



DECISION PAPER

DECISION: 2018/44	DATE: 12 TH DECEMBER 2018
TITLE: PRECEPT CONSULTATION 2019	
REPORT BY: B.BISCOMB, PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING LEAD	

Executive Summary

This decision seeks the approval of the Police and Crime Commissioner to accept a quote for the provision of precept consultation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner awards the contract for the provision of precept consultation to the organisation named in the report.

Signature

Clive Cranshaw

Police and Crime Commissioner

Date

17th December 2018

PART II

1. Background and Advice

Funding from the police primarily comes through a grant allocated by central government, and a proportion of local council tax (known as the precept). Each year, the Government announces the next yearly settlement for police funding which explains any changes to the central grant, and any powers Police and Crime Commissioners have to raise council tax.

Under the settlement launched by Policing Minister Nick Hurd MP on 19 December 2017, no new money for local forces was provided through the Home Office Policing Grant. Instead, any new funding had to come through Police and Crime Commissioners deciding to raise the local council tax precept. Under the settlement, Police and Crime Commissioners were afforded the opportunity to raise the precept by a maximum of £12 per year (or 23p per week) for a Band D property. This settlement also lifted the referendum threshold from a two per cent rise, to this £12 per year limit.

Since 2010, owing to repeated Government settlements increasing pressure on policing budgets, Lancashire Constabulary has had to make savings of over £84m with a further estimated £18m still to find by 2022. This means even with the additional funds through maximising the rise in the precept, Lancashire Constabulary still has to find ways to save money. Combined with rising demands on the service, increasing costs through inflation, and growing online threats, the Commissioner must ensure the police has sufficient resources to keep the county safe.

Earlier this year, between 4 January 2018 and 18 January 2018, Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office commissioned an independent research company to undertake a consultation with residents from across the Lancashire area to gauge public opinion towards the precept and to understand how much the people of Lancashire were prepared to contribute towards policing. The consultation was also used to measure residents' awareness of the PCC and have their say on policing priorities in Lancashire.

At a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel (a body comprised of Councillors from across Lancashire which holds the PCC to account) the decision to raise council tax was approved.

Specification

Following the police funding settlement announcement which is expected to take place in mid-December 2018, the PCC will consult with the public again about changes to the council tax precept.

Residents need to have their say on the proposals by completing an online survey, and a telephone survey sampling residents from every part of Lancashire. Paper copies also need to be available on request.

It is expected that in excess of 3,000 residents will complete the online consultation, with an additional circa 1,400+ contacted over the phone.

The consultation will also be used to measure residents' awareness of the PCC, have their say on policing priorities in Lancashire and to understand how they prefer to contact the police.

Costs must be based on undertaking a telephone survey with a representative sample of Lancashire and include project management. Specifically; fieldwork, processing and analysis (including processing and analysis of all hard copies and online responses) and report writing.

The Invitation to Quote process. (ITQ)

Following the distribution of the ITQ only 1 bid was received.

The submission was scored against the award methodology as specified in the ITQ.

The score was as follows:

CRITERIA	% WEIGHTING	SMSR
Pricing	60	60
Methodology	10	8
Resources	10	8
Previous experience	5	5
References	5	5
Social Value	5	3
Innovation	5	4
	100%	93%

Recommendation

To accept the quote submitted by SMSR at a total cost of £12,300.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

The level of precept will ultimately have a direct impact on the policing service which the Chief Constable is allowed to deliver across Lancashire.

3. Consultations

None

4. Implications:

- a. **Legal**-The PCC's standard terms and conditions will apply.
- b. **Financial**-The PCC's Contract Standing Orders have been adhered to throughout the process.
- c. **Equality Impact Assessment**-A full impact assessment is not required as the letting of the contract will not adversely affect any member of the protected characteristic community as defined in the Equality Act 2011.

d. **Data Protection Impact Assessment**-The PCC's standard terms and conditions will apply.

- 5 **Risk Management**-Breach of contract is covered within the PCC's standard terms and conditions.
6. **Background Papers**-All background papers are held on file within the PCC's Office.
7. **Public access to information**-Information in this form is subject to the Freedom Of Information Act 2000 and other legislation.

Chief Executive Officer (Monitoring Officer)

I have been informed about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.

Signature..........Date.....12.12.2018.....