151,334	154,400	157,498	2
PCC Corporate Budget	875	875	875	875	
PCC Commissioning Budget	2,067	2,067	2,067	2,067	
Revenue Funding of Capital, Minimum Revenue Provision and Interest	3,610	3,610	3,610	3,610	
Total Revenue Income including Specific Grants	(11,442)	(10,309)	(10,377)	(10,444)	
<b>NET REVENUE BUDGET BEFORE KNOWN CHANGES AND SAVINGS</b>	<b>142,811</b>	<b>147,577</b>	<b>150,575</b>	<b>153,606</b>	
<b>REVENUE (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT BEFORE KNOWN CHANGES</b>	<b>(5,415)</b>	<b>(2,184)</b>	<b>(2,613)</b>	<b>(1,593)</b>	
Known/ Expected Changes	6,203	7,487	9,799	8,723	
Planned (Use of)/ Contribution to Reserves	1,213	(1,624)	(2,413)	(1,299)	
<b>REVENUE DEFICIT BEFORE SAVINGS</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>4,773</b>	<b>5,831</b>	
Change Programme Savings	(2,001)	(2,507)	(2,507)	(2,507)	
<b>Total Cumulative Impact of Savings</b>	<b>(2,001)</b>	<b>(2,507)</b>	<b>(2,507)</b>	<b>(2,507)</b>	
<b>REVENUE (SURPLUS)/ DEFICIT AFTER SAVINGS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>3,324</b>	
<b>SURPLUS/ (SAVINGS TO BE IDENTIFIED)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,173)</b>	<b>(2,266)</b>	<b>(3,324)</b>	
<b>REVENUE DEFICIT/ (SURPLUS)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	

#### Notes:

1. Annual 2% precept increase; 2.9% increase in CT base in 2021/22 and 1% in following years; 2. Excludes capital.

## Option 2 – 4.2% (£9.99) council tax increase

### SUFFOLK MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – 4-YEAR OVERVIEW

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Note
	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<b>REVENUE FUNDING</b>					
Home Office Grant	(77,549)	(78,450)	(79,801)	(79,801)	
Legacy Council Tax Grants	(6,786)	(6,786)	(6,786)	(6,786)	
Precept Income	(65,266)	(65,961)	(68,100)	(70,150)	1
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>(149,601)</b>	<b>(151,197)</b>	<b>(154,687)</b>	<b>(156,737)</b>	
<b>BASE REVENUE BUDGET INCLUDING INFLATION</b>					
Constabulary Revenue Budget before Savings	147,701	151,334	154,400	157,498	2
PCC Corporate Budget	875	875	875	875	
PCC Commissioning Budget	2,067	2,067	2,067	2,067	
Revenue Funding of Capital, Minimum Revenue Provision and Interest	3,610	3,610	3,610	3,610	
Total Revenue Income including Specific Grants	(11,442)	(10,309)	(10,377)	(10,444)	
<b>NET REVENUE BUDGET BEFORE KNOWN CHANGES AND SAVINGS</b>	<b>142,811</b>	<b>147,577</b>	<b>150,575</b>	<b>153,606</b>	
<b>REVENUE SURPLUS BEFORE KNOWN CHANGES</b>	<b>(6,790)</b>	<b>(3,621)</b>	<b>(4,112)</b>	<b>(3,131)</b>	
Known/ Expected Changes	7,578	8,862	11,174	10,098	
Planned (Use of)/ Contribution to Reserves	1,213	(1,624)	(2,413)	(1,299)	
<b>REVENUE DEFICIT BEFORE SAVINGS</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>3,618</b>	<b>4,649</b>	<b>5,668</b>	
Change Programme Savings	(2,001)	(2,507)	(2,507)	(2,507)	
<b>Total Cumulative Impact of Savings</b>	<b>(2,001)</b>	<b>(2,507)</b>	<b>(2,507)</b>	<b>(2,507)</b>	
<b>REVENUE (SURPLUS)/ DEFICIT AFTER SAVINGS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>2,142</b>	<b>3,161</b>	
<b>SURPLUS/ (SAVINGS TO BE IDENTIFIED)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,111)</b>	<b>(2,142)</b>	<b>(3,161)</b>	
<b>REVENUE DEFICIT/ (SURPLUS)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	

#### Notes:

1. 4.2% (£9.99) precept increase in 2022/23, 2% thereafter; 2.9% increase in CT base in 2022/23 and 1% thereafter; 2. Excludes capital.

