

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel

Mr John Campion
West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner
Hindlip Hall
Worcester
WR3 8SP

8 February 2022

Dear Mr Campion

PROPOSED PRECEPT

In accordance with Schedule 5 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, I write to confirm that the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel reviewed your proposed precept on 4 February 2022 in a public meeting at County Hall, Worcester. Thank you for attending and answering questions.

As required in the Act the Panel must formally make a report to you as Commissioner on your proposed precept; please accept this letter as the formal report of the Panel.

The precept proposal you recommended to the Panel was to increase the precept by 3.94% for 2022/23, adding £9.47 to the annual Council Tax bill for a typical band D home.

The Panel considered the details in the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan report as included with its agenda. The Panel made the following comments:

- Whether the numbers and range of respondents to the consultation on the precept was sufficient to form a view about the level of support for increasing the precept to the extent proposed. Members also referred to the impact of recent increases in the cost of living and whether the proposed increase in the precept would now be supported;
- Members welcomed the proposed increase in the number of police officers and confirmation that this was an overall increase to the establishment (so did not include replacing those leaving the force early or retiring). Some members asked how the impact of the new recruits would be visible to the public as they reported a perception that the Police were less visible in the community and/or difficult to contact;
- A number of members referred to road safety being an issue and sought evidence that current investment was leading to an improvement and asked how the proposed investment will lead to a measurable improvement;
- The reserves policy was queried, and the Panel heard that the budget is now balanced without reliance on contributions from reserves as it has been in previous years

**Cllr Aled
Luckman**
Chairman, West
Mercia Police
and Crime Panel

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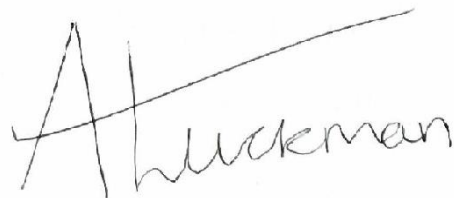
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- Members noted that the anticipated savings from withdrawal from the Warwickshire Alliance are being achieved;
- The Panel asked to see the detailed plan to deliver the balanced budget, and how the budget corresponded with the Safer West Mercia Plan.

Having considered the report, a proposal to veto the precept was put to the vote and defeated. The Panel's points raised during the item are therefore summarised here to form this report to you.

I note that you are required to have regard to the Panel's report and provide a response which will be published; I look forward to receiving this response in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aled Luckman'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cllr Aled Luckman
Chairman of the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel