

North Somerset Council

23 February 2021

Report on the Police and Crime Panel Meeting of 4 February 2021

Councillor Roz Willis

This meeting only covered the budget details, with background of some spend from the Chief Constable.

The PCP has the power to VETO the PCC budget for its precept. This has not been used to date, but at this meeting the Panel decided that 6.5% (£15) was an amount too high in these times of pandemic and hardship for all our residents. The PCC has run a consultation of which 3,600 responded, out of which 66% said they would agree to the highest rate. The Panel was very aware and fully understood the reasoning behind the PCC taking advantage of Central Government's offer of a higher rate without referendum, but as the majority of the Panel at the meeting were elected members we were all of the opinion that this is not the year to raise to this amount. Many of us have received many calls of hardship from residents and felt we could not vote on this occasion for this highest amount. The Panel has only ONE Veto so the PCC can come back with a new figure and that will be put into place. By the time of reading this report at Council the resulting figure will be public.

Other information on Covid breaches. 953k calls were received into Avon and Somerset call centre in 2020 and ALL were responded to. In this 3rd lockdown, as at the date of the meeting, fixed penalty notices were issued in the ratio of 1 in 4, as follows:

Somerset 765 (note whole area - I cannot give NS breakdown)
Bristol 629
BANES and S.Glos 466

Finally the Chief Constable finished with details of a further £10.5m still to be found in savings over the next 2 years.

Cllr Roz Willis