

TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE (03 May 2018)
FINANCE COMMITTEE (08 MAY 2018)

FROM: POLICE COMMITTEE (12 April 2018)

A Member explained that they were surprised that the item relating to the Premium Rate increase had been withdrawn from the agenda and noted that it had not been made fully clear at the recent Ratepayers' Meeting that a rise would be considered. The Member suggested that a note be sent to the Policy and Resources Committee that highlights both the financial deficits identified by the Deloitte Demand and Value for Money Review and also the national appetite for support of frontline services, as illustrated by a lack of resistance to increased spending elsewhere in the country. He emphasised the importance of recognising that the national mood is receptive to the increased cost of Policing. The Member explained that, regardless of any identified efficiencies achieved, we can be confident that the net Policing costs are set to increase year-on-year for at least the next 3 years. Given this outlook, it would be advisable for the Corporation to take a view on this sooner rather than later, allowing sufficient notice for Business Ratepayers.

A second Member noted that the Police Committee has regularly highlighted the issue, and that the response was that it was not the Police Committee's responsibility to dictate policy on the Business Ratepayers' decision, but rather a question of Corporate Policy. He suggested that whilst the Police Committee accept this position, it retains the responsibility to highlight the issue for the attention of the Policy and Resources Committee to make an informed decision.

The Chairman agreed with Members statements and noted that historically the Corporation have always been supportive with the funding to supply Policing sufficiently.

A third Member noted that, whilst the Corporation's finances are determined on an annual basis, it might be preferable for the Corporation to set out a medium-term funding strategy for policing.

The Committee agreed to send a note to the Policy and Resources & Finance Committees that recognises and highlights the following:

- i. The consideration of Business Rates is one of Corporate policy.
- ii. That, regardless of any efficiencies achieved, net police costs are set to increase year-on-year for at least the next three years.
- iii. The national mood is receptive to increased Police spending and this is illustrated by little resistance to increases elsewhere in the country.