



SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL

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Christian Mitchell
Chairman
Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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Office of the Sussex Police and Crime
Commissioner
Sackville House
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31 January 2023

Re: Proposed Precept 2023/24

Dear Commissioner Bourne,

The proposed policing precept for 2023/24 was considered at the meeting of Sussex Police and Crime Panel on 27 January 2023.

I am writing to confirm that the Panel supported, by a majority of votes, the proposed increased precept of £239.91 (on a Band D property), an increase of £15 (equivalent to 6.67%).

The Panel raised a number of points, including those which follow:

- The public were not specifically consulted on increasing the precept by 50%.
- Concern was expressed over the Government's funding regime and the Panel urged the Commissioner to continue lobbying for additional future funding.
- The 2% budgeted pay rise did not feel high enough.
- Tackling anti-social behaviour should be a priority, as this might prevent the commission of more serious crime subsequently.
- Engagement with schools tended to be more reactive than proactive.
- Taxpayers may struggle to afford the precept increase amid the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.
- Neighbourhood policing teams should be given a greater understanding of how to support and safeguard victims, in relation to Public Priority 3.
- There should be better emphasis on tackling crime at the local level, as there is too much focus at countywide level.
- PCSOs were praised for becoming embedded in communities and for their preventative work in tackling anti-social behaviour.

We look forward to receiving your response in due course.

With best wishes,

Councillor Christian Mitchell
Chairman, Sussex Police and Crime Panel