## Council Tax and Budget Options 2022/23

	Option 1	Option 2
<b>Options for Percentage Increase in Council Tax Bills:</b>	<b>1.96895%</b>	<b>4.20295%</b>
<b>2022/23 Recommended Budget Summary:</b>	£-p	£-p
Operational Costs before Savings	145,999,275.20	145,999,275.20
Specific Grants (excluding Council Tax Freeze Grants)	(6,798,584.00)	(6,798,584.00)
New savings from 2022/23	(2,001,000.00)	(2,001,000.00)
(Savings to be Identified)/ Surplus to be Invested	-	-
Known Changes	4,754,631.00	6,129,631.00
Revenue Funding of Capital	5,058,972.00	5,058,972.00
<b>Appropriations to Reserves</b>	<b>1,212,143.46</b>	<b>1,212,870.05</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>148,225,437.66</b>	<b>149,601,164.25</b>
<b>Budget financed by:</b>		
Police Grant	50,147,874.00	50,147,874.00
Ex-DCLG Formula Funding	27,401,286.00	27,401,286.00
Operation Uplift Grant	-	-
Council Tax Freeze Grant (for no precept increase in 2011/12)	1,030,300.00	1,030,300.00
Council Tax Freeze Grant (for no precept increase in 2012/13)	-	-
Council Tax Freeze Grant (for no precept increase in 2013/14)	430,720.00	430,720.00
Council Tax Freeze Grant (for no precept increase in 2014/15)	433,830.00	433,830.00
Council Tax Freeze Grant (for no precept increase in 2015/16)	-	-
Collection Fund Surplus	1,096,740.00	1,096,740.00
CT Support Funding Allocation	4,890,930.00	4,890,930.00
<b>Council Tax Requirement (based on 259,082 tax base)</b>	<b>62,793,757.66</b>	<b>64,169,484.25</b>
	<b>148,225,437.66</b>	<b>149,601,164.25</b>

Council Tax Bands 2022/23	Option 1		Option 2	
	Rate £	Annual Increase £	Rate £	Annual Increase £
A	161.58	3.12	165.12	6.66
B	188.51	3.64	192.64	7.77
C	215.44	4.16	220.16	8.88
<b>D</b>	<b>242.37</b>	<b>4.68</b>	<b>247.68</b>	<b>9.99</b>
E	296.23	5.72	302.72	12.21
F	350.09	6.76	357.76	14.43
G	403.95	7.80	412.80	16.65
H	484.74	9.36	495.36	19.98



## Suffolk Police and Crime Panel Outcomes of Consideration of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Proposed Policing Precept for 2022/23

1. On 28 January 2022, the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel considered a recommendation of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Suffolk regarding the proposed precept level and Council Tax requirement for 2022-23 for policing in Suffolk.
2. The agenda and papers for the meeting are available on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).
3. On 16 December 2021, the Home Office published the [provisional police funding settlement for 2022/23](#). This set out the total amount of money going into policing next year, and how much each individual PCC was likely to receive. For 2022/23 the Home Office gave PCCs in England the flexibility to increase local funding by setting a £10 precept limit for a typical 'Band D' property.
4. 11 members of the Panel were present at the meeting; however one Panel member was not present for the entire debate on the precept and therefore did not vote. The PCC was accompanied by his Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, Head of Communications and Engagement, Head of Policy and Performance and Temporary Chief Finance Officer. Suffolk Constabulary's Chief Constable was also present.
5. The Panel reviewed the PCC's detailed precept report and the associated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022-23 to 2025-26, which included his proposal to increase the precept by **£9.99 (4.2%)** per annum for a 'Band D' property.
6. The PCC's decision papers in this regard are available on the [PCC's website \(PCC Decisions 2022\)](#); references [3-2022](#) and [4-2022](#).
7. The MTFP was prepared following notification of the provisional 2022/23 settlements from the Home Office and in conjunction with a range of assumptions summarised within the report.
8. In introducing his report, the PCC advised that nearly all of the 4.2% proposed increase would be invested in improvements in the control room and 101 system. The investment would enable calls to 101 to be triaged to assist swift resolution of issues, as well as a faster answering service and increased ability to keep in touch with the victims of offences.
9. The PCC understood that people were feeling financial pressure at this time, with high inflation and increased energy costs. However, people on low incomes did receive help with Council Tax costs, and the precept increase was needed to enable the Constabulary to keep up with the changing patterns of

