

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel

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

7 February 2020

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 5 February 2020 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 outlined to the Panel was to increase the precept by 3.94% for 2020/21, adding £8.54 average to the annual Council Tax bill for a typical band D home.

A majority of the Panel accepted the proposed precept as presented and made the following comments:

Performance – during the discussion it was noted that this was the second year where the proposed precept is higher than that indicated in the previous year's Medium Term Financial Plan. In view of this the Panel will take into account achievement against budget at the mid-point during the year. The Panel recommends that it works with you in developing better measures for monitoring performance and implementation of the Police and Crime Plan, in particular for the priorities that the budget is aimed to support.

IT – given the level of capital costs and risk associated with IT and its role in supporting improvements in efficiency, the Panel would like to be kept updated about progress with the transformation of IT systems. It welcomes the PCC's offer to share the original project plan for IT during the year. The budget Task Group will include IT in the items it will follow up at its mid-year review.

Strategic Alliance – the Panel is concerned at the potential impact on the budget of the costs of separating from the Alliance with Warwickshire, both in

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terms of costs to services in West Mercia whilst negotiations continue and the level of costs associated with the implementation of the exit strategy.

The Panel agreed that it will continue, through the Task Group, to be informed about issues impacting on the budget during the financial year. Specific issues such as the Alliance separation may be considered by the full Panel or private briefings where necessary.

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 'Stephen Mackay', written over a light grey grid background.

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