SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner's Precept Setting Proposal for the Financial Year 2015/16 5th February 2015

1).BACKGROUND

Under Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, as Police & Crime Commissioner, I have to notify the Police & Crime Panel by 1st February of the precept that I propose to issue under section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The Police & Crime Panel must review the proposed precept and make a report to me on the proposal by the 8th February. The report may agree with my proposals, or include recommendations on a different precept proposal, or the Panel may decide to veto the proposal if at least two thirds of its members vote in favour of making that decision.

If the Panel does not use its veto and I have published my response to the Panel's report, I can then issue the precept notice, which may either be the same as my original proposal or a different proposal made in the Panel report with which I am in agreement. If the Panel veto my proposal, I must advise the Panel of a revised precept by the 15th February. The Panel then has to review the revised precept by the 22nd February and issue a further report to me.

Again, I have to consider the Panel's recommendations and publish a response. If the Panel accepts the revised precept, I can issue it. If the Panel does not accept the revised precept, I can ignore the Panel recommendations and issue the precept, or I can issue a different precept, taking into account the Panel recommendations, provided that if the original precept was vetoed because it was considered to be too high, the revised precept is not higher and vice versa if the original precept was vetoed for being too low.

I cannot issue the actual precept notice before the 1st March unless this Panel has completed its scrutiny process.

2).PRECEPT PROPOSAL

For the Financial year 2015/16 in line with the requirements of the relevant legislation, I am proposing to set a precept of £215.89 (for a Band D property) an increase of 1.99% on the 2014/15 precept of £211.68.

In proposing to set the precept at this level, I have acted in the knowledge that the Government require under the provisions of the Localism Act, that a referendum must be held if a proposed Council Tax Precept increase exceeds the principles endorsed by Parliament. The Council Tax Principles set for 2015/16 require a referendum to be held if the proposed increase in precept is 2% or higher than the previous year's Council Tax, so I have set my proposed precept increase at the maximum level allowed without breaching

the principles that would trigger a referendum.

My recommendation, that the precept level is set at 1.99%, automatically means that I am not entitled to receive the 1% Council Tax Freeze Grant from the Government, which is paid to PCCs who do not increase the Band D Tax rate from the previous year. If I had recommended accepting this grant, then a permanent and recurring reduction of over £1million per annum to the income base would have been the result, equivalent to the cost of employing approximately 23 fewer police constables on a permanent basis.

In coming to my recommendation that the precept be increased by 1.99%, I have carried out wide consultation with the Surrey public on my precept proposals and could not find any significant support for a policy of freezing the precept, when this would inevitably result in front line policing capacity in the County having to be reduced. Indeed as members of the Panel will already be aware, in my consultations I also suggested that a step change in Surrey policing could be achieved if the Surrey public were in favour of voting for a 24% (99p weekly increase on Band D property) increase in the precept and I have been greatly encouraged to find that according to the latest YouGov survey I commissioned, 31% of those sampled indicated they would be prepared to vote for such an increase, while 69% were in favour of a referendum being held to determine the level of precept that they should pay, irrespective of the voting intention they expressed.

In the light of these consultations and mindful of the expense that holding a referendum would incur I have judged that currently it is not the right time to hold a referendum on this issue, However, I believe that starting from a base of over 30% support, I can, by providing further explanation to the Surrey public over the year ahead, about the challenges that modern police forces face, persuade the majority, that 99p a week extra Council Tax on a Band D property is something that is worth paying to get the policing service that I believe we all want.

At present PCC's and Chief Constables are struggling to cope with new and changing demands in a policing environment that has never been more complex than it is today, tactically, technologically and culturally. To provide the first-class police service, that people tell me they want, investment needs to be made, yet our officers and staff are being worked into the ground as Government funding reductions reduce their numbers just when they increasingly face complex issues like online child abuse, domestic violence and human trafficking with minimal training. I've personally lobbied Ministers to do the right thing and merge police forces, which would release the £2bn currently spent on 41 different HQs, Chief Officers and PCCs, but the Government won't do it. The Government promised that they would review the police funding formula that is used to distribute grant to individual PCC's, in the lifetime of this Parliament, but despite my sharing with them independent commissioned research from Oxford Economics to show how Surrey is unfairly losing out on as much as £6million funding per year, again nothing has been done.

I shall therefore continue to encourage the Surrey public to think about paying a bit more each week for the their policing, so that by this time next year I will have hopefully persuaded more people of the need to provide the extra funding that would enable the Chief Constable to recruit and train up to 400 extra officers, so that her Force can hunt down paedophiles, crack down on fraudsters who target the elderly and vulnerable in our society, respond more quickly to emergency calls for help and tackle violent extremists, so that we can all feel properly protected.

The table below shows the Funding Sources that will be available to me in 2015/16 should you approve the Council Precept Tax increase that I am recommending:-

Summary of Funding Sources for 2015/16;

Grants	2014/15 £m	2015/16 £m	Difference £m
Home Office Police Grant	67.8	64.8	-3.0
Top Slice	-1.2	-2.3	-1.1
Formula Funding	30.2	29.4	-0.8
Council tax freeze compensation	2.5	2.5	0.0
Total core government grants	99.3	94.4	-4.9
Other Specific Grants			
Localising council tax support	6.8	6.8	0.0
Total Funding from Government	106.1	101.2	-4.9
Local Funding			
Precept	99.8	103.9	4.1
Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit	1.3	1.8	0.5
Specific Reserve	1.0	1.0	0.0
General Reserves	-1.3	-2.2	-0.9
Total Budget Funding	206.9	205.7	-1.2

The tax base figures and collection fund positions have been confirmed by the Borough and District Councils and both have had a positive effect on the funding position. The tax base has increased by 2% and the Surrey Police share of the collection fund position amounts to £1.8 million.

Panel members will notice that in addition to the £3 million reduction in the Home Office Police Grant that I receive, an additional £2.3 million has been removed to pay for the National Police Innovation Fund, the Independent Police Complaints Commission, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, the College of Policing, the Capital City Grant, the Police Knowledge Fund, the Police Special Grant and Major Government Programmes. I have also lost £800 thousand of funding as a result of the reduction that has been made to the amount I receive from the Local Government Funding Formula.

To give members a sense of scale regarding the funding reductions that have been placed on Surrey Police since the commencement of the Current Spending Review (CSR) in 2010, if CPI inflation alone had been added to the various income sources each year, there would have been an additional £28 million to spend on policing in Surrey, equivalent to the cost of employing nearly 600 additional police constables.

3). THE 2015/16 REVENUE BUDGET

Although the Panel is not formally required to approve the budget or make recommendations on the allocation of the resources contained within it, I believe that it is important that the Panel is provided with the background information it requires to help it make an informed decision on my precept proposal.

Proposed Revenue Budget 2015/16

Proposed Surrey Police Revenue Budget 2015-16 (including the OPCC)

Common Dalina	C
Surrey Police	£m
Base Budget	204.7
Inflation	2.7
Additional unavoidable costs	1.2
Investments	1.8
Savings plans	-6.9
Proposed Police Povenue Pudget 2015-16	
Proposed Police Revenue Budget 2015-16	203.5
PCC Budget (Net of Victim Support Grant)	2.2
Total Budget	205.7

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The table above is a summary of the changes that have been made to the budget from that approved last year.

In formulating the budget, inflation of 1% has been allowed for pay increases and 2% for non-pay, although allocation of inflation to individual budgets will be applied at varying rates dependent on contractual commitments and knowledge of inflationary cost movements in particular areas of activity. There is a particular risk that the provision for pay inflation may not be adequate, as in the current economic climate nationally agreed pay increases may be greater than 1%.

The additional unavoidable costs are predominantly, increased insurance premium costs, increased contribution to regional policing and increases in the charges made by the Home Office in respect of national police IT systems.

The Savings Plans required to balance the budget against the expected funding that will be available in 2015/16 are detailed in the table below;

Saving Category	£mill
Savings achieved ahead of schedule	0.5
Support Services	1.5
Corporate Services	0.1
Specialist Crime	1.2
Operations	0.7
Local Policing	1.6
Contact & Deployment	0.7
Other Savings	0.6
Total	6.9

The Support Services savings are from on-going projects and £1.3million from collaboration. The Corporate Services figure is a target saving from an area of business not closely reviewed before. Specialist Crime savings arise mainly from a budget review and a change in the way Intelligence and Tasking is managed, having been shown to be consistently expensive in the HMIC Value for Money Profiles. The Operations savings

will come from further collaboration with Sussex Police in the area of vehicle recovery, operational dogs and dog school, emergency and operational planning along with search planning. Local Policing savings will be generated from a move to more cross skilled officers with Response and Neighbourhood Officers carrying an investigative workload, while still maintaining the Force's strong Neighbourhood Policing ethos. Contract & Deployment savings derive from changes in supervision and the other savings are non-staff savings and predicted contract saves achieved by the Joint Procurement Service.

