

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

TITLE: Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent's Budget Requirement and Council Tax Precept Proposal 2022/23

DATE: 28th January 2022

TIMING: Routine

PURPOSE: For Decision

1. RECOMMENDATION

That the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent (Commissioner) considers the budget proposals and background information covered in the Annexe and Appendices to this submission and approves, subject to consultation with the Police and Crime Panel:

- (i) A budget requirement for 2022/23 of £156,103,774;
- (ii) The planned efficiency savings in 2022/23 of £1.021m and further planned efficiency savings of £3.308m (totalling £4.329m) detailed in Appendix 5b of the Annexe to this submission;
- (iii) The further proposed utilisation of the Reserves and Committed Funds (Appendix 7);
- (iv) The initial Capital Programme as described in Appendices 8a and 8b; and
- (v) The 2022/23 proposed Council Tax Precept to be levied in respect of general expenses of £67,821,818. (equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £302.36) and that this sum be apportioned to each City/County/County Borough Council according to the following table:

Unitary Authorities	£	Tax Base Band D Equivalent
Blaenau Gwent	6,312,327	20,876.86
Caerphilly	18,462,921	61,062.71
Monmouthshire	14,323,640	47,372.80
Newport	18,398,222	60,848.73
Torfaen	10,324,708	34,147.07
Total	67,821,818	224,308.17

The Council Tax Precept shown in the above table generates the following amounts of council tax for the various bands:

Council Tax Band	£
A	201.57
B	235.17
C	268.76

		D	302.36	
		E	369.55	
		F	436.74	
		G	503.93	
		H	604.72	
		I	705.51	
2.	<u>INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND</u>			
	The Commissioner is required to determine the budget for 2022/23 and then set the Council Tax Precept following consultation with the Police and Crime Panel. The greater part of the budget will be allocated to Gwent Police for operational purposes, but an element needs to be retained to cover the cost of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the commissioning of services from organisations other than the Chief Constable.			
3.	<u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u>			
	In determining the budget requirement for 2022/23, the Commissioner has had regard to the Police and Crime Plan 2021-25; the Policing Vision 2025; the Strategic Policing Requirement; the Chief Constable's view of the financial resources required to deliver the operational requirements of the Plan; the level of resources to be allocated for commissioning other than from the Chief Constable; and the cost of running the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.			
4.	<u>NEXT STEPS</u>			
	The Police and Crime Panel are required to review the proposed Council Tax Precept and make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed Council Tax Precept (whether it vetoes or not) by the 8 th February 2022.			
5.	<u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u>			
	This is a major financial report with clear financial implications. These are fully articulated within the Annexe and Appendices.			
6.	<u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u>			
	The majority of the Policing and Crime Budget covers Police Officer and Police Staff salaries and employer's contributions. Currently, Central Government Grant Funding is directed to nationally increasing Police Officer numbers by 20,000 at March 2023, but this is to the backdrop of significant reductions in real term funding for many years previous. Managing this situation in a sensible and timely manner as part of budget preparation demonstrates the actions of a good employer.			
7.	<u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u>			
	Setting the budget requirement and Council Tax Precept are statutory responsibilities of the Commissioner.			
8.	<u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u>			

	<p>This proposal has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.</p> <p>In preparing this report, consideration has been given to the requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.</p>
9.	<p><u>RISK</u> A timely decision on the Council Tax Precept will minimise the risk of failing to achieve the statutory deadline.</p>
10.	<p><u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u> This report will be placed on the website of both the Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel.</p>
11.	<p><u>CONTACT OFFICER</u> Darren Garwood-Pask, Chief Finance Officer to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.</p>
12.	<p><u>ANNEXES</u> The Annexe to this report and its Appendices provide full details in support of the proposal.</p>