

COUNCIL 21st OCTOBER 2015

ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS – MOTION ON MOTICE – POLICE FUNDING FORMULA

To be proposed by Councillor Brendan Hughes. Seconded by Councillor Darren Clifford:

“This Council requests that the Leader/ Chief Executive of Lancaster City Council write to the Home Secretary in response to the police Funding Formula consultation to express concern at the proposed 13% reduction in police funding for Lancashire Constabulary.

Further, all group leaders are requested to lobby MPs and government ministers during this of consultation period to ensure that the impact these funding proposals in fully understood as to their impact in Lancashire.

13% equates to a reduction of a further £24.8million on top of the £74m already identified of which £63m has already been taken out. Lancashire has been recognised as an outstanding police force by government inspectors and praised for their efficiency, yet, in spite of this they face seeing the biggest reduction in their budget of any force in the country - outside of London.

In addition the Comprehensive spending Review (CSR) next month is expected to have an additional impact of circa 25% to 40% on government funding.

Taking the funding formula reductions along with the worst case scenario CSR reduction, this will mean that since 2009/10 through to 2020/21 Lancashire Constabulary will have had its grant cut by up £161m per annum - approximately halving their police budget.

Implementation of the Funding Formula proposals along with the forthcoming CSR will have a devastating effect on policing in Lancashire and may risk the viability of the service and put the people of Lancashire at risk. This is not acceptable and needs to be reversed.”

OFFICER BRIEFING NOTE

This motion falls within Council Procedure Rule 15.4 as, policing is a matter which affects the district.

The motion refers to a consultation. During the summer, the government carried out a consultation on the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review. This consultation closed on the 4th September 2015.

Further, also during the summer, the Home Office undertook a public consultation on reform of police funding arrangements in England and Wales. This consultation closed on the 15th September 2015. Responses to the consultation were considered, and the Minister of State for Policing then wrote to all Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables setting out refinements to the proposed model for funding in the light of the responses received, and giving them the opportunity to comment further by the 30th October 2015.

The financial information set out in the motion relates to the Lancashire Constabulary. Officers are unable to confirm or comment on the figures set out in the motion.

However, to the extent that the motion simply provides for the Council to express its views, there are no risks or financial or legal implications for the Council should the motion be carried.

Monitoring Officer Comments

The briefing note has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer.

Section 151 Officer Comments

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.