

## KEY DECISION

### POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

**Title and Reference – PCC/D/150**

**Subject:** Precept Decision 2020-21

**Report of:** Police and Crime Commissioner

**Date:** 06.02.2020

**Summary**

Kathryn Holloway, the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, has promised to recruit a further 156 officers as a result of increasing the police share of the Council Tax by 84p a month.

The Police and Crime Panel agreed the Commissioner's proposal for the increase in officers which are in addition to the 160 officers she promised to recruit this time last year.

The Commissioner in presenting her budget and 84p increase proposal explained how she had promised in setting the budget last year that show would be recruiting at least 160 officers in 2019/20 and a further 120 in 2020/21.

The funding settlement received from the Government allowed for the Commissioner to also increase by a further 36 officers in the 2020/21 financial year, totalling 156. The Commissioner also explained that included within her Police and Crime Plan priorities she has been keen to return to a more visible police force as well as ensuring that the police are available when we need them most. This investment of at least 316 officers over two years will significantly assist in the delivery and embedding of these priorities.

In addition to the extra officers the Commissioner explained that it would have been remiss of her to have just focused on a single years' budget setting process, with the Commissioner elections in May 2020 and has therefore ensured that over the next two years, whilst savings will still need to be achieved the incoming Commissioner alongside their Chief Constable should be able to deliver a balanced budget and continuing to recruit new officers to ensure the Force replaces those that leave the Force.

The PCC also explained to the Police and Crime Panel that she and her successor, as well as the Chief Constable, would continue to lobby the Government to ensure that future funding from the Home Office be increased and shared appropriately across England to ensure that the burden, for the cost of policing, on the local taxpayer was reduced.

**Recommendation**

**To note decision**

**Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner**

**I hereby approve the recommendations above.**



**Signature**

**Date 06/02/2020**