

# Public Document Pack

## Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel

Hosted by Somerset County Council Democratic Services



This meeting will be conducted in a manner that will comply with the relevant statutory regulations relating to the conduct of “remote meetings”. In this respect, the meeting will be conducted virtually between Panel Members, officers from the Host Authority and staff from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. A facility will be put in place to allow members of the public and press to observe the meeting, details of which will be made available online prior to the commencement of the meeting.

If you wish to observe proceedings, please email [PLjones@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:PLjones@somerset.gov.uk) to register your interest in advance. Details on how to join the “remote meeting” for observation purposes will be circulated to those who have registered prior to the meeting commencing.

### Friday 19th February 2021 10.00 am Microsoft Teams

#### Membership:

Bath & North East Somerset	Alastair Singleton
Bath & North East Somerset	Andy Wait
Bristol City Council	Asher Craig
Bristol City Council	Afzal Shah
Bristol City Council	Peter Abraham
Independent Member	Richard Brown (Chair)
Independent Member	Vacancy
Independent Member	Vacancy
Independent Member	Vacancy
Mendip District Council	Heather Shearer (Vice-Chair)
North Somerset Council	Roz Willis
North Somerset Council	Richard Westwood
Sedgemoor District Council	Janet Keen
Somerset County Council	Josh Williams
South Gloucestershire Council	Patricia Trull
South Gloucestershire Council	Franklin Owusu-Antwi
South Somerset District Council	Martin Wale
Somerset West and Taunton Council	Chris Booth

#### Contact Officer: Patricia Jones

Governance Specialist

07855 284506

[pljones@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:pljones@somerset.gov.uk)

Agenda published: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Somerset County Council

County Hall, Taunton

TA1 4DY

**Are you considering how your conversation today and the actions you propose to take contribute towards making Somerset Carbon Neutral by 2030?**



**RNID typetalk**

## **Agenda**

### **Public Information Sheet**

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the agenda. This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972. This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on [www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)

**\*\* Public Guidance notes contained in agenda annexe \*\***

**1 Apologies for Absence**

**2 Public Question Time**

Statements or questions should be e-mailed to [PLJones@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:PLJones@somerset.gov.uk), or sent to the Democratic Services Team, County Hall Taunton TA1 4DY (marked for the attention of Patricia Jones). Statements must be received no later than 12.00 noon on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Questions must be received no later than 3 clear working days before the meeting – 5pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Please note that all statements and questions must relate to matters that fall within the Panel's functions and responsibilities.

**3 Declarations of Interest**

The Statutory Register of Member's Interests can be inspected by contacting Patricia Jones in the Democratic Services Team on Tel: 07855 284506 or [PLjones@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:PLjones@somerset.gov.uk).

**4 Chairs Business**

**5 Consideration of Revised Precept Proposal (Pages 5 - 10)**

**6 Date of Next Meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 10.30am.

# Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Panel

## Public Information Sheet

### Inspection of Papers/Register of Member Interests

You can find papers for all our meetings on our website at [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk)

Please contact Patricia Jones, Governance Specialist on telephone: 07855 284506 if you wish to inspect the papers or the Statutory Register of Member's Interests.

### Public Question Time

Members of the public may make a written statement to most meetings, provided that: the statement is received by the Democratic Services Team no later than **12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting**; and the statement is about a matter the Panel has responsibility for.

Statements should be e-mailed to [PLJones@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:PLJones@somerset.gov.uk) or sent to Somerset County Council, Democratic Services Team, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY.

Any statement submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper. For copyright reasons, we are unable to reproduce or publish newspaper or magazine articles that may be attached to statements.

Questions must be received no later than 3 clear working days before the meeting.

**By participating in Public Question Time business, we will assume that you have consented to your name and the details of your submission being recorded in the papers circulated to the committee. This information will also be made available at the meeting to which it relates and placed in the official minute book as a public record.**

**We will try to remove personal information such as contact details. However, because of time constraints we cannot guarantee this, and you may therefore wish to consider if your statement contains information that you would prefer not to be in the public domain. Statements will not be posted on the council's website.**

- Public Question Time is normally one of the first items on the agenda. If a statement concerns a specific item on the agenda, it may be taken just before the item concerned.
- The Chair will call each submission in turn. When you are invited to speak, please make sure that your presentation focuses on the key issues that you would like Members to consider. This will have the greatest impact.
- You may direct any questions or comments through the Chair. You may not take direct part in the debate.
- Your time allocation may have to be strictly limited if there are a lot of submissions before the meeting.
- You do not have to speak or even attend the meeting at which your submission is being taken. However, if you do not present it, then it will not be read out. It will nevertheless be noted by Members.

