

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report of	Chief Constable
Subject	Police and Crime Panel Request for Reports
Date	09/02/2026
Author	Chief Constable

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides a response to the request for Leicestershire Police to provide the Police and Crime Panel members access to the relevant documentation relating to the Police and Crime Commissioner's public statement, made in the Police and Crime Panel on 4th February 2026, which contains reference to correspondence and reports completed by Leicestershire Police.

2. Background

- 2.1 As outlined by the Police and Crime Commissioner in the statement to the Panel several meetings were held, and reports completed as part of the budget build and budget allocation process.
- 2.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner's statement raised several specific points and there are key documents that cover the areas referenced. It is important to highlight that some of the broader material could be operationally sensitive in regard deployment of resources and some data is more effectively accessed through the systems we hold due to the nature of the presentation, such as financial spreadsheets. It will also be recognised that there is a sensitivity required when any organisation is facing significant budget deficits due to the impact on the committed and hard-working individuals serving the public, especially when 81% of the police budget is invested in people.
- 2.3 The Chief Constable is also mindful of public trust and confidence, as they expect the public really want us focused on our core mission as an emergency service, protecting their communities through maintaining order and preventing and detecting crime. Therefore, whilst wider access will be supported and can be facilitated as required to address the Panel's needs, the actual the reports shared are directly linked to the statement provided at the panel.

2.4 The reports shared demonstrate the professional, transparent and detailed approach taken by Leicestershire Police to ensure the Police and Crime Commissioner was/is well informed on all matters relating to the 2026/27 budget requirement for the Force, and illustrates the collaborative aims of the Force and clear focus on public service and safety.

2.5 The Key dates are as follows.

- Thursday 20th November 2025 Financial Scrutiny and Oversight Board (FSOB). Part of the budget build process, including full access provided to all financial data held by the force and detailed operational deployment information.
- Tuesday 16th December 2025 Financial Scrutiny and Oversight Board (FSOB). The continued process of the budget build with reports submitted on the force plans, capital investment and response to the 60+ questions posed by Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Thursday 18th December 2025 National Settlement received, including confirmation that the maximum precept increase level has been increased to £15. This is the first time that the actual budget settlement was known. At this stage the jointly agreed precept increase planning assumption remains at £14, combined with the force's strategic plans to close the anticipated budget deficit the budget is balanced.
- Monday 22nd December 2025 – FSOB only attended by PCC, Deputy PCC and OPCC S151 Officer. This resulted in PCC emailing the Chief Constable on the same day confirming his budget allocation decision to the force which created an additional, unexpected, and unforeseen £4.8 million deficit on top of the originally identified £4 million deficit prior to 22nd December. This included the creation of a new £3.7 million OPCC prevention reserve.
- Friday 9th January 2026 – 55-page report presented by the Chief Constable to address the concerns and implications of the PCC's approach regarding his allocated budget decision, and to propose alternative solutions to that decision.
- Friday 16th January 2026 – Additional report shared in response to the PCC's question around policing services, called 'taxpayers and service benefits report'. Further new written response provided to revised budget allocation that still identified a £16.4 million deficit through the medium term financial plan by 2029/30, had positively removed the £4.8 million additional deficit created, but £11 precept increase remained- creating an in-year £1.2 million deficit still to be closed. The creation of a new £3.7 million OPCC prevention reserve fund remained, to funded through the Budget Equalisation Reserve and 2025/26 Force revenue budget underspend, again with no supporting rationale.

- Tuesday 20th January Final budget allocation provided to the force confirming an £11 precept increase and £1.2m funding shortfall in 2026/27 rising to £16.4m by 2029/30.
- Wednesday 4th February 2026 Police and Crime Panel. Chief Constable Operational Context Report shared.

3. **Key reports**

3.1 The following reports are shared with the Police and Crime Panel.

- FSOB Chief Constable Response January 2026 - attached

The 55-page report of 9th January 2026 referenced by the PCC in response to the budget allocation provided to the Chief Constable on the 22nd December. (It should be noted that this report is at a point in time and resulted in some positive change in regard the initial budget allocation decision made on the 22nd of December by the PCC. A new budget allocation was provided which continued to be developed with further reports provided by the force, before the final budget allocation was submitted to the Police and Crime Panel).

- The Taxpayer Services and Benefits Report - attached

3.2 In recognising the fact, the reports are detailed and to support the Panel regarding the specific elements raised in the PCC's statement, the following areas are specifically referenced. All the references are from the 55-page report titled Financial Scrutiny Oversight Board Chief Constable response January 2026 unless stated.

- Email 5th November: reference 4.12 page 8 and 9.5 page 18
Covers approach taken by Chief Constable in support of PCC statement.
- 11% OPCC reduction: reference 18.1 page 39
Clarifies the actual position.
- Expansion of force - reference 19 page 40
Clarifies the actual position, including neighbourhood uplift funding.
- NPCC- reference 27 page 48
Provides clarity of the benefits of the NPCC to keeping our communities safe
- Canteen – reference 10.31 page 27
Acknowledges financial position.

- Police Race Action Plan –DEI reference 28 page 51 / IAG reference 29 page 53
Clarifies main Independent Advisory Groups and the broader Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) considerations.
- Operational Independence and top slicing of force for crime prevention funds reference 6.5 page 12, reference 6.9 page 13, reference 26 to 26.5 pages 47 / 48.
- Force expenditure – see full 55 page report, (further material NOT currently shared as contains potential operational sensitive material on deployments and numbers but would privately brief panel), see report titled summary of services and benefits to tax payers from Leicestershire Police report.
- OPCC reference cuts – reference 4.30 page 10
See Police and Crime Panel 4th February Chief Constable Operational report.
- Public Consultation –reference 8.2 page 18
See Police and Crime Panel 4th February Chief Constable Operational report.
- Reference to following statute-reference 1.2 page 1 / reference 4 page 6-11
An alternative position is outlined.

4. **Conclusion**

- 4.1 As you would have heard in the Police and Crime Commissioner's statement and in the documents submitted to the Panel, Leicestershire Police have worked hard to meet the requirements that were set during the budget build process, have provided full and transparent access to all relevant financial information, and responded in a timely manner to support the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.2 The process has involved significant investment and I hope that the documentation shared demonstrates to the Police and Crime Panel members the professional and informed approach undertaken by Leicestershire Police. The Chief Constable will continue to endeavour to support the requirements of the Panel as required.

Implications

Financial: Significant

Legal: Significant

Equality Impact Assessment: Potentially significant dependent on outcome of budget decisions

Risks and Impact: Significant to public safety and service, delivery of Police and Crime Plan, HMIC inspections

Community Safety Impact: Potentially significant dependent on outcome of budget decisions.

Link to Police and Crime Plan: The budget has a direct correlation with the police and crime plan delivery

Person to Contact

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