

From Ann Barnes
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

To: All Kent and Medway Police and
Crime Panel Members

First Floor
Gail House
Lower Stone Street
Maidstone
Kent ME15 6NB

Date: Thursday 31st January 2013

Dear Members of the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel,

Policing Precept for 2013/14

As you will be aware, I have a statutory duty to inform you of my proposed policing precept by 1st February each year. This letter formally discharges that duty.

You have already received my draft Police and Crime Plan, which links my priorities with all available resources. Within this document, I indicated my proposed precept for 2013/14 subject to the outcomes of public and stakeholder consultation. This consultation exercise concluded on 29th January and I can now formally confirm that my proposed precept for 2013/14 is £141.47 for a Band D property, an increase of 2% or less than a penny per day on 2012/13.

Following careful consideration of the consultation responses I have received, I remain very satisfied that a precept increase of 2% represents value for money. I believe it strikes the right balance between the interests of tax payers on the one hand, and delivering sustainable investment in local, visible and accessible policing on the other. The small increase in the policing precept will allow me to fund an additional 20 Police Officers and 60 PCSOs to provide a greater uniformed police presence in our communities.

I have received comments from both stakeholders and members of the public welcoming this move, and recognising that increasing the precept is a reasoned approach to achieving greater visibility. During my election campaign, the people and businesses of Kent told me that their biggest concern was having access to a local, visible, police presence and I have listened.

The resultant precept of £141.47 still remains significantly below the national average of £166. Indeed, as our precept is one of the lowest nationally I could have raised it by as much as 3.6%. However, I felt that would have struck the wrong balance. Further, relying on one-off resources would not have allowed me to deliver the sustainable investment in local policing that I have promised.

The consultation exercise has also raised a number of pertinent points in relation to my Police and Crime Plan and I will incorporate these within the Plan where appropriate. These minor changes will not affect the thrust or tone of my Plan, but I will ensure that a final

version of the document is shared with the officers supporting your Panel before it is formally published.

I look forward to discussing both my Police and Crime Plan and proposed precept with you in more detail at the Panel meeting on Tuesday 5th February.

*Best wishes,
Ann*

Ann Barnes
Kent Police & Crime Commissioner