

## SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

**Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner's Budget for  
2017/18**

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

### **1). Purpose of the report**

This paper is provided to the Police & Crime Panel for information only to give Panel Members oversight of the budget that I intend to set, to fund the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for the financial year 2017/18.

These budget proposals form only a very small part of the total Surrey Police budget and some PCCs do not highlight in detail their own budget, leaving their costs buried in the totality of the police revenue budget. I am presenting the budget for my Office to the Panel in complete and considerable detail, as I wish to be totally transparent about the costs that I anticipate directly incurring in the discharge of my functions as PCC during the forthcoming financial year.

### **2). Explanation of overall budget reduction**

The office budget that was presented to the Panel by my predecessor last year amounted to a net revenue total of £2,053,540. This year as a result of my decision not to appoint a Deputy PCC, by achieving increased efficiencies in the running of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and by absorbing all inflationary costs that would normally be funded from the precept increase, I have been able to set a budget that extends the range and number of activities that I can directly fund and also produces a small budgetary saving, which can be put against the Police Force 2017/18 savings target. The net revenue budget I have set for the next financial year therefore amounts to £2,037,800. This achieves a cash saving of £15,740, but when my decision not to take any inflation allowance from the Surrey Police Group

revenue budget (OPCC + Police Revenue Budgets) is taken into consideration, the saving is increased by £15,630, making a total saving of £31,370 (1.5%) on the budget set by my predecessor a year ago.

The main areas of new or existing activity where I have been able to provide additional funding, as a result of the budgetary measures I am taking are described below:-

**a).Community Safety Fund** – I have taken the decision to increase the Community Safety Fund budget by £50,790, to bring the total amount available next year to £750,000. This fund gives me the ability to commission services that improve community safety across Surrey, tackle the problems of drug and alcohol abuse and thereby reduce associated crime and re-offending. While some money goes towards partnership projects initiated in-house, such as Joint Enforcement Teams and Cyber Crime prevention, the majority of the funding is directed towards organisations across the County who submit projects bids to my office, which if approved will enable local people to play a significant role in helping to keep Surrey safe.

**b).Cadet Force Funding** – An inquiry held by the All Parliamentary Group for Children in 2013/14 entitled *“It’s all about trust: Building good relationships between children and the police”*, called for the expansion of the Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme to a greater number of children across England & Wales. In November 2016, Surrey Police opened three Volunteer Police Cadet (VPC) units with the intention of opening a further eight units across Surrey in 2017/18 to expand access to the VPC scheme to all of the County’s eleven boroughs and districts. This is an extremely worthwhile and welcome development, which I am very keen to support and I have agreed with the Chief Constable that I will fund from my direct budget the cost of the full time sergeant who will manage the scheme. Young people in Surrey will be able to join the volunteer police cadets after their 13th birthday giving them a unique insight into how Surrey Police works as they attend talks and demonstrations from police officers and staff across the Force. Cadets will be issued with a uniform and will learn about police powers and procedures and help assist

policing teams to improve the service Surrey Police provides to its communities. Cadets will be expected to volunteer an average of three hours per month working in their communities on crime prevention and social action projects. Through their experience within their unit, cadets will improve their communication and leadership skills and meet other young people across Surrey with similar interests. Once the scheme is established, cadets may be offered the opportunity to gain awards and qualifications such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, with the National VPC Programme providing an accredited curriculum to all cadets which will provide evidence for their CVs and skills to improve their employability. Through the Senior Cadets Leadership Course, older cadets will be offered training in leadership, communication and presentation skills to prepare them for the next stage of their VPC journey to become a VPC leader.

With my support, Surrey Police will be working towards the aims of the National VPC Scheme which are to:

- Promote a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people
- Encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship
- Support local policing priorities through volunteering
- Give young people a chance to be heard
- Inspire young people to participate positively in their communities

**c). Community Safety Board Project Fund** - I have decided to create a Project Fund of £50,000 for the use of the Surrey Community Safety Board. This is the county-wide strategic community safety partnership forum where representatives from each of the Borough and District CSPs, as well as agencies such as health, probation, fire and police are represented. I believe providing the Board with this funding will provide the additional resource it needs to allow it to more effectively oversee the development of strategies and plans that will increase the sense of safety for the people of Surrey.

**d).Consultancy/Project Work** – I am increasing this budget to a total of £75,000 to provide the OPCC with sufficient resource to be able to provide me with adequate support to allow the proper evaluation of new areas of activity

that that PCC's are likely to be involved with in future and the evaluation of existing areas of activity where I believe improvements in performance and productivity can be made.

The most imminent of these is the project my office will be undertaking to explore options for the future governance of the Fire and Rescue Service in Surrey. Once it receives Royal Assent, the Policing & Crime Bill makes provision for PCC's to take on the role of governance for Fire and Rescue Authorities, where there is a business case that justifies doing so. As a first step, I will form a working group that will look at how Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, which is currently part of Surrey County Council and Surrey Police, can become more closely interlinked and whether there is a sound rational argument for transferring the governance of the fire service in Surrey to my Office to the benefit of the Surrey public.

#### **4). Conclusion**

I hope that, having set out my Office budget in considerable detail (Appendix A), members of the Panel will agree that I have achieved considerable savings in the budget that I inherited on my election last May and as a result have been able to make additional investment in important areas of activity, at no additional cost to the Surrey tax payer. In addition by achieving a gross saving of £31,370 (1.5% of the total net revenue budget) I hope members will agree that I have put together a budget that represents good value for money for the Surrey public and a budget that with careful management will be sufficient to allow me to discharge the statutory duties of the OPCC effectively and efficiently in 2017/18.

**David Munro Police & Crime Commissioner**

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

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