

AGENDA

Meeting: **WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**
Place: Kennet Room - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN
Date: Thursday 5 February 2015
Time: **10.30 am**

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Roger Bishton, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 7180523035 or email roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Membership:

Clr Abdul Amin, Swindon Borough Council
Clr Glenis Ansell, Wiltshire Council
Clr Andrew Bennett, Swindon Borough Council
Clr Richard Britton, Wiltshire Council
Clr Trevor Carbin, Wiltshire Council
Clr Chris Caswill, Wiltshire Council
Clr Oliver Donachie, Swindon Borough Council
Chris Henwood, Co-Opted Independent Member
Clr Charles Howard, Wiltshire Council
Clr Peter Hutton, Wiltshire Council
Clr Julian Johnson, Wiltshire Council
Cindy Creasy, Co-Opted Independent Member
Clr Steve Wakefield, Swindon Borough Council

Substitutes:

Clr Chuck Berry, Wiltshire Council
Clr Alan Bishop, Swindon Borough Council
Clr Ernie Clark, Wiltshire Council
Clr Brian Dalton, Wiltshire Council
Clr Sue Evans, Wiltshire Council
Clr Nick Fogg MBE, Wiltshire Council



CLlr Dr Helena McKeown, Wiltshire Council
CLlr Jeff Osborn, Wiltshire Council
CLlr Linda Packard, Wiltshire Council
CLlr Maureen Penny, Swindon Borough Council
CLlr Ian Thorn, Wiltshire Council
CLlr Anthony Trotman, Wiltshire Council

AGENDA

Part I

Items to be considered when the meeting is open to the public

1 **Apologies for Absence**

2 **Minutes and matters arising** (*Pages 1 - 8*)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2015.

3 **Declarations of interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

5 **Public Participation**

The Panel welcomes contributions from members of the public.

Statements

If you wish to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named on the first page of the agenda for any further clarification.

Questions

Members of the public are able to ask questions in relation to the responsibilities and functions of the Panel at each meeting. Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the Head of Democratic Services at Wiltshire Council no later than **5.00 pm** on **Wednesday 28 January 2015**. Please contact the officer named on the first page of the agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

6 **Proposed Strategic Alliance between the Avon & Somerset and Wiltshire Police Forces**

The Police & Crime Commissioner will report at the meeting.

7 **PCC Diary Report** (*Pages 9 - 12*)

The Police & Crime Commissioner will present his Diary report.

8 **The PCC's Proposed Precept for 2015-16** (*Pages 13 - 16*)

A report by the Police & Crime Commissioner is attached.

To give formal consideration to the Commissioner's proposed precept for 2015-16.

9 **Task Group Update**

To provide an update on Police and Crime Panel task group activity:

1. Volunteers and Special Constables Task Group

The Panel Chairman has submitted a series of questions to the PCC asking for updates in the relevant areas. The response is awaited.

2. Licensing Task Group

The task group's final report was referred to the PCC on 10 December 2014 and his response is awaited.

3. Police Performance Review Working Group

The task group's third meeting is scheduled for 10.30am, 11 February, Wiltshire Police HQ. This will focus on discussion of a new PCC performance reporting mechanism that enables the Panel to effectively monitor delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. An update will be provided at the Panel's March meeting, and the new performance report format is expected to commence in June.

4. Regional Collaborations Task Group

Some proposed terms of reference for the task group were submitted to the PCC for comment on 21 January and a response is awaited.

Members are asked to note the update provided.

10 **Forward Work Plan (Pages 17 - 18)**

To note the forward work plan.

11 **Future meeting dates**

To note the future meeting dates below:

- Thursday 5 March 2015 – 2.30pm start – Monkton Park Offices, Chippenham.
- Thursday 18 June 2015 – 2.30pm start – Corn Exchange, Devizes.
- Thursday 3 September 2015 – 10.30am start – City Hall, Salisbury.
- Wednesday 18 November 2015 – 10.30am start – Swindon Borough Council Offices.

Part II

Item(s) during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

None

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WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2015 AT COMMITTEE ROOM VI, CIVIC OFFICE, EUCLID ST, SWINDON SN1 2JH.

Present:

Cllr Abdul Amin, Cllr Andrew Bennett, Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman), Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cindy Creasy, Cllr Oliver Donachie, Chris Henwood, Cllr Charles Howard, Cllr Peter Hutton and Cllr Tony Trotman (Substitute)

Also Present:

Angus Macpherson – Police & Crime Commissioner
Clive Barker – OPPC
Paul Deal – OPCC
Sarah Kyte – OPCC
Emily Higson – Wiltshire Council
Henry Powell – Wiltshire Council
Roger Bishton – Wiltshire Council

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:-

Cllr Chris Caswill – Wiltshire Council
Cllr Julian Johnson - Wiltshire Council, who was substituted by Cllr Tony Trotman
Kieran Kilgallen – Chief Executive, OPCC

2 Minutes and matters arising

Resolved:

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 November 2014.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

4 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements

5 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present or councillors' questions.

6 PCC Diary report

The PCC Diary report which set out a summary of commitments the Commissioner had undertaken since the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 19 November 2014 was received.

The Commissioner advised that:-

- He had attended a regional meeting in Bridgwater on 12 November 2014 when updates had been received on the work of the regional programme boards, including the Regional Organised Crime Unit, Major Crime, Digital Evidence Management and Regional ICT Strategy. He also gave an update on the Community Rehabilitation Company contract which would cover the South West of England and Wales and come into effect on 1 February. He explained that the primary purpose of this contract was to assist ex offenders in finding work.
- The Community Messaging Launch had been continuing with a launch in Melksham on 13 November and in Tidworth on 14 November. It was anticipated that this exercise would be completed throughout Wiltshire by the second week in February. One of the objects of this Launch would be to re-energise Neighbourhood Watch schemes. The Commissioner stressed that there would be a focus on Community Safety. Reference was made to Neighbourhood Alert and Members were reminded that this was an online, secure community messaging system that allowed authorised administrators to log in and send messages to registered people in the community, members of Neighbourhood Watch and other schemes such as Tenant and Resident Associations, Church Groups, Community contacts and members of Business Watch, who had chosen to receive them. Messages could be sent by email, telephone or text message by a range of approved Information by providers such as the Police, Neighbourhood Watch administrators, Trading Standards and the Fire Service. Concern had been expressed that parish notices such as

fete publicity and other social events could easily swamp the site and it was acknowledged that this potential danger would need to be watched.

- A meeting of the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board (WCJB) had taken place on 26 November, the Board not having met for some time. It was now chaired by the Chief Constable and the Commissioner had been invited to become a member. Mr Robert Buckland, MP for Swindon South and a member of the National Criminal Justice Board, had been invited to join. The work of the WCJB was still being developed but its members were committed to its success.
- A telephone conference had taken place on 27 November with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners in respect of the planned police ICT company, discussing in particular its benefits to Wiltshire. It should bring significant purchasing benefits to its members by designing contracts which would attract substantial savings and lead to the standardisation of equipment.
- An open meeting of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) had been held on 4 December at which the Commissioner had presented the initial results of the rural crime survey. The survey was a major consultation with farmers, land owners and others who either live or work in rural Wiltshire. Members of the Panel questioned why, from the list of rural crimes, there was no mention of arson. The Commissioner suggested that the reason might well be seasonal.
- The use of mobile police camera vans was being examined by officers and councillors to help combat speeding offences. The Commissioner reminded the Panel that although the fixed cameras in Wiltshire were not operational, the equipment had been left in place which in itself could well act as a deterrent. It was reported that there had been a decrease in accidents in the Swindon area since the deactivation of fixed speed cameras and on balance the Panel considered that mobile police camera vans provided a better deterrent than fixed cameras.
- The Commissioner had attended a performance of 'This Secret Life' at Churchfield Academy in Swindon on 8 December. This play, which had been performed across Swindon and Wiltshire, was performed by Sixth Sense theatre group and was a very powerful play about domestic abuse and control of a perpetrator over a young female student in her first relationship. The performance was followed by a very useful debate about the issues raised in the play. The Commissioner reported that there had been an increase in violence in the last twelve months and stressed the importance of creating a suitable atmosphere where a victim felt comfortable to report domestic violence. It was noted that there was still plenty to do to foster better education on this subject throughout the schools.

- On 11 December, the Home Secretary announced her proposed reforms to allow directly-elected PCCs to take charge of complaints against their police force. The Commissioner stated that, as elected Commissioner, he welcomed this announcement as it was important that the public had trust in the police complaints system. Members of the Panel stressed the importance of the public knowing the outcomes following use of the complaints procedure. The Commissioner stated that the Wiltshire complaints procedure was being well used and he planned to invest funds into educating young people who were excellent at challenging procedures.
- The Neighbourhood Policing Unit would be relocating to the Civic Offices at Euclid, Street, Swindon the following week and would be opening towards the end of the month. It was reported that the former police station at Chippenham had been attracting a certain amount of anti-social behaviour but two bids had so far been received for the purchase of this site; the closing date for receipt of bids was 31 March 2015 after which a decision would have to be made on its future.

Resolved:

To note the Police & Crime Commissioner's report.

7 Budget Options and Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Commissioner gave a detailed presentation on his draft budget settlement.

He explained that in October 2014 the initial Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), attached as an appendix to the report, had been produced and reviewed at the Commissioner's monitoring board. The MTFS looked at the estimated financial position of the PCC over the following three years and the impact to commission services. The Commissioner stressed that the assumptions included were superseded by actual information as it was received.

It was noted that the following Police relevant information was announced in the December settlement;

- a **5.1% cash reduction** in Police Revenue funding for 2015-16
- Additional top slicing of PCC Funding in 2015-16 of £96m (for the Innovation Fund, IPCC, HMIC, Major Programmes, contingency and other areas). Resulting in a funding reduction of £835,000 for Wiltshire PCC.
- the provision of additional council tax freeze grants for 2015-16 equivalent to a 1% tax rise for those precepting bodies which decide not to increase council tax.

- the announcement that any council tax freeze grants will be funded from the original police settlement hence reducing 'normal funding' available for distribution to PCC's in the future.
- the setting of the council tax referendum threshold level at 2%.

This resulted in the main grants received from central government reducing from £61.652m to £58.502m, a reduction of £3.150m.

The Commissioner went on to explain that he was currently considering two options surrounding the council tax, namely:

- Option A – To increase council tax by 1.9% (in the knowledge that this would be the maximum allowable before a referendum was called)
- Option B – To maintain council tax at the 2014-15 level

The Panel noted the estimated funds likely to be available to the Commissioner under each option but he pointed out that additional funds would be allocated centrally to commission victims' services and support restorative justice. Provisional funding announced for victims' services in 2015-16 was £584,000; part of this funding would now finance Wiltshire's direct contribution to the Victims' Support Charity. Provisional funding for restorative justice was £155,000 for 2015-16.

The Commissioner explained that in considering the options, he needed to focus on the long term funding position. To not increase council tax at this time would have considerable impact on his future ability to commission policing and crime services. The offer of freeze grants would reduce his future base budget and only further deplete funding available nationally for policing. He pointed out that a 1.9% increase in council tax would result in Wiltshire's Band D council tax increasing from £160.92 to £163.98, representing an increase of £3.06 per annum or 6p per week. An average increase of £3.06 per year, per household would provide the Commissioner with an additional £345,000 of local income for 2015-16. Whilst much would depend upon the outcome of the forthcoming general election, Commissioners had been advised to plan on further central reductions of 3.2% per annum.

It was noted that the Commissioner was in the process of widely consulting the public through town and parish councils, area boards and locality meetings, chambers of commerce and the farming community, the public consultation running from Tuesday 6 January to Wednesday 4 February 2015.

