

Name of Meeting:	Sussex Police & Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	31 January 2020
Report by:	Councillor Mrs Gill Yeates
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing

The meeting on 23 January was primarily to consider the Police precept. Due to the General Election timing, details of the policing funding settlement were delayed, with the Minister's statement only being made on 22 January. The Police & Crime Panel had set up a working group to consider possible rises and looked at several scenarios, which included the originally expected £5 pa on a Band D property and a potential £10 pa one.

On the day of the Panel, at our pre-meeting, we were given a comprehensive report from the Commissioner requesting a £10 pa increase. Our Chairman discussed options available to the Panel. As this is my first year attending a precept meeting, I thought it would be useful to share these:

- 1) To accept
- 2) To not accept and request that the PCC's Office review. This would result in a further meeting to consider any revised figure put forward. This might not result in any reduction at all.
- 3) To veto. In this case, a new figure must be produced but it could be only slightly less. The P&CP has only one veto in any year.

During our pre-meeting discussion, it was considered that £10 pa on Band D equated to less than 20p per week, approximately a 5% increase for the year. The PCC had conducted 'snap polls' and two thirds of the members of the public supported the £10 rise. Of all the Forces in the UK, Sussex Police receive the fifth lowest precept. The Chief Constables' priorities for using the additional funding did seem to meet with public expectations:

- a) More enforcement; increasing the Tactical Enforcement Units, more investment to tackle organised crime groups (inc County Lines), more officers for roads policing to tackle anti-social drivers and criminals, increased funding for dog's unit
- b) More investigation; more detectives & investigators to tackle complex crimes such as modern slavery & county lines, more support to build quality cases, local resolution centres to help victims of hidden crimes, e.g. domestic abuse & stalking
- c) Greater Police presence in towns, villages and online

The other substantive item on the agenda related to the Estate Strategy. I asked the Commissioner about plans for the Chichester custody suite as this seemed to cross over with both estates and budgetary issues. She did confirm that, although there had been an intention to sell this, its future was now under review, especially in light of the increased Police numbers as it may be needed in order to achieve the Chief Constable's aims.

The April meeting has been cancelled due to the PCC election. This will be replaced by a visit to the new Hastings custody suite. The Panel has already visited Gatwick Airport and will visit the Command & Control Centre at Lewes, so I will combine a report on all three to replace the report which would have been due in April to fit with other agendas.