



**To:** Business Co-ordination Board

**From:** Head of Finance, OPCC

**Date:** 23rd January 2020

## **DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND PRECEPT SETTING UPDATE**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report provides BCB (the “Board”) with draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and update on the precept setting work to date and to note the submission to the Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”).

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Note the draft MTFS will be submitted as part of the precept proposal.

### **3. Precept and MTFS – timetable**

3.1 At the current time no central Government funding grant, precept cap or funding for the uplift in officers decisions have been made by Government but there is an expectation of an announcement by the date of this meeting.

3.2 A survey to seek the views of the public on police funding in Cambridgeshire was launched on January 8<sup>th</sup> for three weeks until the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020. To date over 1,000 responses have been received with generally supportive feedback. Survey results will be submitted to the Panel at their meeting on 6 February.

3.3 The effect of the delay in the funding announcement delays the submission of a precept proposal. The date of the panel meeting for this has been moved to February 6<sup>th</sup> to be able to incorporate the imminent funding announcement and the necessary changes to be made to the draft MTFS.

3.4 The panel will review the proposed precept by February 8<sup>th</sup> and if accepted, the PCC may issue the precept by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If vetoed the PCC must notify the panel of a revised precept by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

3.4 Further papers on the MTFS will be submitted to the board and the panel as issued.

#### 4. Future business planning and working arrangements

4.1 The MTFS is 'owned by' both the Constabulary and the OPCC. It is a 'living and evolving' document to look at the financial strategic management and forecasting and is pivotal in giving a focus to the future implications of delivering the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan. It should therefore inform decision making and be linked to the development of the Force Management Statement.

4.2 The Constabulary's financial planning for 2020/21 has been undertaken with the backdrop of continual budget pressures within policing, Cambridgeshire being one of the lowest funded forces in England and Wales, continued population growth in the county, and funding pressures on other public service providers. A specific piece of work initiated from the Constabulary's Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (STRA) has developed informed thinking to managing the 2020/21 budget, consideration of options to close the current budget gap, understanding of future cost pressures and provide a longer term strategy for financial planning.

4.4 At the Board meeting on 8 January 2020 it was agreed that the strategic business aspects of both the Estates Sub Group and Finance Working Group should be brought together as a single Resources Group. The first meeting of the Resources Group was held on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2020. Membership to include senior leadership teams from The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

#### 5. Recommendation

5.1 Note the draft MTFS will be submitted to the Panel to support the proposed precept once central funding and notification of any cap is received.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Document(s)</b>	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Warren, Chief Finance Officer, OPCC