In answer to a question as to where savings were likely to be achieved, Clive Barker, Chief Finance Officer explained that it was hoped that some savings could be achieved through a reduction in back office staff. It was noted that

savings had also been achieved by a reduction of 500 officers and also from the fleet and estate.

The Panel was informed that reported crime had been decreasing although there had been an increase in domestic violence. Furthermore, there appeared to be an increase in IT crime but a certain amount of this was not being reported. The Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining neighbourhood policing, a reduction of which could lead to serious problems in his ability to provide for effective policing.

The Commissioner also considered that savings could be achieved by further collaboration with neighbouring forces in the South West in order to identify services and functions, such as technical services, which could be shared.

It was noted that the Chief Constable's Financial Plan included the appointments of a Special Co-ordinator and a Volunteers Co-ordinator, which were required to engage the public in helping to keep Wiltshire and Swindon safe. Clive Barker confirmed that both posts had been filled.

The Chairman referred to the restructuring of the Force at the beginning of the current financial year and the identified need for additional Inspectors on a temporary measure. Clive Barker confirmed that the number of these officers would shortly be reduced in order to achieve the necessary savings.

The Chairman also referred to the review of local policing being carried out by the Chief Constable and the need to save £800,000 from the establishment. The Commissioner stated that these savings could potentially be made from any section of the Force but recently the superintendents had been requested to identify potential savings from the middle ranks.

The Chief Constable's MTFS had identified a strategy to close the funding gaps over the following two years if a 1.9% council tax increase was agreed. However, the Panel appreciated that there were risks that these savings might not be achieved, the biggest risk being potential partnership failure as working with councils and other police forces was expected to deliver large savings.

Resolved:

To note the Commissioner's report.

8 Task Group update

The Panel received an update on the activity of the following Task Groups:-

- Volunteers and Special Constables Task Group
- Licensing Task Group
- Police Performance Review Working Group
- Regional Collaboration Task Group

Resolved:

1. To note the update on task group activity provided.
2. To note that the Panel Chairman has submitted a series of questions to the PCC asking for updates on issues raised in his response to the Final Report of the Volunteers and Special Constables Task Group.
3. To note the Final Report of the Licensing Task Group and that this has been submitted to the PCC and a response is awaited.
4. To endorse the terms of reference proposed for the Police Performance Review Working Group.
5. To defer endorsing the terms of reference proposed for the Regional Collaborations Task Group in order that the views of the PCC be obtained, a summary list of the various collaborations in which Wiltshire Police was involved still being awaited from OPCC.

9 **Forward Work Plan**

A document was received showing the Panel's Forward Work Programme.

Resolved:

To note the contents of the Forward Work Programme for this Panel.

10 **Future meeting dates**

Resolved:

To note that the next meeting of the Panel is due to be held on Tuesday 5 February 2015, in the Kennet Room at County Hall, Trowbridge, starting at 10.30am.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.30 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Roger Bishton, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713035, e-mail roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

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POLICE AND CRIME PANEL **5th February 2015**

Introduction

This report sets out a summary of the commitments I have undertaken since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 15th January 2015. I write a weekly blog which provides a brief overview for the public of what I have been up to. This is published on my website (www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk) and the content of these blogs is copied below for the Panel's information.

SO, WHO CARES FOR THE HOMELESS OUT OF HOURS?

Blog: 21 December 2014

Sunday 21 December 2014 to Sunday 4 January 2015

This has been a period when many have been on holiday and enjoying time with their family, as have I.

There were few formal meetings in the period, due to the holiday, but we did have a Commissioner's Monitoring Board on 22 December and will have another immediately we return on 5 January. The meeting discussed the revenue budget for 2015-2016, procurement contracts, collaboration and custody in the county.

On Christmas Eve Lord Wasserman called in. He was instrumental in developing the policy which led to the creation of Police and Crime Commissioners and he oversaw our establishment. It was useful to be able to share some of the successes and frustrations of the past two years. It seems that the Conservative Party are still supportive of the office of PCC and the principles that lies behind it. But others are not.

I enjoyed Christmas with my family and New Year with friends in the village. On the evening of New Year's Day I did a stint with the Filling Station in Swindon.

This is a small charity that I run for the homeless, offering hot soup and other food, clothes and toiletries to the homeless and those in need.

Over Christmas they have been supported by another charity, Christmas Care. But on every other Thursday night of the year the Filling Station runs a soup kitchen and offers support to those on the streets.

We generally have 50 clients, but this evening we were nearer ten, but I expect that we were not expected to be out in the holiday period.

One client - let's call him John - gave great cause for concern. Apparently he had been released from prison on licence and had also just been discharged from hospital. But he was obviously unwell, spending quite a lot of time sitting on the ground with his rucksack of possessions.

As the Filling Station meets in Queenstown Car Park, close to the Swindon Health Centre in Carfax Street, we took him across there to have a medical check. We arrived just before closing time, but the staff appeared unwilling to take a look at him, suggesting that we phone an ambulance. As they left to go home a member of staff offered to stay with John whilst we attempted to find some accommodation.

By now I had phoned the Crime and Communications Centre at Wiltshire Police HQ as it was pouring with rain and getting very cold and the man, who had no shelter, was at some risk.

Both the Culverly Court and Booth House hostels said they could not accommodate him, as did the emergency service at Swindon Borough Council, who told me, that, in their opinion, he had made himself intentionally homeless. As I mentioned earlier, he had been released from custody.

I tried to establish what contact or support John had received from probation, not least because I am spending a lot of money as PCC to try to ensure that people leaving custody are not homeless (because of the risk that they will return to crime). The answer did not give me confidence that the system had worked for him.

John had been living with both his parents and latterly his sister but he said neither address was now available to him.

With the "off duty" medic from the health centre we decided that the most important thing was to keep John dry and so I took him to one of the car parks and installed him, with his sleeping bag, out of the rain and wind under an exit ramp.

Somehow leaving him there did not seem the answer, but I told the Crime and Communications Centre at Devizes (who by now were as exasperated as me) where he was and the local town centre policing team were also informed.

There is a lot to unpack from this two-hour encounter, with issues for the hostels, the ambulance service, probation, the local authority emergency housing team, the health centre and Wiltshire Police who, in fairness, took ownership of the issue and tried their best.

Those of you on Twitter may have noticed that Chief Constable Pat Geenty tweeted recently that he had had “an Interesting meeting” with me discussing the plight of a vulnerable homeless person, sleeping rough. Mr Geenty summed up the issue in five words: “Who 'cares' out of hours?”

Food for thought.

A happy and safe new year to all readers.

WHY I BELIEVE THAT POLICING SHOULD BE KEPT LOCAL

Blog: 5th January 2015

Monday 5 January

In the morning I chaired the Commissioner's Monitoring Board at which we discussed services for victims, digital evidence management, community remedy and the police and crime element of council tax for 2015-16. We went through the presentation that my colleagues and I will present at Area Boards and Localities across Wiltshire and Swindon over the next few weeks. We also talked about one or two other issues which I will raise with the Chief Constable.

Overall my day was very office based but a good opportunity to catch up on paper work.

Tuesday 6 January

Today I signed off the communications on the police and crime element of council tax. I also read the surveys that showed overall crime dropped by three per cent from December 2013 to November 2014. Public confidence measured in the spring / summer survey is 86.6 per cent; victim satisfaction to November 2014 is 87.7 per cent.

Those are important figures for the Constabulary and for the public. But equally important is the assessment made by [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary \(HMIC\)](#) in which they state that “in terms of its effectiveness, in general, the force is good at reducing crime and preventing offending, is good at investigating offending and good at tackling anti-social behaviour”. HMIC concluded that the force carries out its responsibilities with a good level of efficiency. This is against the background of reduced costs over the last year .

