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Durham PCC Ron Hogg decides against deputy role

Durham's police and crime commissioner will not be appointing a deputy as part of plans to cut costs.

It came as Ron Hogg announced a proposed 2% increase in the policing element of council tax bills.

The Labour PCC said he had had to make difficult decisions to balance the budget after police funding cuts had led to savings of about £18.5m.

His plans include maintaining neighbourhood policing and police community support officer numbers.

Mr Hogg held a consultation ahead of making his budget announcement

Priorities from that were tackling anti-social behaviour, tackling problems caused by alcohol and drugs, improving road safety and making policing accessible and visible.

He also consulted on precept increases with 62% of those who replied backing a 2% increase and 32% a 3% rise.

Mr Hogg said cuts of about £100,000 in his office budget along with other savings would mean about £200,000 would be given to community safety partnership work.

He said: "I am very determined to ensure savings can be made to balance the budget going forward, whilst ensuring value for money can be achieved.

"I have made it clear that whilst PCCs in larger force areas may feel they need a deputy to assist them, I will not be having a deputy which is a significant cost saving."

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