

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel

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

8 February 2019

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 7 February 2019 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 9.94% for 2019/20, adding £19.59 to the annual Council Tax bill for a typical band D home.

The Panel also considered the report of the Budget Task Group. The Panel made the following comments arising from the Task Group report:

- While concerned at the apparent high percentage increase, the Panel was unanimous in its decision to approve both the precept for 2019/20 and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/22 as presented to the meeting;
- A key feature of the reason for the increase in precept is the recruitment of 115 new Police Officers and a particular concern to the Panel was the rate at which these could be recruited and the subsequent delay in them becoming operational;
- Additionally, the Panel accepted the proposal from the same Task Group authorising it to revisit the budget with the PCC later in the 2019/20 financial year to review the impact and effectiveness of the spending proposals. This will include the £200k investment in the Victim Advice Line; recruitment to the additional posts both of Police Officers generally and the additional posts for Rural and Business crime officers as well as an update on the Athena project.

Cllr Stephen Mackay
Chairman, West
Mercia Police and
Crime Panel

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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

S Mackay

CLlr Stephen Mackay
Chairman of the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel