

## **REPORT ON THE GWENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2017/18**

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 of his proposed Police and Crime Budget and Precept for 2017/18.

The Panel considered a detailed report outlining the proposed precept for 2017/18 at their meeting held in Monmouthshire County Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017. A copy of the report is available on the Panel's website [www.Gwentpcp.org.uk](http://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 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)  
Mrs Gillian Howells (Co-opted Member)  
Mr P. Nuttall (Co-opted Member)

The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner recommended a 3.99 % increase in the 2017/18 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 and there are proposals to utilise reserves and committed funds. The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner has carried out a public consultation

regarding the proposed Council Tax Precept for 2017/18 and reported that 50% of respondents supported an increase of 3.99% or above. However the Panel noted that the number of responses was below a statistically robust sample size. From the responses received 26% supported 2% and 24% supported less than 2% respectively with a large number of those supporting 0%.

The panel noted that the provisional police funding settlement indicate a small budget surplus could be achieved for 2017/18. The previous MTFP assumptions indicated a cut of 2.00% whereas the cut was 1.40% in cash terms. In addition there has been over £100k additional revenue received through council tax as a result of new build housing. These two changes represent a total extra income of around £500,000.

The Panel recognised that the 3.99% increase in the policing precept was needed to address the reduced Home Office funding. However taking into account the better than expected funding settlement and additional council tax receipts it was felt that the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner could issue a lower precept.

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 2017/18. However the Panel asked that the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner consider a recommendation from the Panel to reduce the precept to 3.55% which would still represent a larger income than that originally envisaged.

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 £49,455,388 (equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £228.84) for 2017/18 and an increase of **3.99%**.

Recommend that that Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner consider reducing the precept to **3.55%** in view of the better than expected Police Funding Settlement and higher than projected Council Tax revenue which amounts to approximately £0.500m.

**27 January 2017**