To achieve this not inconsiderable savings programme it will be necessary to incur a range of additional costs to facilitate the achievement of the full programme;

Additional Cost	£mill
Innovations bids match funding	0.5
Policing in Your Neighbourhood	0.6
Support Services	0.6
Specialist Crime & Operations	0.1
Total	1.8

The allocation of budgets is detailed by functional unit at appendix A and by cost type at appendix B. The changes in the revenue budget from 2013/14 are shown at appendix C.

4). THE 2015/16 CAPITAL BUDGET

The Capital Budget can be funded from government grants, capital receipts, and revenue contributions to capital and borrowing. Because capital schemes are managed over a longer period than one year, my proposed capital budget for 2015/16 is set out within the context of appendix D, showing the four year capital plan, which governs the overall management of the capital programme and influences the construction of each year's capital budget.

The 2015/16 column in Appendix D outlines the proposed capital budget for next year. New approvals amount to £7.192million, while schemes brought forward from the previous year amount to £2.5million. After deducting estimated slippage on the programme of £2.4 million, the total capital budget for 2015/16 amounts to £7,292 million, the financing of which is shown at the bottom of the table. Due to the significant level of planned capital receipts the panel will note that there is no requirement to enter into borrowing to support capital investment in the foreseeable future.

Because the capital programme is not managed on a one year basis, this allows for a degree of flexibility and allows me to consider the changing demands that are placed upon Surrey Police Force and allows me to be flexible in my approach to the management of capital and approve changes to the budget where I think that priorities justify such a course of action.

RESERVES

My general reserves strategy is to maintain a balance that as a minimum does not fall below 3% of the budget. The level of general reserve at 1st April 2014 amounted to 5.3% of the Revenue Budget and will have increased during the year as steps were taken to put in place elements of the savings programme that are needed to produce a balanced budget for 2015/16. I have agreed that some of this additional money can be set aside to create a Training Reserve (£1 million) to help develop the programme of producing

cross skilled officers and staff as part of the planed savings that will derive from Neighbourhood Policing and I have also agreed that an Estate Improvement Reserve (£0.5 million) can be established to allow the Chief Constable to maintain the estate and avoid a problem of back log maintenance arising as revenue budgets are reduced. I am also going to use £2 million of the reserves to reduce the pension deficit of over £40 million which we currently have on the Balance Sheet for the Local Government Pension Scheme. For each million that is paid off this deficit the Force derives an on-going revenue benefit of £95,000 per year in reduced employer pension costs, which can be used to contribute towards future years savings plans. The balance of reserves remaining after these movements will be more than sufficient to continue to meet my 3 % policy.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The financial plan is reviewed regularly, with the latest version (appendix E) identifying a future budget gap of £14.3 million for the period up to 2018/19. While this year's budget will balanced if the Panel agrees my precept proposal this is not true of the following year 2016/17, when based on current assumptions Surrey Police will have to find savings of £7.7 million to eliminate the projected deficit. In reality the figures of £14.3 million and £7.7 million, may well prove to be optimistic forecasts, when you consider the assumptions that I have listed below and which have been used to build the current Medium Term Financial Plan.

- The central grant continues to be reduced each year. 5% in 2015/16 and then by 2% in each of the next three years. This may be an optimistic assumption, as recent messages from Government suggest that this figure may increase to perhaps 4% or higher post General Election.
- Inflation for pay is 1% until 2016 then increases to 2%. Non-pay inflation stays at 2% per year. Again this could be an optimistic estimate as national pay awards look as if the might come out with higher awards in 2015/16.
- The Localisation of council tax support grant of £6.7m is maintained by Government and not reduced in future years.
- The employer national insurance contribution increase in 2016/17 of £4.4millon, resulting from the introduction of the single tier state pension, is not funded by Government. The Chancellor of the Exchequer having stated that on principle the Government do not fund the cost of tax changes.
- The Council Tax Precept can be increased by 1.99% per annum each year, subject to approval by the Police & Crime Panel and the Government not reducing the Council Tax lock below 2%.
- The general reserves are maintained as a minimum at 3% of the budget.

SECTION 25 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003

Under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, my Chief Finance Officer is required to report on the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of the budget and precept calculations. I can report that my Chief Finance Officer has given me an assurance that the estimates used are robust as they are based on the methodology used successfully in previous years when budgets have not been exceeded.

In addition, under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Chief Finance Officer has to report on the adequacy of the financial reserves, taking account of such factors as the track record in budget and financial management and the adequate

arrangement of insurance provisions to meet unplanned expenditure. I can report that my Chief Finance Officer has assured me that the balance held in reserves can be considered to be adequate given the longer term financial uncertainties that Surrey Police faces.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Police & Crime Panel agrees the proposed Surrey Police Council Tax Precept t of £215.89p for a Band D Property for the financial year 2015/16.

Kevin Hurley

Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner

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APPENDIX A

REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16				
	2014 /15	2015/16	Variatio	<u> </u>
	£m	£m	£m	%
Office Of Police & Crime Commissioner	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
	2014 /15	2015/16	Variatio	n
Police Force	£m	£m	£m	%
North Division	21.5	21.2	(0.3)	(1%)
East Division	23.8	23.6	(0.3)	(1%)
West Division	28.3	28.1	(0.2)	(1%)
Specialist Crime	49.2	48.8	(0.4)	(1%)
Operations	16.7	16.2	(0.4)	(3%)
Contact & Deployment	14.6	14.3	(0.3)	(2%)
sub total	154.1	152.1	(1.9)	-1%
ACPO	1.4	1.5	0.0	1%
Comms & Service Quality	4.5	4.4	(0.1)	(2%)
PSD	2.4	2.4	0.0	1%
Diversity	0.2	0.2	0.0	1%
Strategic Planning	0.2	0.2	0.0	1%
Force Improvement	4.5	4.6	0.2	4%
sub total	13.1	13.3	0.1	1%
Shared Business Services	1.6	1.3	(0.3)	(17%)
ICT	10.7	10.4	(0.3)	(2%)
Finance & Services	11.4	11.6	0.2	2%
Human Resources	10.5	10.5	(0.1)	(0%)
Corporate	3.3	4.2	0.9	29%
sub total	37.5	38.1	0.6	2%
Sub-Total Force	204.7	203.5	(1.2)	(1%)
GROSS BUDGET	206.9	205.7	(1.2)	(1%)
Grants				
Home Office Police Grant	(66.6)	(62.5)	4.1	(6%)
Formula Funding	(30.3)	(29.4)	0.9	(3%)
Council Tax Freeze Grant (2011/12)	(2.5)	(2.5)	0.0	0%
Localising Council Tax Support	(6.8)	(6.8)	0.0	0%
Total Grants	(106.1)	(101.1)	4.9	(5%)
Use of Reserves	(1.0)	(0.7)	0.3	(32%)
NET PRECEPT REQUIREMENT	99.8	103.9	4.1	4%

APPENDIX B

REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16				
	2014 /15	2015/16		
			Variatio	n
	£m	£m	£m	%
EMPLOYEE COSTS				
Police Officer Sals/Pension/NI/Allowances	104.0	106.1	2.0	2%
Police Staff Sals/Pension/NI/Allowances	70.0	67.7	(2.4)	(3%)
Training & Other Employment Cost	5.2	5.4	0.2	4%
Sub - Total	179.3	179.2	(0.1)	(0%)
PREMISES RELATED COSTS	7.5	7.7	0.1	2%
TRANSPORT & TRAVEL COSTS	5.9	6.0	0.1	2%
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	33.6	32.4	(1.2)	(4%)
INCOME	(19.4)	(19.5)	(0.1)	1%
GROSS BUDGET	206.9	205.7	(1.2)	(1%)
Grants				
Home Office Police Grant	(66.6)	(62.5)	4.1	(6%)
Formula Funding	(30.3)	(29.4)	0.9	(3%)
Council Tax Freeze Grant (2011/12)	(2.5)	(2.5)	0.0	0%
Localising Council Tax Support	(6.8)	(6.8)	0.0	0%
Total Grants	(106.1)	(101.1)	4.9	(5%)
Use of Reserves	(1.0)	(0.7)	0.3	(32%)
NET PRECEPT REQUIREMENT	99.8	103.9	4.1	4%

APPENDIX C

Budget 2015/16 - Summary Causal Track	<u>k</u>
	£
2014/15 Budget	206.9
Price Inflation	2.7
Commitments	
Insurance premiums	0.4
Regional Policing Services	0.3
HO IT Charging	0.1
Other cost increases	0.4
Improvements	
Project Resources & Implementation Costs	1.4
Emergency Services Collaboration	0.2
Mobile Data Capability	0.1
HO Innovation match funding	0.1
Savings	
Support & Corporate Services	(1.6)
Specialist Crime	(1.2)
Operations	(0.7)
Policing delivery model review	(2.2)
Non employee cost efficiencies	(1.2)
2015/2016 Budget	205.7

Appendix D

4 Year Capital Programme 2015/2016

			Portfolio				
	DESCRIPTION		Lead	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
	IT Server / Infrastructure	New	CIO	200	1,543	1,340	800
	IT Desktop / Laptop / VDI	New	CIO	150	200	200	200
	Network and Cabling	New	CIO	75			
	IT Microsoft Licence	New	CIO	800	800	800	800
	Web Proxy Renewal	New	CIO	57			
IT Renewal &		New	CIO	50			
	Wi-Fi Ugrades	New	CIO	50			
	IL4 Refresh (Joint Scheme)	New	CIO	68			
	ICCS Upgrade (Joint Scheme)	New	CIO	45			
	Windows 2003 Refresh (Joint Scheme)	New	CIO	338			
	Public Services Network Upgrade (Joint Scheme)	New	CIO	158			
	Gazetteer	New	CIO	50			
Fleet	Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme	New	DCC	2,235	2,196	2,221	2,323
Estate	Estate Strategy	C/F	DCC	200			
Strategy	Air Conditioning	New	DCC	450			
Other	Mobile Data (New Phase)	New	ACC - LP	241			
Specific	Shared Data Warehouse (Joint Scheme)	New	CIO	225			
Schemes	Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) (Joint Scheme)	New	ACO	1,800	900		
Schemes	Other Schemes	Cont			1,500	1,500	1,500
	TOTAL:			7,192	7,139	6,061	5,623
•							
	Capital Schemes Brought Forward			2,500	2,400	2,400	2,100
ſ	Total Proposed Programme			9,692	9,539	8,461	7,723
l	Total i Toposeu i Togramme			9,032	3,333	0,401	1,123
	Estimated Scheme Slippage			-2,400	-2,400	-2,100	-1,900
	Amount of Capital to be Financed			7,292	7,139	6,361	5,823
ı	FINANCING			2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
	Capital Grant			1,500	1,500	1,500	
-					985	880	1,500
-	Capital receipts - House / Land Sales Capital receipts - Police Building sales			4,640 9.619	10.617	7.363	1,225 3,382
}	Other Capital Funding			9,019	10,617	1,303	,
				-	-	-	-
	Borrowing Carry Forward			- 8,467	- 5,963	- 3.382	- 284
	,					-,	
	TOTAL:			7,292	7,139	6,361	5,823

APPENDIX E

APPENDIX E		Subsequent SR			
COST BASE 4 Year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Base budget Future Savings	207.7	206.9	205.7	205.4	205.8
Prior year adjustment Target £22.0m		0			
Inflation	2.2	2.7	3.5	4.1	4.1
Commitments (including MRP)	3.9	1.2	3.9	0.1	0.1
Improvements Planned	_	1.8	-	-	-
Strategic Change Programmes: Savings		0 0			
Savings Achieved Ahead of Schedule £7.6m		(0.5)			
Support Services	(2.8)	(1.5)	(1.1)	0.0	0.0
Corporate Services Saving	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.2)	0.0	0.0
Specialist Crime Estimates £6.3m	0.0	(1.2)	(2.9)	0.0	0.0
Operations 20.5111	0.0	(0.7)	(0.8)	0.0	0.0
Local Policing	(3.5)	(1.5)	(1.9)	(0.0)	0.0
Business Enablement	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contact & Deployment (2014/15)	(0.1)	(0.7)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.0)
National Regional Partnership (Budget)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Savings Initiatives £6.9m	(0.4)	(0.6)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Saving Estimates		° 0.0	6.3	0.0	0.0
Total of Strategic Change Programme Savings:	(6.9)	(6.9)	(0.7)	(0.0)	(0.0)
(Gap)/Surplus	0.0	0.0	(7.0)	(3.7)	(3.6)
Sub total	(0.8)	(1.2)	(0.3)	0.4	0.6
Total gross budget Budget	206.9	205.7	205.4	205.8	206.4
Cost increase % base Gap	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
FUNDING £14.3m					
Government Grant	99.3	94.4	92.5	90.6	88.8
General Reserves	(1.3)	(2.3)	-	-	-
Staff Pension Increase Reserve	1.0	1.1	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) on Council Tax Collection Fund	1.3	1.8			
Council Tax Support Funding	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.4
Base precept	97.4	99.8	103.9	106.3	108.7
Precept increase	2.4	4.1	2.4	2.4	2.5
Total gross budget	206.9	205.7	205.4	205.8	206.4
Band D £	211.68				229.02
Band D Net precept increase %	1.99%	1.99%			1.99%
Precept Funding increase %	2.4%	4.1%	2.3%		2.3%
Precept as % of budget	49%				54%
Grant as % of budget	51%	49%	48%	47%	46%