



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Finance Officer

**Date:** 20 January 2022

## **PRECEPT REPORT 2022/23 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)**

**The recommendations in this report are subject to public consultation closing 5pm on 20 January 2022.**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Business Coordination Board (the "Board") for submission to the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the "Panel").

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is recommended to approve the MTFS and precept proposal at Appendix 1.

2.2 The Board is asked to approve the Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2025/26 included as Appendix D in the MTFS.

2.3 Considering all the information contained in the MTFS the Chief Finance Officer is recommending that the Board endorse his recommendation to increase the policing element of council tax by £9.99; this will increase the policing element of Band D council tax from £247.59 in 2021/22 to £257.58 per annum, an increase of 83p per month. It should be noted that this recommendation is subject to the final results of public consultation.

### **3. Background**

3.1 The Medium-Term Financial Strategy has been developed throughout 2021 for the 2022/23 to 2025/26 medium term financial period.

- 3.2 The draft MTFS will be submitted to the Panel for information and in support of reasoning for the precept proposal. The Panel will consider the proposed precept by the Acting Commissioner at their meeting on 2 February 2022.
- 3.3 The Panel have a Budget Briefing scheduled for 21 January 2022 to provide information on the development of the MTFS and precept proposal.
- 3.4 The final MTFS will be submitted to the Board on 10 March 2022 for final approval and adoption.

#### **4. MTFS Development**

- 4.1 Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary) held their Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (STRA) process to identify current and anticipated operational pressures to meet the Constabulary’s priorities in February and March 2021. This allowed for early development of savings proposals and efficiencies.
- 4.2 The Police Funding Settlement for 2022/23 was announced in mid-December and is a three-year settlement for the first time in recent years. This provided increased certainty over funding of the Police Grant for 2022/23 to 2024/25 although precise grant allocations for the later years have not been announced.
- 4.3 The funding settlement was an increase of £5.2m to revenue grant which includes a ringfence uplift grant and pension grant.
- 4.4 The funding settlement also gave Police and Crime Commissioners (the “Commissioners) the ability to raise Council Tax precept by up to £10 a year across the three-year settlement. This would raise additional £796m nationally assuming full take-up of precept flexibility.
- 4.5 The Commissioner launched a survey to gather the views of the public on 6 January 2022. This survey asked the public for their views on paying an additional 83p per month for policing services. It also asked for views on the public’s feeling of safety, effectiveness of the Constabulary and the public’s priorities.
- 4.6 As the survey does not close until 5pm on 20 January 2022, a verbal update will be provided to the Board. As of Tuesday 18 January 2022, the survey had 1,483 respondents. Of these respondents 63% agreed that the increase represented value for money.
- 4.7 A comprehensive report on the precept survey will be reported at a later date.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Board is recommended to approve the MTFS and precept proposal at Appendix 1.
- 5.2 The Board is asked to approve the Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2025/26 included as Appendix D in the MTFS.
- 5.3 Considering all the information contained in the MTFS the Chief Finance Officer is recommending that the Board endorse his recommendation to increase the policing element of council tax by £9.99; this will increase the policing element of Band D council tax from £247.59 in 2021/22 to £257.58 per annum, an increase of 83p per

month. It should be noted that this recommendation is subject to the final results of public consultation.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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| <b>Source Document</b> | Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26                            |
| <b>Contact Officer</b> | Matthew Warren, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner |