

**Gwent Police
and Crime Panel**

**Panel Heddlu
a Throseddu Gwent**

REPORT ON THE GWENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED REVISED PRECEPT FOR 2026/27

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 30th January 2026

The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner notified the Panel on 21st January 2026 of her proposed Police and Crime Budget and Council Tax Precept for 2026/27.

The Panel considered a detailed report outlining the proposed precept for 2026/27 at a meeting held at Penallta House, Ystrad Mynach on 30th January 2026. A copy of the report is available on the Panel's website www.Gwentpcp.org.uk

The panel considered the 6.99% precept proposal to be too high. Reasons identified included a forecasted surplus of £5.863m and the lack of financial information for Quarter 3 2025/26.

Therefore, the Panel vetoed the proposed precept proposal of 6.99% for 2026/27 which they considered to be too high.

Gwent Police and Crime Panel Response to Revised Precept Proposal 20th February 2026

The formal response from the Police and Crime Commissioner was received on 13th February 2026 and set out proposals for a revised Council Tax Precept of 6.95%.

The Gwent Police and Crime Panel met on 20th February 2026 to consider the revised precept proposal, and the following Members of the Panel were present:

Councillor Nick Byrne (Torfaen County Borough Council)
Councillor Lynda Clarkson (Torfaen County Borough Council)

Councillor Farzina Hussain (Newport City Council)
Councillor Colin Mann - Chair (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
Councillor James Peterson (Newport City Council)

The Panel noted the recommendation from the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner of a revised lower precept of 6.95% as detailed in her report dated 13th February 2026. The report outlined the Commissioner's consideration of the veto response and highlighted that any potential savings and underspend would be non-recurrent and therefore would not factor into future budgets. Another consideration from the Commissioner was that there was no statutory role for Panel Members to review quarterly financial reports, however they would be shared with Members for information upon completion of the internal governance arrangements of Gwent Police and the Office of the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner.

In introduction Members heard that the proposed Council Tax Precept had been reduced by 0.04%, an annual reduction of 0.15p for a Band D property. It was also highlighted that the reduction equates to a permanent loss of income of £34,676 per annum for partnership funding. Members were asked to consider the revised proposal and to indicate if they accepted or rejected it. It would also be possible for Members to make further recommendations to the Commissioner in a second Panel report.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised issues on the lack of Quarter 3 2025/26 information, expressed appreciation for the reduced precept proposal, acknowledged that it would have an impact on partnership funding, and one Member observed that given the financial information available the Commissioner's precept proposal could have been reduced further.

Following debate a majority of the Panel voted to accept the proposed revised precept increase of 6.95%.

Recommendation

Following a full debate on the revised precept, and in noting there were 3 for, 2 against and 0 abstentions, the Gwent Police and Crime Panel resolved to:

Accept the proposed revised precept of £93,286,500 for 2026/27, equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £403.53, reflecting an increase of 6.95% or £26.22 per annum.

20th February 2026