



# Dorset Police and Crime Panel

Working for our Communities

Supporting & Scrutinising the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

[www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/police-and-crime-panel](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/police-and-crime-panel)

Chair: Cllr Alasdair Keddie

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Mr David Sidwick  
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

7 February 2025

Dear Mr Sidwick

## ENDORSEMENT - DORSET POLICE PRECEPT 2025/26

This letter provides formal notification of the Dorset Police and Crime Panel's (PCP) decision to **support** the proposed increase in Police Precept at its meeting on 5 February 2025; equivalent to an increase of £14 per annum for a Band D property. As the chair of the PCP, I would like to thank you, your officers and the Chief Constable for the considered briefings (informal and formal) and responses to the key lines of enquiry set by the panel which assisted us in reaching this decision.

Based on this financial uplift, please note the PCP will seek assurance through their forward work plan that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) will continue to:

- lobby central government for a fair and equitable distribution of national funds to Dorset Police. The panel is open to a collective endeavour to achieve this. The panel also recommend that the PCC provides an update at each formal meeting of the PCP on any developments in funding, including any impacts relating to the uplift scheme or the National Funding Formula, and that this is reflected within quarterly monitoring reports alongside the existing performance monitoring;
- monitor the complex interplay between the national officer uplift scheme and the mutually agreed resignation scheme (MARS), to ensure the PCC will avoid perverse decisions having to be taken regarding staffing whilst ensuring value for money;
- ensure the mental health and well-being of police officers, staff and volunteers ensuring budgetary decisions do not adversely impact their welfare;
- deliver on the opportunities presented by new technology and innovation to deliver improvements in productivity and drive forward efficiencies, to avoid any service degradation to the public, and in particular ensuring that impacts are not felt adversely within the most deprived areas. Where opportunity arises, looking to improve service delivery;
- seek alternative delivery options to ensure that the benefits to communities impacted by cessation to government grants or services previously commissioned by the PCC (for example, safer schools, victim bureau, Op Track, serious violence duty, Bobby Van) can still be delivered;
- engage with the public to gauge satisfaction with performance and assess views on future funding via the precept. The panel is very supportive of the proactive approach of the PCC in undertaking the annual consultation, but recommend that consideration is extended to consider whether there is public appetite for funding beyond the maximum levels set, via referendum, and a clearer understanding of public expectation of 'what they should get' for an increase in the precept (ie is there agreement to an increase based on an understanding of "standing still" or service improvement);

- deliver on the objectives set out within the Police and Crime Plan, holding the Chief Constable to account where appropriate. Where deliverability of the plan is challenged based on available resourcing or other reasons, the panel would wish to support the PCC with scrutiny, challenge and suggestions in any revisions to the plan and priorities.

In summary, it is my view as chair of the panel that there is a proactive and positive relationship with yourself and your office, and the PCP will continue to provide scrutiny of the PCC on behalf of the people of Dorset.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Alasdair Keddie  
Chair  
Dorset Police and Crime Panel