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

**Precept Proposal 2016/17**

**Friday 5th February 2016**

**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 2016/17.

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 3.6%.

**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 Michael Walls Bradford
* Cllr Geraldine Carter Calderdale
* Cllr Ann Martin Calderdale
* Cllr Masood Ahmed Kirklees
* Cllr Phil Scott Kirklees
* Cllr Amanda Carter Leeds
* Cllr Mohammed Iqbal Leeds
* Cllr Kevin Barker Wakefield
* Cllr Alan Wassell Wakefield (Deputy Chair)
* Mrs Jo Sykes Independent Member
* Mr Roger Grasby 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 28th 2016.

4.2 The Panel considered the precept proposal at their meeting on February 5th 2016 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 rationale for recruiting additional police officers.
* 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 of the newly recruited police officers.
* The prudence of forecasting a deficit in predicted budgets beyond 2017 at the same time as increasing recruitment.
* The need to increase the precept at all if there is an underspend for 2015/16.
* The Force’s ambitions to recoup as much as possible from the top-sliced funding schemes.
* Clarity on the reserves position and how this compares to other forces.
* The cost of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and how this compares to previous years.

**5. Panel’s Decision**

5.1 The Panel, through its discussion with the Commissioner on February 5th, agreed to endorse the proposal to increase the Council Tax by 3.6% on the basis that the Police and Crime Commissioner would:

1. Recruit 300 new Police Officers and provide regular updates to the Panel on the progress of this recruitment.
2. Protect PCSO numbers at their current level at 2015/16 (565).
3. With nearly 90% of the budget going on pay, the shape and deployment of the workforce is key to value for money. The Panel has been provided with the high level workforce strategy. The Commissioner should provide further detail on the work force plans and how this resource will be deployed, managed and developed to give both value for money and best outcomes to the people of West Yorkshire.
4. Provide oversight of the BME Action and Evaluation Plan along with regular updates as to its implementation and progress so that the West Yorkshire Force reflects the diversity of West Yorkshire.
5. Provide further information on the details of the plans to manage the potential deficit from 2017/18 onwards and that detail of these plans and any material exceptions be reported in a timely way with suitable contingencies in place.
6. Ensure that information relating to commissioned services is transparent and provided to Panel in order that they can be reassured that the people of West Yorkshire are receiving the right services at the right cost.
	1. The Panel voted on the proposed precept and those Members supporting the proposal were:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Councillor Alison Lowe | Councillor Masood Ahmed | Councillor Kevin Barker |
| Councillor Mohammed Iqbal | Councillor Geraldine Carter | Councillor Ann Martin |
| Councillor Amanda Carter | Councillor Michael Walls | Councillor Alan Wassell |
| Councillor Steve Pullen | Councillor Phil Scott | Mr Roger Grasby |
| 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 3.6% for 2016/17.

6.2 The Panel confirmed this approval was based on their recognition of the importance of front line policing and the belief 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 3.6% for 2016/17.**