



**VERA BAIRD**<sup>QC</sup>  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Chair of Northumbria Police and Crime Panel  
Civic Centre  
Regent Street  
Gateshead  
NE8 1HH

14 February 2013

Dear Councillor Mole

**Proposed Precept for 2013/14**

Thank you for your letter of 7 February 2013 on behalf of the Police and Crime Panel for Northumbria following the meeting of the Panel on 6 February.

I welcome the Panel's agreement to the proposed 3.5% increase in the precept, and I can confirm that in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, I intend to formally request the local authorities in the Northumbria area to issue, in respect of the year beginning 1 April 2013 as part of the Council Tax for their area, a charge equivalent to £86.61 for Band D properties.

Regarding the Panel's recommendation in relation to the engagement process, it was always my intention that with the benefit of the longer lead in times next year, I would review the process for preparation of the budget and precept for 2014/15 to allow for earlier engagement with the Panel members and the Leader and Elected Mayor of its constituent councils.

Please convey my thanks to the members of the panel for their contribution to this process.

Yours Sincerely

Vera Baird QC  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria