

Police and Crime Panel Report for Overview & Scrutiny – March 2021

Date of Panel: February 8 2021

Police Precept

The police Commissioner outlined his reasoning behind the Precept he was proposing. He had decided on 4.99%, which was lower than the 5.8% maximum increase that could have been proposed.

He advised the Panel that he would be taking a 10% cut in his own salary and the amount saved would be going to the Commissioner's Fund. He wanted an effective, efficient force and there was a need to invest in the future.

Mandated costs had increased and there was a requirement for officers to be educated to degree level, which required three years training.

He was also concerned for the well-being of officers and had earmarked £100,000 for this. It could for example pay for a new kettle in the station, or a new fridge. Small things that make a difference.

The general reserve was required to be between 3-5% of the budget. This year it would be 3.7%, which was within required boundaries.

Cllr Clucas raised two issues that affected local communities. She outlined a proposal by a number of Parish Councils and Cheltenham Borough Council, to look at the provision of youth facilities in the Borough. Post COVID and in the run up to lockdown being lifted, anti social behaviour - as indicated in the Chief Executive's report in relation to the last lockdown, was likely to increase. Partners would be making financial contributions and hoped the PCC would be supportive.

The PCC agreed to look at the potential as he understood the impact lack of youth facilities had on ASB, exploitation and crime.

Cllr Clucas asked if the PCC would support a request to the County Council in relation to the Kingsditch Estate and the traffic problems created by MacDonald's. He agreed to do so. Following a number of questions the proposed Precept was agreed nem con.

Covid-19 enforcement plan

The Commissioner understood how the pandemic had changed life for all citizens. The enforcement plan was working well and officers understood how to react to situations.

CEO report

Crime rates in the County are down, with burglaries down by 25%, obviously reflecting the COVID situation. Gloucestershire has its 6th lowest crime rate in the country. Issues relating to safer roads were raised and the PCC indicated that community concern sites had been increased, with some 60-80 in the County.

The Chief Financial Officer was retiring and John Jones, former CFO for Dorsetshire Constabulary, had been appointed.

Cllr Clucas thanked the CE and PCC for the report, which was both readable and accessible. She was pleased also that it was acknowledged that all crime begins in the neighbourhood. She also praised the inclusion of the three Superintendents for the County, all of whom were great role models for girls.

Police & Crime Plan summary update

A brief update was presented.