

Recommendation

That the panel approves my proposal to freeze the precept for 2014/15 and notes my budget for 2014/15 as detailed in the attached paper and in the public statement issued today.

Consideration

In setting this budget I have paid particular regard to the following issues:

1. The Chief Constable and I have been working to meet the financial challenges that all police forces face at the same time we have been protecting the services that the public most value - and which have the best chance of delivering results. In my first year in office I have been able to protect frontline local policing whilst making substantial savings (in fact savings of around £35 million will have been secured over the four years to 2014/15).
2. My election commitment was to keep taxes low and I froze the precept in 2013/14. For 2014/15, I was reluctantly considering for an increase in the precept but I am ever mindful of the need to minimise the burden on hardworking families and residents.
3. Now, due to careful financial planning and a better than expected overall settlement from central government, I am pleased to confirm my intention to freeze policing taxes for the fourth year running. In doing so, I am confident that the future of Hertfordshire's local policing model can be safeguarded.
4. I recognise that members of this panel will be interested in how this budget relates to their authorities' direct responsibilities for crime reduction and community safety. Having reviewed the value of current partnership arrangements and investments this year I can confirm my commitment to funding the vital partnership work across the county which keeps our communities safe in each district and borough. Given the substantial change that the in-year transfer of responsibility for Victim Support Services will bring, I will have developed a budget that provides for continuity in this financial year ahead of wider potential changes in 2015/16, (including re-tendering for a coherent and expanded suite of services for victims of crime).
5. I trust that the panel will find this budget in line with my promises to the electorate. This is a budget that will maintain high quality local policing, keep tax low and provide the base for implementation of the reforms outlined in my Police and Crime Plan for Hertfordshire.

David Lloyd
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire