



**West
Yorkshire
Policing
& Crime**

**Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire**



**Alison Lowe
Deputy Mayor for
Policing & Crime**

Report to: Police and Crime Panel

Date: 31st October 2023

Subject: Council Tax Precept Consultation 2024-25

Report of: Alison Lowe, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Author: Angela Taylor, Director Corporate and Commercial Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The report advises the Panel on our proposals for public consultation on the police budget and funding for 2024/25.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1. The Panel received information on the funding position and budget in February 2022 and since then there have been significant changes in the world which directly affect the projections included in the medium-term financial forecast.
- 2.2. Officers from West Yorkshire Combined Authority and West Yorkshire Police will provide a presentation to the meeting setting out how inflation is impacting on the financial strategy agreed earlier this year.
- 2.3. As in previous years, we are providing an opportunity for the Panel to have oversight of the statutory consultation process for the precept. The consultation on the precept has taken a similar form over recent years, and this proposal repeats last year's format of a hybrid approach of postal, online, and face-to-face engagement.
- 2.4. Members are requested give their support to this process and provide views on options to be considered which could harness their own capacity to encourage promotion of the survey through local authority online channels and venues.
- 2.5. Last year's survey received a good response from a spread of households – 30% of respondents last year lived in Band A or B properties, but response rates are not strong from a diversity perspective. As part of the planning for this year's consultation an equality impact assessment will be prepared and actions to encourage responses from all parts of the community will be identified.

- 2.6. Support for the precept slipped to its lowest level in recent times last year (falling to 62% in favour from 80% in the previous year). Given the extremely challenging financial outlook it should be noted that it will be difficult to provide options – the forecast assumes the maximum precept increase of £10 or £15 and proposing any figure lower than this will increase the already significant funding gap arising from inflationary pressures.

3. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BENEFITS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. Services funded through the budget and delivered by West Yorkshire Police consider equality, diversity and inclusion in their delivery.
- 3.2. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken on the precept process.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WEST YORKSHIRE

- 4.1 Many of the measures funded by the budget directly affect the young people in West Yorkshire, and where possible any reporting on this is broken down to show this effect.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. While this report considers funding and the precept there are no decisions arising from it that have direct financial implications.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. It is a legal requirement to undertake a public consultation on the proposed precept.

7. EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

- 7.1. The report considers the consultation that will be undertaken on the precept.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1. That the Police and Crime Panel consider the information included in this report and presentation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND APPENDICES

Council Tax Precept Consultation

CONTACT INFORMATION

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