

Gwent Police
and Crime Panel

Panel Heddlu
a Throseddu Gwent

REPORT ON THE GWENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2018/19

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 19th January 2018 of his proposed Police and Crime Budget and Precept for 2018/19.

The Panel considered a detailed report outlining the proposed precept for 2018/19 at their meeting held in Monmouthshire County Hall on 26th January 2018. 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 William Routley (Newport City Council)
Cllr Jason Jordan (Newport City Council)
Cllr Peter Clarke (Monmouthshire County Borough Council)
Cllr Tony Easson (Monmouthshire County Borough Council)
Cllr Christine Forehead (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
Cllr Colin Mann (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
Cllr Lisa Winnett (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council)
Cllr Stewart Healy (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council)
Cllr Mike Jeremiah (Torfaen County Borough Council)
Mrs Gillian Howells (Co-opted Member)
Mr P. Nuttall (Co-opted Member)

The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner recommended a 4.49 % increase in the 2018/19 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 acknowledged that the Commissioner has identified efficiency savings of £0.183m and further planned efficiency savings of £5.865 until 2022 (totalling £6.048m) and proposals to utilise reserves and committed funds.

The Panel considered the public consultation regarding the proposed Council Tax Precept for 2018/19 and acknowledged that the number of Gwent respondents (603) gives a statistically robust sample, however Members still considered this to be a low number of responses. The responses to the consultation showed that 68% were in favour of 3.99% precept increase, 54.6% were in favour of 4.99% and 51.8% in respect of 5.99%. The Police and Crime Commissioner therefore put forward 4.49% precept increase as a mid-range between 3.99% and 4.99%.

Following a detailed discussion with the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Finance Officer, the Panel considered the Commissioners proposal to a 4.49% increase in the policing precept. The Panel noted the Central Government approach which is to 'protect' the Grant Funding giving the same amount of grant funding as in 2017/18, but essentially a real term cut in funding.

However taking into account that there is a continued financial burden upon many people within communities in Gwent and that 68% of respondents supported an increase of 3.99% the Panel voted to veto the proposed increase of 4.49%. The Panel asked the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner consider a recommendation from the Panel to reduce the precept to 3.99%.

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, two thirds of the full membership of Gwent Police and Crime Panel resolved to:

Veto the proposed precept of £52,094,255 (equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £239.11) for 2018/19 and an increase of **4.49%**.

Recommend that that Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner reduce the precept to **3.99%** in order to recognise the financial burden upon Gwent residents.

26 January 2017