**Report of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Precept Proposal 2020/21**

**Friday 7th February 2020**

**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 2020/21.

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 4.99% which equates to an increase of £9.33 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 Cahal Burke
* Cllr Richard Dunbar
* Mr Roger Grasby
* Cllr Peter Gruen
* Cllr Stuart Heptinstall
* Cllr Tariq Hussain
* Cllr Mohammed Naeem
* Cllr Matthew Robinson (substitute for Cllr Amanda Carter)
* Cllr Kevin Swift (substitute for Cllr Alan Wassell)
* Mrs Jo Sykes
* Cllr Mark Thompson
* Cllr Sophie Whittaker

**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 29th January 2020 .

4.2 The Panel considered the precept proposal at their meeting on 7th February 2020 in The Old Restaurant, Town Hall, Wakefield. The Police and Crime Commissioner attended to present his proposal and take questions from the Panel. The meeting was held in 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 the current funding formula
* Expectations of the public for the increased precept and what will be the added value
* The use of reserves and the viability of the current reserves position
* The implications of the requirement for new police officers to undertake the PEQF qualification
* The impact of the significant reduction in capital grant
* The uncertain financial landscape and the need to build the base budget
* The need to ensure target interventions to ensure that crime continues to reduce

**5. Panel’s Decision**

5.1 The Panel, through its discussion with the Commissioner on 7th February 2020, agreed to endorse the PCC’s proposed precept of an increase of 4.99% which equates to £9.33 on the council tax for a Band D property.

* 1. The Panel voted on the proposed precept and the votes were recorded as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| Cllr Mohammed Iqbal (Chair) | support |
| Cllr Masood Ahmed | support |
| Cllr Cahal Burke | support |
| Cllr Richard Dunbar | support |
| Mr Roger Grasby | support |
| Cllr Peter Gruen | support |
| Cllr Stuart Heptinstall | support |
| Cllr Tariq Hussain | support |
| Cllr Mohammed Naeem | support |
| Cllr Matthew Robinson | abstained |
| Cllr Kevin Swift  | support |
| Mrs Jo Sykes | support |
| Cllr Mark Thompson | support |
| Cllr Sophie Whittaker | veto |

**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 4.99% which equates to £9.33 on the council tax for a Band D property for 2020/21.

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

* Recruit 311 additional Police Officers and over 100 Police staff and provide Panel with updates on progress of their recruitment and deployment.
* Protect PCSO numbers at 603.
* Report back to Panel to provide assurance that contingency plans are in place to mitigate any in-year budget shortfalls and to rebuild future reserves.
* That the PCC report back to Panel on the impact of the increased resources allocated to the identified key areas, along with updates on the operational benefits set out in the PCC’s report.
* In view of the longer-term budget pressures, that the PCC report to Panel on how the necessary savings that are required will be met and the how the delivery of these efficiencies will be monitored.
* That there is a discussion with Panel about future consultations.

 **RESOLVED:**

**That the Police and Crime Commissioner increase council tax precept by 4.99% for 2020/21.**