

Agenda Item No: 17



Reporting Back on Meetings of Outside Bodies

Sussex Police and Crime Panel Meeting - 19 January 2018

Councillor Nicholson – Panel member

The main business was to consider the Commissioner's proposal for a precept of £165.91 on Band D. This was approved by 11 votes to 7 and represents at Band D an annual increase of £12 which is equivalent to an increase of 7.8%,

The Sussex Police Local Policing Model can be viewed on line and forms the basis of policing locally. I also have a few hard copies if members want one.

The commissioner maintains the following considerations have driven the decision to increase the precept:

1. There has been an exponential rise in public demand on police services
2. Criminal investigations are becoming more complicated with huge amounts of digital material to identify, secure and analyse and the threshold for prosecution is very exacting
3. The public want to see investment in more visible local policing focussing on crimes like burglary and anti-social behaviour and they rightly want to feel safe on the roads in public spaces and at night time
4. They also want to see improvements in the force's approach to public contact and more support for the 101 service

5. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and rescue services has recently acknowledged the public's concerns about changes to neighbourhood policing and stressed the importance of community intelligence

6. The commissioner believes the public is prepared to support its police force through increased precept contributions.

It is estimated that by 2022 the Medium term financial strategy will enable the force to meet current and future estimated demand by sustaining an estimated 476 officers. These sustained posts will be focussed particularly in the prevention and investigation areas of local policing. As at 1st April 2016 the budgeted establishment was 5030.

What is obvious for anyone reading the reports and attending meetings is that in this digital age the nature of policing is changing as crime moves online. More specialised support will be necessary.

There were issues throughout the county relating to response time. Indeed at the time of preparing this note I am in correspondence on one such issue.

There were a number of questions from the public none of which came from our district.

The next meeting of the Panel will be on 27 April 2018.