

WEST MERCIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 4 FEBRUARY 2022

WEST MERCIA POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT AND BUDGET 2022/23

Recommendation

It is recommended that the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP) considers the:

- (i) West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) Proposed Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26; and
- (ii) provides a report to the PCC on the proposed precept, including any recommendations, outlining whether it vetoes the precept or not.

Background

1. Each police force area raises extra money to pay for policing activity through council tax. This is called the police precept and is included in every council tax bill. The level of police precept is set locally every year (in February) by the PCC.
2. Under the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the PCP has a statutory role to review the PCC's proposed precept level and formally respond to it. The Panel is required to submit a formal response to the PCC no later than 8 February 2022.
3. The legislation only requires that the Panel 'respond' to the proposed precept – there is no requirement that the Panel has to either support the precept or veto it; therefore, the Panel can choose to only comment on the proposal if it wishes. Guidance related to the scrutiny of the precept by Police and Crime Panels is attached at Appendix 1.

Budget Scrutiny

4. At its meeting on 25 November 2021, the Panel received a Budget Monitoring Report from April – September 2021. The detail of which can be found in the [Agenda and Minutes](#).

West Mercia PCC proposed Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26

5. The West Mercia PCC Proposed Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26 is attached at Appendix 2.

Consultation

6. The PCC ran a budget consultation as a two stage process.

7. The first survey ran from 3 December 2021 until 3 January 2022. The purpose of this survey was to understand the views of the public on a number of policing issues and possible precept scenarios to inform the PCC prior to firming up his draft budget proposals for 2022/23.

8. The PCC followed this up by carrying out a second survey, specifically on the draft precept and budget proposals. This consultation launched on 7 January 2022 and ended at 9am on 24 January 2022. A precept proposal, the Proposed Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26 was published as part of the consultation process, along with a short online survey to enable people to comment on the proposals being put forward. The Budget Consultation Summary is attached at Appendix 3.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - Guidance related to the Scrutiny of the Precept by Police and Crime Panels

Appendix 2 – West Mercia PCC proposed Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26

Appendix 3 - Budget Consultation Summary 2022/23

Contact Points for the Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal & Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

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