



Report of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Precept Proposal 2021/22

Friday 5th February 2021

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This document constitutes the report and recommendations of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (hereafter referred to as 'the Panel') in respect of the Commissioner's proposed precept for 2021/22.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of Paragraph 3, Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 1.3 The Panel endorses the Commissioner's proposal to increase the Police precept by 7.64% which equates to an increase of £15 in council tax for a Band D property.

2. West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

2.1 Those Panel Members present to consider the proposed precept were as follows:

- Cllr Mohammed Iqbal (Chair)
- Cllr Masood Ahmed
- Cllr Barry Anderson (substitute for Cllr Amanda Carter)
- Cllr Russell Brown
- Cllr Cahal Burke
- Cllr Richard Dunbar
- Mr Roger Grasby
- Cllr Peter Gruen
- Cllr Stuart Heptinstall
- Cllr Tariq Hussain
- Cllr Susan Press (substitute for Cllr Mohammed Naeem)
- Mrs Jo Sykes
- Cllr Mark Thompson
- Cllr Sophie Whittaker
- Cllr Jacqui Williams

3. Powers of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

3.1 The Panel have the functions conferred by Schedule 5 Part 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Issuing Precepts.) This enables them to:

- (i) Review the proposed precept notified by the Commissioner
 - (ii) Make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed precept
 - (iii) Include recommendations within the report as to the precept that should be issued for the financial year
- 3.2 The Panel may, having reviewed the proposed precept, veto the proposed precept:
- (i) If the Panel vetoes the proposed precept, the report must include a statement that the Panel has vetoed it
- 3.3 If the Panel does not veto the precept:
- (i) The Police and Crime Commissioner must have regard to the Panel's report and recommendations and publish a response to it.
 - (ii) It is for the Panel to decide in what way the Commissioner's response is published.
- 3.4 If the Panel does veto the precept:
- (i) The Police and Crime Commissioner must not issue the proposed precept
 - (ii) The Police and Crime Commissioner must issue a revised precept-
 - Lower than the originally proposed precept if the Panel indicated it was too high
 - Or:
 - Higher than the originally proposed precept if the Panel indicated it was too low
 - (iii) The Panel must then review the revised precept and submit a second report to the Commissioner including recommendations as to the precept that should be issued.
- 3.5 The Police and Crime Commissioner will then:
- (i) Have regard to the second report and publish his response to it.

4. Panel's Consideration of the Precept Proposal

- 4.1 The Panel received notification from the Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner of the proposed precept on 28th January 2021.
- 4.2 The Panel considered the precept proposal at their meeting on 8th February 2021 via video-conference. The Police and Crime Commissioner attended to present his proposal and take questions from the Panel. The meeting was live-streamed to the public.
- 4.3 The Panel asked the Commissioner a series of questions which related to his precept proposal, the budget assumptions which underpinned it and his future financial plans.
- 4.4 The questions covered issues including:

- The impact of an increase on the public in the current climate
- Evidence that an alternative lower increase had been considered and what that would like look like in comparison to the proposed option in terms of services and investment
- The use of reserves and the viability of the current reserves position
- The validity of a limited public budget consultation
- The importance of neighbourhood policing and the impact of a reduction of partner funded PCSO posts
- The uncertain future financial landscape

5. Panel's Decision

5.1 The Panel, through its discussion with the Commissioner on 8th February 2021, agreed to endorse the PCC's proposed precept of an increase of 7.64% which equates to £15 on the council tax for a Band D property.

5.2 The Panel voted on the proposed precept and the votes were recorded as follows:

Cllr Mohammed Iqbal (Chair)	support
Cllr Masood Ahmed	support
Cllr Barry Anderson	veto
Cllr Russell Brown	veto
Cllr Cahal Burke	veto
Cllr Richard Dunbar	support
Mr Roger Grasby	veto
Cllr Peter Gruen	support
Cllr Stuart Heptinstall	support
Cllr Tariq Hussain	support
Cllr Susan Press	support
Mrs Jo Sykes	veto
Cllr Mark Thompson	veto
Cllr Sophie Whittaker	Veto
Cllr Jacqui Williams	support

6. Conclusions and Recommendation

6.1 On the basis of the commitments made by the Commissioner, as specified in section 5 of this report, the Panel agreed to support the Commissioner's increase of 7.64% which equates to £15 on the council tax for a Band D property for 2021/22.

6.2 The Panel confirmed this approval was based on the PCC's commitment to:

- Continue to prioritise increased investment into neighbourhood policing building back the non-partner funded PCSO numbers to establishment of 566.

- That all new recruitment seeks to increase the number of people from BAME and other under-represented groups to ensure that the Force is representative of the communities in West Yorkshire.
- That the PCC provides ongoing assurance about the resilience of the reserves position going forward and that where possible additional savings are considered towards building up future reserves.
- That there is a commitment to early discussion with the Panel about any public budget consultation to ensure that the outcomes are clear and robust.

6.3 RESOLVED:

- 6.3.1 That the Police and Crime Commissioner increase council tax precept by 7.64 % for 2021/22.**