



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER
for Leicestershire**

Your voice in Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

Councillor J Orson
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8RA

Monday 10th February 2014

Re: Panel report on proposed precept 2014/15

Thankyou for the report of the 6th February 2014. Following this report and further to the communication between David Morgan and Helen King on the 7th February 2014, I note the report and wish to include further observations as follows:

As the Panel was advised, my decision to increase the precept by 1.5% for 2014/15 was informed by the impact of the unpredicted, unplanned and unprecedented level of top slicing applied to the Police Grant for 2014/15 and future years, which was in addition to the reductions already anticipated. I can assure the Panel that increasing council tax was not a decision taken lightly, and one where I had seriously considered all options, including freezing council tax. However, the potential risks to safeguarding neighbourhoods and communities from these uncertainties were too significant and it is important to highlight that these concerns (shared with the Panel) are reflected nationally, where approximately 85% of PCCs have elected to increase Council Tax, informed by these same uncertainties.

Whilst I note the Panel's concerns in setting a Council Tax level in the absence of the national referendum limit, that also was in line with other Police and Crime Commissioners; I also ensured Home Office guidance was considered in respect of the wording to be used in the report in reference to the limit, and also whether options could be included based on different referendum limit scenarios. Unfortunately, the Home Office view was that options could not be considered. However, I note the Panel's comments with regard to this recommendation and I will review whether this could be provided as contextual information for future reports, should the situation arise (although I do recognise that 2014/15 has been unprecedented in seeking to set a Council Tax prior to the confirmation of the referendum limit).

Yours sincerely

Sir Clive Loader
Police and Crime Commissioner

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire

Police Headquarters, St John's, Enderby, Leicester LE19 2BX | Telephone 0116 229 8980
Email police.commissioner@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk | Web www.leics.pcc.police.uk