### Emergency Evacuation Procedure

In the event of a fire alarm sounding, you are requested to leave the building via the nearest available signposted emergency exit and make your way to one of the assembly points around the building. Officers and councillors will be on hand to assist.

### Excluding the Press and Public

Occasionally, there will be items on the agenda that cannot be debated in public for legal reasons and these will be highlighted on the agenda as appropriate. In these circumstances, the public and press will be asked to leave the room and the Panel will go into Private Session.

### Recording of Meetings

Somerset County Council supports the principles of openness and transparency. It allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public providing it is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings and a designated area will be provided for anyone who wishing to film part or all of the proceedings. No filming or recording will take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the clerk so that the Chair can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public are not filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.



Richard Brown  
Chair  
Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Panel

Sent by e-mail: [R.Brown@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:R.Brown@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Richard,

### **Precept Proposal**

I have carefully reviewed and considered your Precept Report dated 8<sup>th</sup> February with my senior team and the Chief Constable.

Clearly we are disappointed that the Panel have decided to veto our proposals, especially as 29 PCCs have agreed a precept rise of £15 (or very close) with their Panels. I feel that the Chief and I made a compelling case for the £15 precept increase in Avon & Somerset and the key items are summarised in my response.

However, I have paid due regard to the Panel's Report and I propose in my response to you a pragmatic revised precept that also fully addresses another point raised in your Report about reserves.

I also share the Panel's concern that many households are under financial pressure and I trust that the Panel will see that I have adopted a balanced response that meets your concerns but also seeks to protect the vital investments in local policing at a time of great uncertainty for the future of police funding.

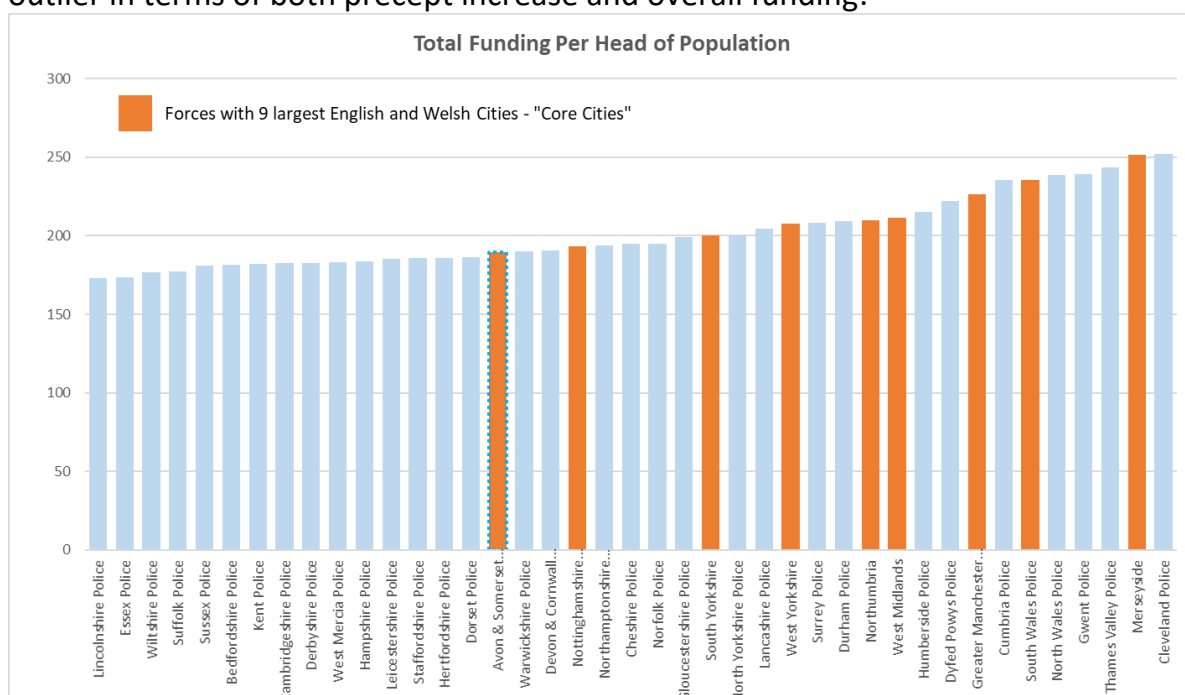
The Panel should also be aware that I am concerned for the negative impact on police officer morale at what has been a very difficult time for them and I am worried about the impact and message that the Panel's veto sends to our senior police leaders and to our hard working front line officers and staff.

