

From: Campion,John [mailto:john.campion@westmercia.pnn.police.uk]
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:00 AM
To: 'townclerk@bewdleytowncouncil.org'
Subject: FW: PCC Budget Consultation 2017/2018

Dear Mr Farress,

Thank you for your email summarising the comments made by Bewdley Town Council's Police Liaison Group on my draft budget and precept proposals for 2017/18. I have read the comments with interest and my response is outlined below.

1. The reduction in police officer pay is a reflection of long serving officers retiring from the force being replaced through a structured programme of student officer intakes. The newer, younger officers are at the starting points on pay scales, resulting in a reduction in pay. There is no reduction in the number of police officers.

2. The number of police officers is not being reduced. The increase in staffing costs is to support the significant change programme underway within the organisation to reform and modernise our police service.

3. The increase in third party payments is entirely due to Business, Cyber and Rural Crime expenditure which in 2016/17 was funded from reserves. In 2017/18 this has been moved into the main budget. For West Mercia this was £1m. The difference of £240k for 2017/18 is due to a review of the budget and other savings.

4. It is my intention to seek efficiencies through shared or co-located premises with other organisations where appropriate, but it is also important to maintain and invest in the existing police estate so that the force has fit for purpose buildings which best meet the needs of local communities and the organisation. For example, the £23.5 million project to deliver a new Operations Communications Centre at Hindlip Hall, to be shared with Hereford and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service will allow for a faster, more effective response to incidents which require both services and helps reduce overheads for both services.

5. The apparent reduction in budgets for Operations and Specialist Operations is as a result of these functions being reorganised within the organisation and their budgets moved to reflect this.

6. Noted

7. Noted

8. My budget proposals include major positive investments designed to improve police visibility in our communities, ensure better customer service and protect our most vulnerable people. Mobile working will mean officers and the organisation utilising modern technology such as smart phones, laptops and fleet telematics.

I will be presenting my budget proposals to the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel on 7th February for their consideration and will announce my final budget before the 1 March.

Yours Sincerely

John

John Campion
West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner

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