crime in the county. Since the Covid-19 lockdowns, domestic violence and sex offences had increased across the county, and whilst a multi-agency approach was being taken, demand for the 999 service and communication in general had increased.

10. The PCC updated the Panel on the savings which had been achieved through joint working with Norfolk Constabulary, and assured Members that the Constabulary was always looking at areas to work more efficiently and effectively.
11. The Panel received an update from members of the PCC's staff on his [survey](#) to capture the views of Suffolk residents on the proposal for the precept increase. The survey was open for responses between 6 January 2022 and 27 January 2022 and asked: "As a Council Tax payer in Suffolk, do you agree with my proposal to increase the policing element of the Council Tax for 2022/23 by 19p a week [for a Band D property]?". There had been 1,166 responses to the survey, 62% of which supported the proposal.
12. The Chief Constable (CC) was present at the meeting and assured the Panel that the PCC would not agree to put forward any increase in funding unless the CC could evidence that he was making the best use of current funding. The Constabulary's mission was to keep the public safe by catching criminals, and the control room was at the heart of this. A modernised control room would be lean, with good use of technology such as live chat as well as direct support to victims of crime, and would assist in future proofing the organisation.
13. The Panel noted that two options had been considered by the PCC in determining the precept. The detail and rationale for each option are set out in the PCC's decision papers referred to above.
14. In summary, Option 1 (an increase of £4.68 [2.00%] per annum) would result in the Constabulary delivering a balanced budget in 2022/23, but with no surplus precept funding for further investment. Option 2 (an increase of £9.99 [4.2%] per annum) would result in the Constabulary delivering a balanced budget *and* additional funding of £1.4m, allowing investment in the following activities:
  - *Improving and transforming the Contact and Control Room to provide the public with a more efficient, effective and modern service when contacting the Constabulary. Benefits will include:*
    - *improved assessment of threat, harm and risk in calls received;*
    - *better identification of vulnerability, repeat victims and better allocation of operational resources; and*
    - *reduced abandonment rate for 101 calls.*
15. The Panel raised concern that there had been occasions when Forces had been unable to communicate due to incompatible technology, and the PCC assured Members that the planned changes to the control room would not affect the 999 system, but would introduce a range of options for the public to contact the Constabulary.
16. In response to a question regarding the public's ability to take further tax rises, the PCC advised that most homes in Suffolk were in Council Tax Band B, and thus the increase would be £7.77 per year. Whilst he understood the pressure



that people were under, he emphasised the importance of providing a service which was fit for purpose and reflected the changing patterns of crime in the county.

17. Members questioned the PCC on a variety of other matters including pay award assumptions, the Constabulary's Capital Programme, Operation Uplift, the courts backlog, electric vehicle trials and replacement of the Airwave system.

### **The Decision of the Panel**

Following consideration of the information provided, the Panel:

- a) **supported** the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by £9.99 (4.2%) per annum in 2022/23 (9 votes in favour and 1 against).
- b) **agreed** that the Panel Chairman would make a formal report, on behalf of the Panel, on the PCC's precept, by the statutory deadline of 8 February 2022.

A copy of this report will be uploaded onto the County Council's [website](#).



**Councillor Mark Jepson**

Chairman of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

28 January 2022