

ORIGINATOR: Chief Finance Officer

DECISION NO. 02/2022

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For Decision

SUBMITTED TO: Police and Crime Commissioner

SUBJECT: 2022/23 Precept and Council Tax Requirement

SUMMARY: This report describes the steps that have been taken by the PCC in determining his proposed precept and council tax requirement for 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that:

1. The PCC issues this decision report formally to record the process for finalising and issuing the 2022/23 precept and approval for the various matters detailed in paragraph 2.5.
2. The PCC issues the 2022/23 precept.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY: PCC/CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (Delete as appropriate)

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature



Date: 07/02/22

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. OBJECTIVE

1.1 The objective is to issue the PCC's precept for 2022/23.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the process for issuing a precept, including the Police and Crime Panel's (the Panel) role in reviewing the proposed precept, its power to veto the precept and the steps to be taken if it does.

2.2 The Home Office has also issued detailed guidance which supports this process including reporting requirements, the process for PCP scrutiny and the key (statutory) dates by which the various stages must be completed.

2.3 The 2022/23 budget, precept options and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) are all set out in the 'Proposed Precept for 2022/23 Report to the Norfolk PCP 1 February 2022' (the Budget Report). The Report can be found on the PCC's website.

3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The Budget Report outlines the budget and financial impact of the 2022/23 precept option on which the PCC consulted in January 2022 together with the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the 4 years to 2025/26.

3.2 The option was:

- To increase council tax by £9.99 per annum at Band D (3.59%).

NB Increases of £10 or more would trigger a local referendum
63% of households in Norfolk are below Band D

3.3 There were 942 responses to the consultation. 49% of respondents said they were prepared to pay more for policing in Norfolk.

- A total of 463 said they strongly agreed or agreed with the precept proposal

3.4 A high level summary of the option is set out in the table below.

3.59% (£9.99) Council Tax increase - Year 1 - 3	Budget 2022/23	Forecast 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Total Funding (Grant + Precept)	(193,718)	(198,435)	(204,152)	(205,109)
Net Revenue Budget before changes and savings	184,791	191,095	195,056	199,031
REVENUE SURPLUS BEFORE KNOWN CHANGES	(8,928)	(7,340)	(9,096)	(6,079)
Known / Expected Changes	10,430	14,953	15,688	15,184
Planned use of reserves	827	(4,161)	(1,390)	(481)
REVENUE DEFICIT BEFORE SAVINGS	2,330	6,527	11,413	14,897
Planned Savings	(2,330)	(3,452)	(5,203)	(5,188)
Savings to be identified	0	0	0	(3,436)
REVENUE DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER SAVINGS	0	0	0	0

3.5 A precept increase, equal to 15 pence per week for a Band B property or 17 pence per week at Band D, will allow the Constabulary to keep their current levels of service in the face of increasing demands and tackle the new challenges that we are facing.

3.6 The Constabulary will appoint 21 new officer and staff posts for the next financial year, 19 of them would work in the areas of sexual assault and domestic abuse as these are areas of significant growth in demand for the constabulary. It is imperative to support victims of these crimes and bring perpetrators to justice.

3.7 The Budget Report also includes:

- Details of the Known/Expected Changes funded and included in the budget and MTFP Appendices B(ii)
- A summary of the savings identified in the budget (Appendix B(iii))
- Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2022/26 (Appendix D & E)
- Reserves Strategy and Forecast Movements (Appendix F)
- Annual Treasury Management Strategy including Prudential Code Indicators 2022/23 including the borrowing limits (Appendix G)
- The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement
- The 2022/23 Precept to be levied on the collection authorities for 2022/23 (Appendix H).

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 No other options were viable to ensure that there was sufficient funding available to the support for the PCC's role to provide an efficient and effective police force.

4.2 The PCC proposed the above option of an increase to the Panel

4.3 The Norfolk Police and Crime Panel considered, and supported, the PCC's proposal at its meeting on 1 February 2022.

5. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED

- 5.1 The strategic aim is to ensure the relevant level of funding to ensure an effective and efficient police force.

6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Full details of the precept to be levied on the collection authorities can be found in Appendix H to the Budget Report.

- 6.2 It is recommended that:

- The PCC issues this decision report formally to record the process for finalising and issuing the 2022/23 precept and approval for the various matters detailed in paragraph 2.5.
- The PCC issues the 2022/23 precept.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

- 7.1 There are no further implications or risks.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Author
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Yes
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Yes
<p data-bbox="204 1384 788 1420">Is this report a Confidential Decision?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; gap: 20px;"> <input data-bbox="1066 1402 1187 1473" type="checkbox"/> <input data-bbox="1257 1402 1378 1473" type="checkbox" value="NO"/> </div> <p data-bbox="204 1496 1433 1532">If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the PCC Decision Making Policy</p>	

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.



Signature:

Date: 07/02/22

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
OR
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
OR
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves
AND
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature:



Date: 07/02/22

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION: *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*