

PCP Report for O&S – 26 February 2018

The main agenda item at the meeting on 5th February was the Commissioner's budget for 2018/19.

In September, the Home Office announced an immediate 1% increase in police officers' base pay plus a 1% one-off non-consolidated payment. The Commissioner subsequently guaranteed the same award to police staff. The one-off payment was obviously not included in the budget for 2017/18 and has to be funded from general reserves. The budget for 2018/19 assumes a further 1% pay award for all staff. The one-off award reduces the general reserve from 5% of the budget to 4.5%.

In December, the Provisional Police Grant Report (PPGR) 2018/19 announced that the Home Office grant would remain the same as in 2017/18 and that the PCCs could increase their precept by £12 on a Band D property without the need of a local referendum. The final PPGR will be laid before Parliament this month. With no change in the grant, Gloucestershire will continue to receive £85.30 per head of population against a national average of £104.50. Some forces receive £150. The freezing of the grant fails to take account of inflation and rising costs.

The Commissioner, following a quickly arranged public consultation decided to raise the precept by suggested amount of £12 on a Band D property. This would mitigate rising costs and enable four areas to police work to benefit.

1. Neighbourhood Policing, £0.779M
2. Child Protection and Childhood Sexual Exploitation, £0.488M
3. Body-Worn Video, £0.300M
4. Victim focussed Criminal Justice, £0.174M

This investment provides 23 extra police officers and 7 police staff. There would be no requirement to take out new permanent borrowing for capital expenditure.

The vote to approve the PCC's budget was unanimous.

Chief Executive's Report

Once again, details of decisions deemed not to be in the public interest were not provided to the Panel. We were told the two decisions taken since the November meeting were "minor", but the Panel must fulfil its legal obligation to scrutinise the PCC.

Cllr Helena McCloskey