My proposals for the 2021/22 precept and accompanying Medium Term Financial Plan were presented to the Police and Crime Panel last Thursday. As part of this you received detailed presentations from myself, the Chief Constable and the OPCC Chief

Financial Officer. The key factors underpinning the proposal for an increase of £15 were:

- The security of funding across the MTFP period at a time of maximum financial uncertainty and recognising the government’s presumption in funding announcements that the full £15 increase would be applied;
- The commitment to priority local initiatives in respect of Operation Remedy and Integrated Offender Management, underpinned by our current uplift trajectory;
- The poorly funded position of Avon and Somerset for our population, size and profile. Avon and Somerset currently receives £189.77 per head through grant and council tax, compared to a national average (exc London) of £201.91, resulting in a comparative shortfall in funding of nearly £21m.

Of the forces with the largest 9 cities<sup>1</sup> in England and Wales outside of London, Avon and Somerset receives the lowest funding per head of population. This situation reflects the historic under funding reinforced within the current formula for the distribution of police grant. Despite the promise of previous governments to review and address this outdated formula, this continues to be the dominant factor in the distribution of grant funding and in the distribution of the officer uplift targets. This relative position will be exacerbated as the majority of crime panels nationally have approved the maximum, or near maximum increase. It is unfortunate that Avon and Somerset will remain an outlier in terms of both precept increase and overall funding.



<sup>1</sup> Liverpool, Cardiff, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham and Bristol

- The very small marginal impact on council tax payers, particularly at the lower band levels.

We have now had chance to review the proposed council tax increases of each of our local authorities across Avon and Somerset, as well as the precept determined by Avon Fire Authority. In all cases the maximum permissible precept is being sought, in common with the original proposal which I put forward. Whilst there is a difference in the level permissible to be raised without requiring a referendum, these levels are set by central government and are reflective of their view on the level of investment they wish to be available for the different services funded from council tax. Not supporting the maximum possible precept for policing at the same time as supporting the maximum for other services demonstrates an inconsistency which only serves to exacerbate the underfunded position of Avon and Somerset police.

I have carefully considered your letter of veto, and reviewed my original decision, and whilst valuing the democratic check and balance provided by the Panel, I remain convinced that my reasoning was sound. I was also aware that there were no independent members present when the vote was taken. Nevertheless, I recognise that it is incumbent upon me within the democratic process to acknowledge and have due regard for your concerns. I have therefore sought to mitigate my proposal whilst making the maximum effort to avoid excessive impact on critical programmes which remain key priorities both nationally and in our communities.

Whilst it is not viable to reduce the precept to £10 as you propose (4.4%, as opposed to the 5% you mention) without seriously compromising the constabulary's ability to meet the uplift programme, I have acknowledged your views on the £1m allocated for the incoming PCC's initiatives and allocated this money to offset the 2021/22 budget. This enables me to reduce the precept ask by the equivalent sum, giving an increase of £13.39 (5.88%) for Band D.

This approach maintains a balanced budget for 2021/22, whilst increasing the savings requirement across the remainder of the Medium Term Financial Plan. I fully recognise that this is effectively using reserves to subsidise one year, and does not address the increased funding gap created in subsequent years. In following your request, albeit in part, I recognise that I am somewhat constraining the flexibility of a future PCC through the removal of specific funding to underwrite their manifesto and priorities, as well as setting them the challenge of addressing increased deficits from 2022/23. You will be aware from the discussion on Thursday that the necessary savings plans (above the £7.3m already identified) may impact officer or staffing numbers going forwards and that protecting frontline delivery will come under increased pressure.

With regard to the precept consultation, it was unfortunate that the process was constrained due to the very late funding announcement which limited the time available for this to take place. Nevertheless, I was very pleased that we were still able to conduct our widest ever survey across telephone, online and, for the first time, postal means. Whilst these were stratified by local authority area and deprivation indices, we always strive for continuous improvement, and the input from Bristol council at the meeting was very helpful and we would welcome any other input in this important area.

