

Cleveland Police Commissioner Barry Coppinger will not be appointing a deputy

by Sandy McKenzie, Evening Gazette | [Feb 13 2013](#)



Cleveland's Police Commissioner Barry Coppinger

CLEVELAND'S Police Commissioner Barry Coppinger has made it clear he will not be appointing a deputy.

The commissioner has also revealed that the cost of running his office is £270,000 less than the amount spent on the former Cleveland Police Authority set-up.

It has been reported that around 16 of the country's new police commissioners could appoint deputies.

But Mr Coppinger has made it clear he has no intention of making such an appointment.

Mr Coppinger, who was elected in November to the £70,000-a-year post, told a meeting of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel that the costs for running his office were £930,000 a year - 22% less than for running the Cleveland Police Authority.

He said the office costs were well below 1% of the overall police budget for Cleveland - £134m.

Mr Coppinger told the Gazette: "Since coming into office I have consistently made clear that I intend to fulfil all the responsibilities required as commissioner and I do not believe there is any need for me to appoint a deputy.

"I have inherited the staff who previously worked for the police authority and intend to

continue maintaining the same level of staff, while obviously considering how best I can utilise the resources available to me for the long-term development of my office."

Mr Coppinger said significant savings in the operation of his office had been achieved compared to the previous police authority.

"The total reduction in spending amounts to £270,000 and includes savings made through the ending of allowances and expenses paid previously to authority members, reduced use, and in some cases reduced costs, of external services - and savings generated by making the Police and Crime Plan available electronically rather than producing a large number of printed copies."

Mr Coppinger's budget plans next year also include for a 1.99% rise in council tax levels.

Figures he presented to the Police and Crime Panel showed that accepting the Government offer of a 1% grant to freeze council tax levels would provide £333,000 in each of the next two years.

But when the grant was withdrawn in 2015-16 the police budget would be faced with a £549,000 shortfall.

Mr Coppinger pointed out that sum was the equivalent of 11 full-time police officers or 18 PCSOs.

He said that in 2015-16 savings of £4.9m would also have to be found. Freezing council tax levels and accepting the grant for two years would add to the budget problems in future years.

The amount raised from Teesside council taxpayers towards spending on police in the coming year will be £26.8m.

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