

Gwent Police
and Crime Panel

Panel Heddlu
a Throseddu Gwent

REPORT ON THE GWENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2016/17

Background

This report is made in accordance with the Gwent Police and Crime Panel's statutory duty contained in Paragraph 3(2), Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Review of Proposed Precept

The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner notified the Panel on 15th January 2016 of his proposed Police and Crime Budget and Precept for 2016/17.

The Panel considered a detailed report outlining the proposed precept for 2016/17 at their meeting held in Newport Civic Centre on 22nd January 2015. A copy of the report is available on the Panel's website www.Gwentpcp.org.uk

The following Members of the Panel were present:

Cllr John Guy, Chair (Newport City Council)
Cllr Omar Ali (Newport City Council)
Cllr David Williams (Newport City Council)
Cllr Frances Taylor, Vice Chair (Monmouthshire County Borough Council)
Cllr Peter Clarke (Monmouthshire County Borough Council)
Cllr Gaynor Oliver (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
Cllr Christine Forehead (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
Cllr Colin Mann (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
Cllr Norma Parrish (Torfaen County Borough Council)
Cllr Jessica Powell, (Torfaen County Borough Council)
Cllr Mostyn Lewis (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council)
Ms Joanne Smith (Co-opted Member)
Mr P. Nuttall (Co-opted Member)

The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner recommended a 3.99 % increase in the 2016/7 precept. The Panel debated the proposed increase and, in particular, considered the impact on the residents and communities of Gwent who are under increasing financial pressures.

The Panel concluded that a combination of efficiency savings, reserve utilisation and an increase in the policing precept was needed to address the reduced Home Office funding. The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner reassured the Panel that the use of reserves had been fully reviewed since the Panel's recommendation to ensure that the level of reserves is appropriate. The Panel suggested that the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner consider the overtime costs and whether they are appropriate.

Following a detailed discussion with the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Finance Officer, the Panel voted to endorse the Commissioner's proposed precept for 2016/17.

The Panel wished to place on record their thanks to Mr Darren Garwood-Pask, Chief Finance Officer, for engaging the Panel in early discussions about the Commissioner's Medium Term Financial Plan and the detailed budget and precept report.

Recommendation

Following a full debate about the proposed Precept, the Panel resolved to;

Approve the proposed precept of £47,038.520 (equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £220.06) for 2016/17 and an increase of 3.99%.

27 January 2016