



Report of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Precept Proposal 2018/19

Friday 2nd February 2018

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 2018/19.
- 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 Council Tax by £12 on a band D property which equates to 7.95%.

2. West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

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

- Cllr Alison Lowe Leeds (Chair)
- Cllr Steve Pullen Bradford
- Cllr Geraldine Carter Calderdale
- Cllr Steve Sweeney Calderdale
- Cllr Linda Wilkinson Kirklees
- Cllr Amanda Carter Leeds
- Cllr Josie Jarosz Leeds
- Cllr Steve Tulley Wakefield
- Cllr Alan Wassell Wakefield (Deputy Chair)
- Mrs Jo Sykes Independent Member

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 highOr:
 - 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 18th January 2018.
- 4.2 The Panel considered the precept proposal at their meeting on 2nd February 2018 in Committee Room A, County 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 not increasing the precept by the proposed amount
 - How the PCC will ensure that transformational activities are delivered and will contribute to an improved financial position in the longer term

- Assurances that the numbers of new recruits committed to as part of the precept process will be met
- Deployment and visibility of the new recruits
- Clarity on the reserves position and how risk around the increased use of these reserves is considered
- The viability of the PCC's consultation with the public
- The need to ensure that all investments lead to improved and more cost effective services
- Consideration of the impact on Council Tax payers.

5. Panel's Decision

- 5.1 The Panel, through its discussion with the Commissioner on 2nd February, agreed to endorse the proposal to increase the Council Tax by 7.95% on the basis that the Police and Crime Commissioner would:
- 5.1.1 Continue the programme of recruitment in 2018/19 - recruiting 143 Officer equivalents (net), whilst ensuring that the necessary capability, skills and expertise are secured to meet the changing demands of policing. Additionally, where police staff and officers do not have the required skills, that the force has a programme of skills development and external procurement
 - 5.1.2 Ensure that these additional posts resource priority areas including road policing in specific areas
 - 5.1.3 Consider the scope to re-shape and rebuild the way policing is undertaken in West Yorkshire with more radical and innovative thinking that maximises the opportunities of funding from the Government's Transformation Fund
 - 5.1.4 Provide regular detail on the outcome of the Fusion programme and transformational activities along with the governance arrangements for implementation and programme management as well as any contingency planning in the case that efficiencies are not projected to be delivered
 - 5.1.5 Provide further detail on the development of collaboration with blue light services ensuring that he works closely with local authorities on youth engagement and with those at risk of being disaffected

5.1.6 Provide regular updates on the progress of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Policing Review ensuring the published numbers of Police Officers and staff are delivered.

5.2 The Panel voted on the proposed precept and those Members supporting the proposal were:

Councillor Alison Lowe	Mrs Jo Sykes
Councillor Amanda Carter	Councillor Steve Sweeney
Councillor Geraldine Carter	Councillor Linda Wilkinson
Councillor Josie Jarosz	Councillor Steve Tulley
Councillor Steve Pullen	Councillor Alan Wassell

No Panel Members voted to veto the proposed precept increase.

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 the precept by 7.95% for 2018/19.

6.2 The Panel confirmed this approval was based on their recognition of the importance of continuing to increase policing officers/staff and the assurance that the public would sufficiently benefit from the investment in additional posts.

RESOLVED:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner increase the Council Tax precept by £12 on a band D property which equates to 7.95% for 2018/19.