Finally, I would ask you, on behalf of the precepting authorities, to respond to this revised proposal as expeditiously as possible, as I have tried to do here. We have been approached by a number of authority Section 151 officers who have expressed concern at the veto timetable and its impact upon them. I am aware that in some cases they would not be able to ratify their council tax, nor to send out council tax bills or direct debits in accordance with timetables. I am sure it would be greatly appreciated if you were able to accommodate your role with this in mind.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Mountstevens".

**SUE MOUNTSTEVENS**

Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Avon and Somerset



**APPENDIX 1 - 2021/22 - 2025/26 Medium Term Financial Plan - Revenue**

	Current Yr 2020/21 £'000	MTFP Period				
		2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
<b>Constabulary Budgets</b>						
Police officer costs	152,926	163,173	169,646	173,593	179,865	187,901
Police community support officer costs	12,251	12,410	12,794	13,193	13,524	13,864
Polices staff costs	88,984	93,049	95,510	99,224	101,671	104,433
Other current and former employee costs	9,840	10,312	10,653	10,853	11,053	11,253
Premises costs	13,966	13,942	14,334	15,647	14,209	15,523
Transport costs	5,150	5,058	5,135	5,213	5,322	5,434
Supplies and services costs	34,339	37,248	38,401	39,371	40,111	40,790
Partnership costs	13,912	14,839	15,102	15,424	15,822	16,230
<i>Plus</i>		-	-	-	-	-
Contribution to/(from) reserve	678	384	57	93	216	215
Capital financing costs	17,277	17,817	17,711	16,894	18,711	17,889
Outstanding savings target	214	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Less</i>						
Income (inc PFI Grants)	- 26,124	- 25,521	- 26,173	- 26,306	- 26,567	- 26,794
<b>Constabulary costs before specific grants</b>	<b>323,411</b>	<b>342,710</b>	<b>353,169</b>	<b>363,198</b>	<b>373,937</b>	<b>386,738</b>
<i>Less</i>						
Home Office - Pensions grant	- 2,828	- 2,828	- 2,828	- 2,828	- 2,828	- 2,828
Home Office - Uplift grant	- 3,843	- 2,287	- 2,287	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL constabulary costs</b>	<b>316,741</b>	<b>337,595</b>	<b>348,054</b>	<b>360,371</b>	<b>371,110</b>	<b>383,910</b>
<b>OPCC Budgets</b>						
PCC commissioning costs	3,488	3,529	3,529	3,529	3,529	3,529
Office of the PCC costs	1,552	1,755	1,949	2,002	2,057	2,112
<i>Less</i>						
Ministry of Justice - Victims commissioning grant	- 2,001	- 2,001	- 2,001	- 2,001	- 2,001	- 2,001
<b>TOTAL OPCC costs</b>	<b>3,039</b>	<b>3,284</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>3,531</b>	<b>3,585</b>	<b>3,641</b>
<b>Net Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>319,780</b>	<b>340,879</b>	<b>351,532</b>	<b>363,902</b>	<b>374,695</b>	<b>387,551</b>
<i>Funded by:</i>						
Home Office - Main police grant	- 174,768	- 185,784	- 194,361	- 200,590	- 204,601	- 208,693
Home Office - Legacy council tax grant	- 14,709	- 14,709	- 14,709	- 14,709	- 14,709	- 14,709
MHCLG - Council tax support grant	-	- 2,265	-	-	-	-
MHCLG - Council tax income guarantee grant	-	- 387	-	-	-	-
Council Tax - Precept	- 130,068	- 137,695	- 141,906	- 146,407	- 151,023	- 155,652
Council Tax - (Surplus)/Deficit	- 235	962	665	665	-	-
<b>TOTAL Revenue Funding</b>	<b>319,780</b>	<b>339,879</b>	<b>350,311</b>	<b>361,040</b>	<b>370,333</b>	<b>379,054</b>
<b>Surplus (-) / Deficit (+) before use of reserves</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>2,862</b>	<b>4,362</b>	<b>8,497</b>
Planned Use of Reserves		- 1,000	-	-	-	-
<b>Surplus (-) / Deficit (+) after use of reserves</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>2,862</b>	<b>4,362</b>	<b>8,497</b>

