

**Gwent Police
and Crime Panel**

**Panel Heddlu
a Throseddu Gwent**

REPORT ON THE GWENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2022/23

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 28th January 2022

The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner notified the Panel on 28th January 2022 of his proposed Police and Crime Budget and Precept for 2022/23.

The Panel considered a detailed report outlining the proposed precept for 2022/23 at a meeting held at Penallta House, Ystrad Mynach on 28th January 2022. A copy of the report is available on the Panel's website www.Gwentpcp.org.uk

The panel considered the 5% precept proposal to be too low and agreed that they would recommend a revised precept of 5.5% to mitigate and offset the £2.5m budget shortfall.

Therefore, the Panel vetoed the proposed precept proposal of 5.00% for 2022/23 which they considered to be too low and recommended a 5.5% increase.

Gwent Police and Crime Panel Response to Revised Precept Proposal 18th February 2022

The formal response from the Police and Crime Commissioner was received on 11th February 2022 and set out proposals for a revised precept of 5.5%.

The Gwent Police and Crime Panel met on 18 February 2022 to consider the revised precept proposal and the following Members of the Panel were present:

Mrs Gillian Howells, Chair (Co-opted Member)

Councillor Colin Mann Vice-Chair (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
Councillor Clive Meredith (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council)
Councillor Mrs Lisa Winnett (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council)
Councillor Sean Morgan (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
Councillor Tony Easson (Monmouthshire County Borough Council)
Councillor Jason Jordan (Newport City Council)
Councillor John Killick (Torfaen County Borough Council)
Mr P. Nuttall (Co-opted Member)

The Panel noted the recommendation from the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner of a revised higher precept of 5.5% as detailed in his report dated 11th February 2022. The report outlined the Commissioners consideration of the veto response and acknowledged the points made by the Police and Crime Panel. The report also outlined the factors revisited by the PCC when he originally proposed a 5% precept proposal.

The Commissioner specifically highlighted the need to provide sustainable capital funding and the review of the estates strategy and the PCC welcomed the involvement of the Panel Estates Reference group with this review. The review will look at the drivers, affordability, objectives and where we want to be etc. and involve other stakeholders both inside and outside the force. The Panel suggested that a link is established between the finance reference group and the estates reference group to ensure that both groups are informed.

The Commissioner confirmed that following the 28th January 2022 police and crime panel meeting, that they had held a meeting with Welsh Government (WG) where no concerns were raised about a proposed 5.5% precept proposal. It was explained that Welsh Government provide guiding principles on the level of precept and the OPCC maintain ongoing dialogue with WG officials. The OPCC will outline the reasons for the precept rise and expenditure required and whether it is appropriate and vindicated because of cost pressures being faced.

Assurance was sought that the additional funding from the precept rise, will remain in perpetuity to support policing levels. The PCC stated that it is his intention to maintain police officer levels, and explained that since 2016 he has sought to focus as much resource as possible to increase officer numbers.

The Commissioner acknowledged the impact of rising costs upon residents of Gwent and the need to balance this against ensuring that Gwent is a safer place to live, work and visit.

Following a debate the majority of the Panel voted to endorse the proposed revised precept increase of 5.5%.

Recommendation

Following a full debate on the revised precept, the Gwent Police and Crime Panel resolved to:

Endorse the proposed precept of £68,144,822 for 2022/23, equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £303.80, reflecting an increase of 5.5% or £15.84 p.a.

22 February 2022