



Report of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Determining the PCC Component of Council Tax 2024/25

Mayor's Precept Proposal

Friday 2nd February 2024

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 PCC Component of Council Tax (hereafter referred to as the Mayor's 'precept') for 2024/25.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Mayor for West Yorkshire in accordance with the requirements of Paragraph 3, Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, as modified by Part 1, Schedule 5 the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021.
- 1.3 The Panel endorses the Mayor's proposal to increase the precept by 5.5% which equates to an increase of £13 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 Eileen Taylor (Chair)
- Cllr Usman Ali
- Cllr Barry Anderson (substitute for Cllr Neil Buckley)
- Cllr Jackie Ferguson
- Cllr Chris Hayden
- Cllr Ann Kingstone
- Mr Trevor Lake
- Cllr Susan Lee-Richards
- Cllr Gwen Lowe
- Cllr Nicole Sharpe
- Cllr Anthony Smith
- Cllr Paul Sullivan
- Mrs Jo Sykes
- Cllr Robert Thornber

3. Powers of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

3.1 The Panel have the functions conferred by Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Issuing Precepts) as modified by Part 1, Schedule 5 of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021. This enables them to:

- (i) Review the proposed precept notified by the Mayor
- (ii) Make a report to the Mayor 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 Mayor 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 Mayor's response is published.

3.4 If the Panel does veto the precept:

- (i) The Mayor must not issue the proposed precept
- (ii) The Mayor must issue a revised proposed 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 proposed precept and submit a second report to the Mayor including recommendations as to the precept that should be issued.

3.5 The Mayor will then:

- (i) Have regard to the second report of the Panel and publish her response to it.

4. Panel's Consideration of the Precept Proposal

4.1 The Panel received formal notification from the Mayor of West Yorkshire of the proposed precept on 24th January 2024.

- 4.2 The Panel considered the proposal at their meeting in public on 2nd February 2024. The Mayor of West Yorkshire attended to present her proposal and take questions from the Panel.
- 4.3 The Panel asked the Mayor a series of questions which related to her precept proposal, the budget assumptions which underpinned it and her future financial plans.
- 4.4 The questions covered issues including:
- The impact of an increase on the public with the current cost of living crisis
 - Recruitment targets, skills and the workforce profile
 - The impact of the cuts to national programmes
 - The risks around inflation assumptions
 - Priority based budgeting and future funding shortfalls
 - The risks around the reserves profile
 - Future projections and demand on policing
 - The validity of the limited public budget consultation with no other options set out
 - Future challenges for West Yorkshire Police

5. Panel's Decision

- 5.1 The Panel, through its discussion with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on 2nd February 2024, unanimously agreed to endorse the Mayor's proposal of an increase of 5.5% which equates to £13 on the policing and crime component of council tax for a Band D property.
- 5.2 The Panel voted on the proposed precept and the votes were recorded as follows:

Cllr Eileen Taylor (Chair)	Support
Cllr Usman Ali	Support
Cllr Barry Anderson	Support
Cllr Jackie Ferguson	Support
Cllr Chris Hayden	Support
Cllr Ann Kingstone	Support
Mr Trevor Lake	Support
Cllr Susan Lee-Richards	Support
Cllr Gwen Lowe	Support
Cllr Nicole Sharpe	Support
Cllr Anthony Smith	Support
Cllr Paul Sullivan	Support
Mrs Jo Sykes	Support
Cllr Robert Thornber	Support

6. Conclusions and Recommendation

6.1 On the basis of the commitments accepted by the Mayor, which are set out below, the Panel agreed to support the proposed increase of 5.5 % which equates to £13 on the policing and crime component of council tax for a Band D property for 2024/25.

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

- Commence early discussion with Panel about the quality, content and format of future budget consultations. Set up a small working group with Panel members to look at best practice across other PCC areas with the aim of providing the public with more detail of the implications of different funding options.
- Provide the Panel with a report back on Priority Based Budgeting to assure them that required efficiencies are on track in line with projections to meet future funding shortfalls.
- To report back mid-year on the reserves position providing assurances that these are kept at a sustainable level.

6.3 RESOLVED:

6.3.1 That the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel support the Mayor's proposed increase of 5.5% which equates to £13 on the policing and crime component of council tax for a band D property for 2024/25.