I am now aware that the central grant from the Home Office to Wiltshire Police will be 5.1 per cent less in 2016. The projection is that our funding gap in 2017/18 will be around £13m. I am keen that we should maintain neighbourhood policing and response operating from Wiltshire alongside our partners in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough Council.

There is still much talk about the possibility of regional policing and, whilst I am supportive of working with our neighbouring forces in the south west to get value for money, I am also very conscious that British policing has the support of the public it serves. If policing becomes divorced from Wiltshire and Swindon, I think something very important would be lost.

Local policing provides a firm base upon which regional operations can be carried out.

I am proposing an increase of £3.06 a year (or 6p a week) for the average home (band D property). This modest increase would help to reduce the impact of significant cuts in Government grants for policing and crime services in the county.

It would still leave us with the lowest precept for policing in the south west. It is worth remembering that, when the Government cuts its grant to policing, the effect in Wiltshire is greater than a cut in funding to local authorities as they raise a greater proportion of their precept from local people.

I know that neighbourhood policing and local response are just two aspects of our service that the public value and I hope that my argument for the £3.06 increase will be accepted.

In the afternoon I went across to the hangar at Devizes HQ from where the [new Wiltshire air ambulance](#) is now operating . There I signed a new lease that allows the air ambulance to use the facilities for up to three years whilst they secure a new base with a visitors centre.



(Trustee Mandy Clarke and Angus signing the lease)

Wednesday 7 January

After lunch I attended the Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board where we discussed the strategic needs assessment for 2014/15 and voluntary sector commissioning in Swindon. We also had an update from Health Watch Swindon.

All partner agencies have now signed the Mental Health Crisis Concordat. I am very pleased this has been signed by Swindon and Wiltshire council partners and I look forward to reading the new reports to both the Health Wellbeing Boards about those whom we hold in custody. The aim of the act is to confirm that custody cells are not suitable for a person with mental health issues.

Afterwards I caught a train to London for an early meeting tomorrow at The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). I was pleased that the meeting observed a silence to remember those killed in the Paris shootings.

There has been a positive reaction to my blog published last week which prompted full-page coverage in the Swindon Advertiser and on the FLIC Wiltshire and This is Wiltshire websites. Regular readers may remember that I recounted the tale of a homeless man in Swindon. One of the media outlets wanted to know if he has found accommodation and I was pleased to tell them he was now in a hostel. You can [read the story here](#).

Thursday 8 January

This morning I met fellow Commissioners at London Living Room which is on the top floor of MOPAC . It has splendid views over The Tower of London and HMS Belfast. This meeting was a great opportunity to talk to colleagues about their experiences in office. All 43 PCCs have different challenges and it's interesting to note that many of those challenges we have already addressed in Wiltshire and Swindon.

Our structure of two unity authorities is extremely useful in the delivery of focused local policing. Those forces that cover larger areas such as Thames Valley do not seem to have the local focus that we have. I believe this focus is one of our major strengths. As we look towards a model of working over a greater area we must find a governance structure that protects local police and the public.



(Angus with other PCCs on the top floor of MOPAC)

I then caught the train from London to Salisbury to attend my first Area Board on the precept consultation. The presentation went well and was generally well received. I was also able to speak about the provision of a custody unit in the south of the county. I explained why we were taking time and care at looking for a location for the unit and why Salisbury plans were put on hold.

Friday 9 January

I spent last night in Salisbury with an interesting wake up at 7am which involved getting dressed in the dark as the lights in my hotel room had blown a fuse.

I caught the train to Warminster where I was joined by one of my colleagues to set up a stall at the local market. It wasn't busy as the weather didn't encourage people to stop and chat for long . But those we did speak to were supportive of their policing service in Warminster and were fond of their local neighbourhood officers.

There were some complaints about low-level anti social behaviour (ASB) in some car parks and these complaints have been passed on to the Neighbourhood Policing Team. I was also pleased to meet the local inspector to chat about the progress of a partnership campus in Warminster.



(Angus at Warminster market)

After the market I came back to my office and was joined by Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Paul Mills to discuss the progress of the implementation of the volunteer strategy. You may remember that I produced an update in December and some of the ideas in that, as well as others, are taking root.

I then met Claire Perry, MP for Devizes, and we spoke about policing performance in her area. She had no concerns that she wished to raise. To end the day I attended a Conservative association dinner with two Swindon MPs.

**Angus Macpherson
Police and Crime Commissioner
For Wiltshire and Swindon**



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 5 February 2015

PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2015-16

Purpose

1. This paper notifies the panel of the precept I am proposing for 2015-16.

Background

2. In January 2015 I presented to the panel a paper which disclosed my thinking surrounding the 2015-16 budget. This paper, which also included a copy of my Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), reported that I was thinking of increasing the Band D Precept by 1.9% to £163.98, a £3.06 increase from the 2014-15 Police part of the Council Tax of £160.92.
3. At the January meeting I also informed the panel of a presentation I would be giving to area boards and locality meetings which would be part of my consultation strategy. This disclosed a significant reduction in central funding in the last 4 years and a forecast that this would continue over the next 3 years. The central funding reduction for the total 7 years is estimated at £25m, 24% of the budget.

Consultation

4. I have raised the profile of the decision by having a consultation strategy. The strategy was to involve as much of the community as possible. The strategy included;
 - Press releases identifying the proposal and highlighting to the public how they can make their views heard via the PCC's website.
 - Contacting Councillors and MP's asking for their views on behalf of the people they serve
 - Writing to the Business Community, via a number of forums, to obtain views
 - Presenting the proposal to Area Boards and Locality meetings.
5. The response to the consultation has been mixed. As of 23rd January 134 responses had been received. 63 responses were in favour of the increase and 32 were against. The remaining 28 were non committal. I do intend providing you with the latest information on the feedback at the panel meeting.

The Precept

6. My initial proposal to increase the precept by 1.9% was based on the knowledge that the Government has announced 2% as the referendum 'trigger' level, i.e. any increase of 2% and above would require a referendum to validate the decision. With the cost of a referendum estimated at over £300,000 I have decided that I do not wish to spend public money on such a course of action.

7. Clarification of the consolidation of 'freeze' grants into the main Home Office funding grant remains outstanding. Uncertainty still remains as to whether historic and future freeze grants will be amalgamated into base funding, this would assist the long term funding of the office. Clarification is not expected this side of the general election.

The Funding Available

8. The table below outlines the funding available to me based on a 1.9% precept increase. The funding is slightly higher than that reported in January due to notification by Wiltshire Council of a larger collection surplus than originally forecast. This table assumes that the provisional central funding allocations are confirmed.

	2014-15	2015-16
Main Home Office Grant	£40.158m	£37.700m
Main DCLG Grant	£21.494m	£20.802m
Localisation Grant	£3.842m	£3.842m
Freeze Grant 2011-12	£0.991m	£0.991m
Freeze Grant 2013-14	£0.401m	£0.401m
Total Central Funding	£66.886m	£63.736m
Precept Income	£37.588m	£39.109m
Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus	£0.625m	£0.860m
Total Funding Available	£105.099m	£103.705m

9. The table above shows a £3.150m, 4.7% reduction in total central funding (a 5.1% reduction in main grants).
10. Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council have reported a new council tax base of 238,502; this is a 2.1% increase on 2014-15. This with the 1.9% increase in precept will result in an additional £1.5m of local funding.
11. Overall, even with a 1.9% precept increase, my funding has reduced by £1.4m, 1.3%. This reduction needs to be considered in a period when inflation during the year has been running at just over 1%.

Funding Allocation

12. I am expected to commission services from the funding available. In addition to the funding reported in the table in paragraph 8 I do receive investment income (estimated as £0.30m in 2014-15 and £0.250m in 2015-16). Therefore my funding available to commission with is £103.955m in 2015-16. I am intending protecting the funds I have to commission non-police services. The reduction in funding will then be split equally. The table below identifies the impact of my decision.

	2014-15 (r)	2015-16
OPCC Office Costs	£0.709m	£0.699m
OPCC Capital Contribution	£0.739m	£0.729m
OPCC External Funding Allocations	£1.004m	£1.004m
OPCC Chief Constable Allocation	£102.947m	£101.523m
	£105.399m	£103.955m

Impact on the Chief Constable's Budget

13. As the Chief Constable receives the largest allocation of the funding he will receive the largest cut in funding. Whilst funding is reducing the Chief Constable must fund the 1% Police Officer pay increase and the 2.2% 18 month Police Staff pay increase. This will put pressure on him when setting a balanced budget.
14. The table below shows his current budget requirement against the funding I intend to provide him in 2015-16;

	2015-16 CC Budget
Budget Requirement	£104.218m
Funding Available	£101.523m
Shortfall (savings req.)	£2.695m

15. In addition to this a shortfall in 2014-15 savings needed to be resolved. £0.386m of savings surrounding the alliance with Wiltshire Council has not been delivered. When taking this into consideration the savings required are £3.081m (£2.695m+£0.386m).
16. In recognition that a significant level of savings is required the Chief Constable has produced an Efficiency Strategy which identifies how the savings will be delivered. The strategy targets collaboration and empowerment as 2 main drivers. The collaboration area identifies savings achievable working with both police and council partners. The empowerment strand looks at reducing management and merging areas to enable better services to be provided at a lower cost.
17. Whilst the strategy is clear I do not question the focus and work required to continually deliver this level of savings year on year. My reserves do provide me with some cover if there is some slippage in the delivery of some of the savings hence reducing risk.

Savings Delivered

18. Since funding started to reduce in 2011-12 the Chief Constable has had to deliver considerable savings. The table below shows in what areas the savings have been made. These savings are those delivered and do not include those required to balance the 2015-16 budget.

Area	Savings delivered £000's
Performance	155
ICT	261
Corporate Communications	109
Finance & Admin	738
Management	1,557
Justice	794
Information Management	326
Custody	304
Citizen Focus	867
Investigation	850
Intelligence	1,537
HQ Operations	1,735

Fleet & Stores	102
People Services	1,707
Contact Management	494
General Expenditure	2,702
Estates	321
Total	14,559

Legal

19. I am required to receive advice from my Chief Financial Officer surrounding the budget and my reserves. The Chief Financial Officer is content that my budget and the Chief Constables budget are sound and deliverable. He has also confirmed that he believes my reserves are adequate to manage risk.

Recommendation

20. After carrying out the necessary consultation I am minded to set a precept of £39.109m. This will require council tax to be set on all property bands based on £163.98 for a Band D property. This represents a £3.06 (1.9%) increase on the 2014-15 level.

Angus Macpherson

Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Panel Forward Work Plan

Please note: this is a working document which is subject to change

Date	Location	Provisional Agenda Items
5th February 2015	County Hall, Trowbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC Diary report • Formal consideration of the PCC's proposed precept for 2015-16 • Strategic Alliance with Avon & Somerset Police • Task Group Updates
5th March 2015	Monkton Park Offices, Chippenham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC Diary report • Report of the Police Performance Review Working Group • Quarterly data (Q3)– Risk / Performance / Finance / Complaints / Innovation Fund update • PCC response to the Final Report of the Licensing Task Group (TBC) • Task Group Updates
18th June 2015	Corn Exchange, Devizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC Diary report • PCC Annual report (including Quarterly data (Q4) - Risk / Performance / Finance / Complaints) • Task Group Updates

<p>3rd September 2015</p>	<p>City Hall, Salisbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC Diary report • Quarterly data (Q1)– Risk / Performance / Finance / Complaints / Innovation Fund update • Innovation Fund Evaluation • Task Group Updates
<p>18th November 2015</p>	<p>Swindon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC Diary report • Quarterly data (Q1)– Risk / Performance / Finance / Complaints / Innovation Fund update • Task Group Updates