## Appendix B – Analysis of 2021/22 PCC Precept Proposals in England and Wales

	Council Tax Av. Band D			2021/22	Total Funding 2020/21 £/Pop	HMICFRS PEEL			
	2020/21	Increase				2020/21	Efficiency	Effective	Legitimacy
	£p	£p	%			£p			
Northumbria	137.00	6.84	5.0%	143.84	209.55	Requires Imp	Requires Imp	Good	
West Midlands	162.55	15.00	9.2%	177.55	211.61	Good	Good	Good	
Essex Police	198.63	9.90	5.0%	208.53	173.26	Good	Good	Good	
West Yorkshire	196.28	15.00	7.6%	211.28	207.72	Outstanding	Good	Good	
Hertfordshire Police	198.00	15.00	7.6%	213.00	185.90	Good	Good	Good	
South Yorkshire	198.04	15.00	7.6%	213.04	200.01	Good	Good	Good	
Sussex Police	199.91	15.00	7.5%	214.91	180.84	Requires Imp	Good	Good	
Kent Police	203.15	15.00	7.4%	218.15	181.79	Outstanding	Good	Outstanding	
Greater Manchester Police	208.30	10.00	4.8%	218.30	226.54	Requires Imp	Requires Imp	Good	
Merseyside	211.97	10.00	4.7%	221.97	251.29	Good	Good	Good	
Cheshire Police	210.44	15.00	7.1%	225.44	194.87	Good	Good	Good	
Lancashire Police	211.45	15.00	7.1%	226.45	204.46	Outstanding	Good	Good	
Hampshire Police	211.46	15.00	7.1%	226.46	183.80	Good	Good	Good	
Bedfordshire Police	212.09	15.00	7.1%	227.09	181.29	Good	Good	Good	
Durham Police	215.24	15.00	7.0%	230.24	209.07	Outstanding	Outstanding	Good	
Wiltshire Police	216.27	15.00	6.9%	231.27	176.70	Good	Good	Good	
Thames Valley Police	216.28	15.00	6.9%	231.28	243.24	Good	Good	Good	
Devon & Cornwall Police	221.64	14.92	6.7%	236.56	190.74	Good	Good	Good	
Suffolk Police	222.75	15.00	6.7%	237.75	177.23	Good	Good	Good	
Staffordshire Police	225.09	13.48	6.0%	238.57	185.65	Good	Good	Good	
West Mercia Police	225.20	15.00	6.7%	240.20	182.99	Requires Imp	Requires Imp	Requires Imp	
<b>Avon &amp; Somerset Police</b>	<b>227.81</b>	<b>13.39</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>241.20</b>	<b>189.77</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	
Derbyshire Police	226.60	15.00	6.6%	241.60	182.75	Requires Imp	Requires Imp	Good	
Humberside Police	228.22	15.00	6.6%	243.22	215.00	Good	Good	Good	
Nottinghamshire Police	229.32	14.94	6.5%	244.26	193.47	Requires Imp	Good	Good	
Cambridgeshire Police	232.65	15.00	6.4%	247.65	182.31	Good	Good	Good	
Leicestershire Police	233.23	15.00	6.4%	248.23	185.19	Good	Good	Good	
Warwickshire Police	237.97	15.00	6.3%	252.97	189.88	Requires Imp	Good	Good	
Dorset Police	240.58	15.00	6.2%	255.58	186.31	Good	Good	Good	
Cleveland Police	260.54	5.00	1.9%	265.54	251.81	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	
Lincolnshire Police	251.37	14.94	5.9%	266.31	172.78	Requires Imp	Good	Good	
Northamptonshire Police	255.04	13.00	5.1%	268.04	193.95	Inadequate	Requires Imp	Requires Imp	
Gloucestershire Police	257.25	12.83	5.0%	270.08	199.11	Good	Good	Good	
North Yorkshire Police	265.77	5.29	2.0%	271.06	200.42	Good	Good	Requires Imp	
Cumbria Police	265.59	6.60	2.5%	272.19	235.31	Good	Good	Good	
Gwent Police	273.39	TBC	TBC	273.39	239.22	Good	Good	Requires Imp	
Dyfed Powys Police	260.56	15.00	5.8%	275.56	222.05	Good	Requires Imp	Requires Imp	
Norfolk Police	263.07	14.94	5.7%	278.01	194.99	Outstanding	Good	Good	
Surrey Police	270.57	15.00	5.5%	285.57	208.35	Requires Imp	Good	Good	
South Wales Police	272.72	15.00	5.5%	287.72	235.58	Good	Good	Good	
North Wales Police	290.61	14.94	5.1%	305.55	238.75	Good	Good	Good	