



Lincolnshire POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

REPORT TO THE POLICE & CRIME PANEL POLICE PRECEPT 2021/22

1. Introduction

1.1 My proposals for the Police Precept 2021/22 reflect the priorities set in my *Community Safety, Policing and Criminal Justice Plan for Lincolnshire April 2017 – March 2021*:

- Community safety and prevention in partnership – working together to reduce crime;
- Listening, responsive and accountable – making sure the people of Lincolnshire have their say in shaping our priorities;
- Policing that works – effective policing, there when you need it and responsive to differing community needs; and
- Protecting and supporting victims and the vulnerable – making sure the whole criminal justice system works for those that really need it.

1.2 The opportunity for the people of Lincolnshire to respond to my budget consultation concluded on 7 December 2020 I received 3,243 complete responses which are analysed in Annex A attached. My precept proposal for 2021/22 reflects careful consideration of the views expressed in response to my consultation.

2. Government Grant

2.1 The Provisional Police Grant Report accompanied by a Written Ministerial Statement was laid before Parliament on 17 December 2020. The police settlement covers just one year and the funding in respect of the national police officer uplift has been incorporated into the core grant settlement.

2.2 The total core grant for Lincolnshire is now £67.5m, an increase of £4.0m. In addition, a ringfenced allocation of £0.8m is available to Lincolnshire on achievement of the uplift target. The pension top up grant allocation (£1.2m) has been maintained in 2021/22 at the same level as for 2020/21 and will be reconsidered at the next spending review.

2.3 The Minister announced the precept referendum limit to allow an increase up to an additional £15 per annum for a Band D property.

- 2.4 The Minister's statement sets out the national priorities for 2021/22 which include:
- to reduce serious violence and crime and clamp down on county lines;
 - to expand police capacity to tackle online drivers of violence and build stronger evidence on how to prevent homicides;
 - to invest in addressing violence against women and girls, and the scourge of domestic abuse;
 - to strengthen the National Crime Agency (NCA) to target drug trafficking, child sexual exploitation and abuse, economic crime and organised immigration crime.
- 2.5 Following the reduction in capital grant funding to PCCs in 2019/20 of 74%, capital grant funding is being maintained at £0.1m for Lincolnshire in 2021/22.
- 2.6 The Minister's statement does not refer specifically to the timing of the Core Grant Distribution Review (funding formula review).
- 2.7 The provisional settlement is subject to consultation and I have written to the Home Secretary and to the Minister of State for Policing and Fire Services expressing my views (Annex B).
- 2.8 Further detailed information on government grant is included within Annex C attached.

3. Council Tax

- 3.1 Council Tax receipts are based upon an assumption of a 0% increase in the Council Tax base, in response to the anticipated impact of the Covid19 pandemic. This assumption will be updated to reflect the actual position as notified by Lincolnshire's district councils before the budget is finalised.
- 3.2 The government published its proposals relating to Council Tax referendum principles for 2021/22 on 17 December 2020. In 2021/22 *all* PCCs will be allowed to increase band D bills by as much as £15. Informed by the views of local people and in order to avoid a costly local referendum, I propose an increase in the police precept of £14.94 for 2021/22. The precepts for Band A and Band B (collectively representing 46% of the taxbase) would be:
- Band A £177.54; an increase of £9.96 per annum
 - Band B £207.13; an increase of £11.62 per annum
- 3.3 My medium term financial plan (MTFP) is based upon annual council tax increases of £14.94 per annum per Band D property in 2021/22 and then a 2% per annum increase from 2022/23 onwards.

4. Total Income

- 4.1 Total income is projected over the next four years as shown in **Table 1** below. There is an assumption that the council tax base will increase by 0.5% per annum from 2022/23 onwards, a prudent level of increase over the 2020/21 0% assumption.
- 4.2 The budget proposals described in the remainder of this report assume a £14.94 council tax increase for 2021/22, and a 2% increase for each of the subsequent years of the MTFP.

- 4.3 The potential impact of a revised Funding Formula within the MTFP continues to be excluded based upon a prudent reflection that it is unclear when this will be revisited.
- 4.4 No use of reserves is planned in balancing the 2021/22 budget.
- 4.5 The increased funding for the continuation of the National Officer Uplift is welcome; Lincolnshire's share of the second tranche of 6,000 officers is 49 (inclusive of 2 for the Regional Organised Crime Unit ROCU). It is, as yet, unclear how subsequent tranches will be allocated and funded.

Provisional Income	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Police Grant	(63.548)	(67.533)	(67.533)	(67.533)	(67.533)
Pension Top Up Grant	(1.175)	(1.175)	(1.175)	(1.175)	(1.175)
National Uplift Funding (Horizons)	-	(0.800)	-	-	-
Council Tax Compensation Grant	(1.059)	(1.059)	(1.059)	(1.059)	(1.059)
Council Tax Support Grant	(5.775)	(5.775)	(5.775)	(5.775)	(5.775)
Council Tax Precept	(59.153)	(62.053)	(63.610)	(65.207)	(66.844)
Victim Services Grant	(0.884)	(0.884)	(0.884)	(0.884)	(0.884)
Collaborative Services	(2.268)	-	-	-	-
Proceeds of Crime Income	(0.120)	(0.120)	(0.120)	(0.120)	(0.120)
Contribution to / (from) Reserves	(1.236)	-	-	-	-
PCC Regional Income	(0.104)	(0.104)	(0.104)	(0.104)	(0.104)
Total Police and Crime Commissioner Income	(135.320)	(139.502)	(140.259)	(141.856)	(143.493)

Table 1

5. Expenditure Plans

- 5.1 Total spending in 2021/22 has increased in the face of significant external cost pressures.
- 5.2 The budget is summarised in Table 2 and described below.

Provisional Expenditure Plans	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Police and Crime Commissioner	35.720	35.188	35.634	36.868	37.042
Chief Constable	94.574	101.857	102.099	102.392	103.785
Joint Services	1.182	1.428	1.497	1.567	1.637
Earmarked Service Investments	3.844	1.030	1.030	1.030	1.030
Total Provisional Expenditure	135.320	139.502	140.259	141.856	143.493

Table 2

- 5.3 The budget proposals include provision for victims' services expenditure in line with expected grant of £0.9m. Provision for crime and disorder reduction grants is set at £0.6m. The budget also includes provision for strategic partnership contract payments of £25.4m and capital financing charges of £4.4m.
- 5.4 The Chief Constable's 2021/22 budget includes £63.6m for police officer salaries (including the uplift) and £3.0m for PCSO salaries. The target operating model for the period to 2023/24 is 1,119 police officers, which now slightly exceeds the previous target of 1,100.

The 50 officer allocation in tranche one will result in 1,070 FTE by March 2021, the additional 49 officer allocation for 2021/22 will allow a target of 1,119 by March 2022.

6. Service Impact

6.1 The draft budget for 2021/22 shows a balanced position based upon a council tax increase of £14.94 per band D property and police officer numbers of 1,119. The PCC and Chief Constable are in ongoing dialogue with the Home Office to seek to secure additional funding for Lincolnshire, either through a fairer share of recurrent police grant or through Special Grant.

6.2 Plans for 2021/22 include:

- Additional recruitment of 60 Officers to start training in 2021 almost doubling the total of new recruits to 114.
- Creation of a dedicated roads policing team to create a visible police presence on the county's roads. The team will be tasked with denying criminals the use of our roads as well as preventing so many tragic deaths and serious injuries across Lincolnshire.
- Establishment of specialist enforcement teams to drive down community crime in both urban and rural areas. The new dedicated teams will tackle crimes that can blight our communities such as burglary and vehicle crime. Issues such as ATM thefts, robbery, drug offences, specialist rural equipment thefts and the stealing of lead from our historic churches will all be tackled.
- Equipping officers to tackle violent crime and criminals. More officers will be provided with tasers and the number of firearms response teams will be increased to better respond to serious incidents that pose the highest risks to our communities.
- Improving intelligence gathering from the people who know their communities best – the public. Money will be invested in new technology which will give the public easier and simpler access to the police to report crime and answer questions.
- Investment in raising awareness of and tackling scams and frauds which are the scourge of modern society. The scamsters are constantly finding new ways to part residents from their hard earned money and often their life savings. More will be done to tackle this challenging phenomenon.

6.3 Further detailed information on revenue and capital expenditure plans, and risks and reserves is attached at Annex C.

7. Council Tax

7.1 My proposed Council Tax increase for 2021/22 is £14.94. This is £266.31 for a Band D property. With this increase, Council Tax provides £2.9m more funding than in 2020/21.

7.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner's share of council tax is shown in table 3 below. This illustrates the impact of a £14.94 increase. The additional cost to the majority of Lincolnshire council tax payers would be 26 pence per week or less.

BAND	Proportion of Band D	2020/21 Council Tax £	£14.94 Increase to a Band D £ p.a.	2021/22 Council Tax £	£14.94 Increase to a Band D £ per week	% of Taxbase Cumulative
A	6/9	167.58	9.96	177.54	0.19	25.7%
B	7/9	195.51	11.62	207.13	0.22	46.0%
C	8/9	223.44	13.28	236.72	0.26	68.8%
D	9/9	251.37	14.94	266.31	0.29	83.6%
E	11/9	307.23	18.26	325.49	0.35	93.2%
F	13/9	363.09	21.58	384.67	0.42	97.9%
G	15/9	418.95	24.90	443.85	0.48	99.8%
H	18/9	502.74	29.88	532.62	0.57	100.0%

Table 3

Marc Jones
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire
26 January 2021