

Marc Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for
Lincolnshire
Deepdale Lane
Nettleham
Lincoln
LN2 2LT

Dear Mr Jones,

Re: Lincolnshire Police Precept 2020/21

On behalf of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel I write to thank you, the Deputy PCC and your office colleagues, for attending the Panel meeting on 7 February 2020 to present, discuss and answer the Panel's questions in relation to your proposed Police Precept for 2020/21.

As ever the Panel found the discussion informative and appreciated your open approach to providing information. An audio recording of the meeting is available on the Panel's website and details will be included in the Minutes of the Meeting which will be available in due course on the Panel's website.

Prior to and during the meeting the Panel thoroughly scrutinised the financial information provided. The Panel noted the following key information in relation to your proposed Precept:

- For 2020/21 the Government has increased the flexibility for raising the Police Precept. The referendum threshold is now set at £10 per annum for a Band D property. A proposal above this limit would require a referendum to be held and funded locally. Your proposed increase in the Precept of £9.99 per annum (4.1%) for a Band D property was within the threshold and would provide £2.4million of additional funding.
- Your budget consultation exercise received 3,300 responses and was statistically robust. The majority of respondents indicated a willingness to pay more to fund policing and crime prevention in Lincolnshire.
- The Panel noted that the Revenue Budget 2020/21 included £2million of service development budget yet to be allocated. The Panel recognises that you only received details of the Police Grant on the 22nd January 2020 and

that due to this short timeframe to prepare the precept report for the Panel, final budgets have not yet been agreed. The Panel would like to be kept informed following your discussions with the Chief Constable of how this money will be allocated, especially taking into account your five joint aims for the future as discussed in the Panel Meeting.

- The Panel is aware that tranche one of the initial Police Officer uplift relates to the national recruitment of 6,000 Police Officers. Due to the allocation of funds being based on the current funding formula this has yet again disadvantaged Lincolnshire. It is of concern that should tranches two and three be based on the current funding formula, Lincolnshire will once again lose out.
- The Panel requests precise figures for the cost of the South Park development including ongoing service charges, as it is worrying that these charges are significantly higher than originally budgeted and would like to know how you are mitigating against future increased costs in this area.
- Despite ongoing and wide ranging recognition that the national police funding formula is not fit for purpose it now appears that change will not happen soon. This is hugely disappointing. The Panel remains strongly of the view that a fairer police funding formula should be introduced.

Given the above information the Panel was satisfied that you had been able to demonstrate that an increase in the Police Precept is required to ensure that a robust and effective standard of policing can be provided to the people of Lincolnshire in the year ahead.

As such, and in accordance with Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 I write to confirm that the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel voted unanimously to accept your proposal to increase the Police Precept by £9.99 for a Band D property in 2020/21.

The Panel notes that there is no information from Government on the Police Precept flexibility being retained in future and that the next Spending Review will not provide any further clarity until 2021/22 at the earliest.

Finally please note that the Panel will publish this correspondence on its website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. J. Cook." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a small 'J'.

Christopher Cook
Chairman - Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel

CC: Members of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel
Malcolm Burch and Julie Flint, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
for Lincolnshire

Chief Executives of Lincolnshire Local Authorities