

Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel response to the 2024/2025 precept

Having received a detailed budget report from the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Panel had an extensive question and answer session.

Members were informed of the results of the Commissioner's 'Perceptions of Crime Survey'. It was stated that two-thirds (68%) of respondents thought that Gloucestershire Constabulary did not have sufficient funding.

It was acknowledged by the Chief Constable and the Commissioner that Gloucestershire Constabulary, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) continued to work in a challenging environment regarding their budgets.

There were questions from members around the use of £4.4 million from reserves and concern was raised about the impact this could have in future years. The Panel were however reassured that a rigorous savings and efficiency plan was being put in place to manage this long-term. As the more detailed Reserves Strategy Report was not yet available to the Panel, it was agreed that this would be added as an item for the Panel's meeting in September where members could look at the longer-term planning and impact in more depth.

Members were conscious of the cost-of-living impact that raising the council tax precept could cause for residents but felt reassured that Gloucestershire Constabulary and the OPCC had a clear plan on where the additional funding would be spent, and to the benefit of the community as a whole.

Panel members proposed that they accept the recommendations in the paper and endorse the budget. There were no calls to exercise the Panel's power of veto and was therefore

RESOLVED

Unanimously to support the proposed precept.