



Report of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
Determining the PCC Component of Council Tax 2023/24
Mayor's Precept Proposal
Friday 3rd February 2023

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 2023/24.
- 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 6.78% 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 Al Garthwaite (Chair)
- Cllr Usman Ali
- Cllr Ammar Anwar (substitute for Cllr Mohan Sokhal)
- Cllr Amanda Carter
- Cllr Andrew Cooper
- Cllr Sarah Courtney
- Mr Trevor Lake
- Cllr Sarfraz Nazir
- Cllr Nicole Sharpe
- Cllr Anthony Smith
- Cllr Paul Sullivan
- Mrs Jo Sykes
- Cllr Maureen Tennant-King
- 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 26th January 2023.

- 4.2 The Panel considered the proposal at their meeting in public on 3rd February 2023. 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
 - Why no alternative lower increase had been considered by the Mayor
 - The validity of the limited public budget consultation with short timescales and no other options set out
 - Priority based budgeting and future efficiencies
 - Energy management including sustainability and efficiencies
 - The importance of continuing to fund neighbourhood policing and the need to address ASB and low-level crime
 - Future challenges for West Yorkshire Police
 - The risks around the significant use reserves in the short and medium term

5. Panel's Decision

- 5.1 The Panel, through its discussion with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on 3rd February 2023, unanimously agreed to endorse the Mayor's proposal of an increase of 6.78% which equates to £15 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 Al Garthwaite (Chair)	Support
Cllr Usman Ali	Support
Cllr Ammar Anwar	Support
Cllr Amanda Carter	Support
Cllr Andrew Cooper	Support
Cllr Sarah Courtney	Support
Mr Trevor Lake	Support
Cllr Sarfraz Nazir	Support
Cllr Nicole Sharpe	Support
Cllr Anthony Smith	Support
Cllr Paul Sullivan	Support
Mrs Jo Sykes	Support
Cllr Maureen Tennant-King	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 6.78 % which equates to £15 on the policing and crime component of council tax for a Band D property for 2023/24.

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

- Continue to prioritise neighbourhood policing; building and developing the problem-solving skills needed to tackle community crime and ASB, and ensure that PCSO numbers are not reduced below 509.
- Ensure that along with increasing sustainability, the Energy Management Strategy exploits all opportunities for delivering energy cost efficiencies enabling savings to be reinvested within the overall budget.
- Provide the Panel with a half year revised MTFE to assure them that required efficiencies are on track in line with projections.
- Engage in early discussion with Panel about the content and format of future budget consultation with the aim of providing the public with detail of the implications of different options and seeking to understand the reasoning behind people's choices.

6.3 RESOLVED:

6.3.1 That the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel support the Mayor's proposed increase of 6.78% which equates to £15 on the policing and crime component of council tax for a band D property for 2023/24.