

Cllr Sue Catchpole's Outside Bodies report from Norfolk Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 6th February 2024

The main thrust of the meeting was to consider the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed precept for 2024-25.

There was a strong message that funding from national government for Norfolk has increased by only £9.3m this year, set against the inflationary pay and non-pay pressures to Norfolk Police in the region of £15m.

In addition to pay, demand pressures on the constabulary come from a number of sources including from a rapidly growing population; increasing calls for emergency response; increasing volumes of changes to regulation that lengthen previously routine tasks and add additional cost; changing crime trends with reductions in acquisitive crimes; increases in more complex domestic, fraud and sexual offences.

With some reluctance, the panel agreed with the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to raise the policing part of local council tax by 4.28% (£12.96 per annum for Band D) to broadly maintain its service levels to the communities of Norfolk.

A statement from the Police and Crime Commissioner provided reassurance that Norfolk Police are cooperating with the Independent Office for Police Complaint regarding the incident in Costessey on 19th January in which four people died including two children. Questions raised later in the meeting established that the Right Care: Right Person initiative had not yet commenced in Norfolk. It had been due to go live on February 6th but, in the circumstances, there will be a pause before instigating. The Chief Constable explained that they are working with the other agencies involved to ensure that there will not be a gap in service when responding to calls from those in mental health crisis. If the incident involves threat to life, or there are children at the scene, Norfolk Police will continue to respond in person.

The NP&C panel meetings are streamed by Norfolk County Council and this meeting is available to watch on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYO79bLDSFk>).

Cllr Sue Catchpole

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