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

**Precept Proposal 2017/18**

**Friday 3rd February 2017**

**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 2017/18.

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 £5 on a band D property which equates to 3.43%.

**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 Tariq Hussain Bradford
* Cllr Andrew Mallinson Bradford
* Cllr Steve Pullen Bradford
* Cllr Chris Pearson Calderdale
* Cllr Steve Sweeney Calderdale
* Cllr Mumtaz Hussain Kirklees
* 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 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 January 26th 2017.

4.2 The Panel considered the precept proposal at their meeting on February 3rd 2017 in the Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall. 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:

* The Force’s ability to recruit and train the high numbers of police officers and the need to ensure that the workforce reflects the diversity of West Yorkshire.
* Deployment and visibility of the newly recruited police officers.
* The prudence of forecasting a deficit in predicted budgets beyond 2018 at the same time as increasing recruitment
* Clarity on the reserves position and how this will be managed going forward
* How longer term commitment to community safety funding might be provided
* Addressing issues of public confidence such as 101 service issues and visibility of police officers
* 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 February 3rd, agreed to endorse the proposal to increase the Council Tax by 3.43% on the basis that the Police and Crime Commissioner would:

1. Recruit 500 Police Officer posts (200 additional posts) and 150 police staff,having regard to the diverse makeup of the communities of West Yorkshire;
2. Fill all vacancies and retain the level of 565 PCSOs (with an additional over-recruitment of an additional 6 posts);
3. Continue to develop and deliver workforce planning strategies that will support effective deployment and management of this resource whilst ensuring value for money for the people of West Yorkshire and an ongoing commitment to neighbourhood policing in partnership with local authorities;
4. Following the Commissioner’s review of funding, explore a 3 year funding cycle for CSPS and other partners, linked to a clear performance framework that gives accountability to the tax payers of West Yorkshire;
5. Address the performance of the 101 service and explore other opportunities for the public to contact the police in a way that meets their needs;
6. Ensure that the Reserves Plan is delivered in line with the MTFF to 2021;
7. Develop a plan post 2021 to ensure expenditure is not reliant on further draws on reserves, whilst operational policing needs are met;
8. Provide Panel with further information on the Commissioner’s intention to use one-off surplus balances for reinvestment into technology, demand and cost management and improving efficiency and effectiveness. Provide Panel with regular updates on the use of these balances and how cash and other efficiencies are being realised as a result.
   1. The Panel voted on the proposed precept and those Members supporting the proposal were:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Councillor Alison Lowe | Councillor Tariq Hussain | Councillor Andrew Mallinson |
| Councillor Steve Pullen | Councillor Steve Sweeney | Councillor Chris Pearson |
| Councillor Mumtaz Hussain | Councillor Linda Wilkinson | Councillor Josie Jarosz |
| Councillor Amanda Carter | Councillor Steve Tulley | Councillor Alan Wassell |
| Mrs Jo Sykes |  |  |

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 3.43% for 2016/17.

6.2 The Panel confirmed this approval was based on their recognition of the importance of neighbourhood policing and the assurance that the public would sufficiently benefit from the investment in additional police officers.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Police and Crime Commissioner increase the Council Tax precept by £5 on a band D property which equates to 3.43% for 2017/18.**