



Debbie Simpson QPM
Chief Constable

DORSET POLICE
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Martyn Underhill
Police & Crime Commissioner

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Date 13 January 2017

The Police Resources Unit
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 4DF

Dear Sir/Madam

Provisional Police Grant Report: 2017 – 2018

We have reviewed the Provisional Police Grant report: 2017 to 2018 and are disappointed in the settlement provided to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset. The settlement represents a cash reduction in funding and will directly impact the delivery of policing services across the county. Expecting the PCC to increase the precept by the maximum available simply to maintain funding at flat cash levels compared to 2015/16 reduces the local control he has whilst still resulting in a real terms reduction in resources once inflationary factors are accounted for.

Dorset Police continue to deliver an effective and efficient service and to develop methods to tackle new threats to the public such as cybercrime and modern slavery. A significant part of our approach is working in a Strategic Alliance with Devon and Cornwall Police to maximise opportunities for improved service delivery and increased efficiencies but the settlement presents continuing challenges for us to deliver policing to the county through a balanced budget.

Part of the calculations presented to deliver a flat cash settlement are an assumed increase in the tax base. Whilst this will increase the funding available from the precept it is as a direct result of the increase in number of properties in the county and therefore an increase in the demand placed on the police service.

The decision to increase the amount of the government grant that is reallocated to specific areas further erodes local accountability. The top slicing to Police Transformation Fund also leads to forces investing resources in a competitive bidding process for short term projects rather than having the local control to direct to the PCC's priorities.

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Whilst appreciating the work on the new formula, the absence of any indication of funding beyond 12 months is disappointing. The ability to formulate a realistic medium term financial plan is significantly compromised and places the police at a disadvantage and out of step with the rest of local government who received a four year deal.

We are looking forward to the outcome of the work to produce a new funding formula for the core grant as Dorset Police have been disenfranchised under the current formula. A number of factors in the current calculations work unfairly to our disadvantage and the continued fixed proportion decreases have further exasperated this distortion. We hope that a new funding formula will address these issues and alleviate, in future years, some of the financial burden arising from the current settlement.

Yours faithfully



Debbie Simpson
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