



## **West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

### **Press Release**

### **'Police and Crime Panel Support the Mayors increase in Council Tax towards Policing'**

*Today, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel agreed the Mayor for West Yorkshire's proposal to increase the police element of the council tax by £10 on a Band D property.*

The Mayor is responsible for setting the budget for West Yorkshire Police. This includes setting the local 'police precept', which is the part of council tax that goes to the police. As part of its role to scrutinise and support the Mayor, the Police and Crime Panel has to decide whether to back her proposed council tax increase for 2022/23.

This year the Government has again allowed flexibility to enable a proposed increase in the policing component of council tax up to the level of £10 on a Band D property. West Yorkshire has the fourth lowest level of policing precept included within residents' council tax in the country. The Mayor has consulted with the public and found that the majority of respondents are happy to pay more.

Following a robust debate and after posing a series of challenging questions to the Mayor about her budget proposals, the Police and Crime Panel unanimously voted to approve the 4.73 % increase in the policing precept. This equates to an annual increase of £10 per year for Band D council tax payers, but is less than 18p per week for most taxpayers who are in Band A and B across West Yorkshire.

The Panel also secured the Mayor's commitment to continue to invest in neighbourhood policing and tackle anti-social behaviour which is a blight on neighbourhoods and communities.

*Chair of the Police and Crime Panel, Cllr Mohammed Iqbal said " It has been an extremely hard decision for all the members on the Police and Crime Panel who recognise that this is an additional burden to Council Tax payers of West Yorkshire and it was a decision that was not taken lightly. We understand that people are already experiencing an impact from the spiralling cost of living increase and other financial pressures, however, this has to be balanced with the need to keep the public safe and protect the most vulnerable at a time of further demand on police services. It is also important to ensure that the work that has been done to rebuild neighbourhood policing and to reduce crime in West Yorkshire can be sustained in future years*

*The Panel have been clear in their recommendations to the Mayor and the commitments required of her and will continue to scrutinise and challenge the Mayor for the spending agreed today as she delivers her new Police and Crime Plan . "*

Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire said:

*"With the cost of living high on the agenda, it was incredibly important that this budget had a clear mandate from our communities.*

*“The positive response to my precept survey, coupled with the comprehensive feedback of our Police and Crime Plan consultation, has revealed a strong appetite for change. People want to feel safe in their communities.*

*“The vast majority of survey respondents were behind the continued efforts to secure extra police investment across West Yorkshire.*

*“Many also supported the increase to the police element of the council tax. A strong indicator of the importance attached to bolstering community safety.*

*“The recent Government funding announcement was never going to fulfil its promise of covering recruitment costs and I think people recognise this.*

*“By putting their faith in my pledge of 750 new frontline officers and staff over the next 3 years, we can make a significant difference to people’s lives.*

*“This investment will also contribute to improving safety for women and girls, which is another crucial priority which shone through during our extensive consultation.”*

A full report outlining the Panel’s decision and recommendations will be submitted to the Mayor by February 8<sup>th</sup> and published on the Police and Crime Panel’s website ([www.westyorkshire-pcp.gov.uk](http://www.westyorkshire-pcp.gov.uk))

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022