

To: The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

Date: 7 February 2024

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Review of Precept Proposal 2024/25

1) Introduction

On 5 February 2024, the Police and Crime Panel considered the the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed precept for 2024/2025 alongside the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme. We would like to thank the Commissioner, the Chief Constable and OPCC Officers for presenting the report and responding to our questions.

In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, this report sets out the Police and Crime Panel's decision and recommendations.

2) Police and Crime Commissioner's Proposed Precept 2024/2025

The Police and Crime Commissioner proposed a Band D precept for 2024/2025 of £215.55, an increase of £13 compared to 2023/2024.

3) Panel Members Present

Cllr Jasbir Jaspal – Chair (City of Wolverhampton)
Cllr Raqeeb Aziz (Birmingham City Council)
Cllr Heather Delaney (Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council)
Cllr Sam Forsyth (Birmingham City Council)
Derek French (Independent Panel Member)
Cllr Syeda Khatun (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council)
Cllr Abdul Khan (Coventry City Council)
Cllr Gareth Moore (Birmingham City Council)
Kristina Murphy (Independent Panel Member – Vice Chair)
Cllr Tersaim Singh (City of Wolverhampton)

4) Panel Decision

The Police and Crime Panel supports the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed Band D precept for 2024/2025 of £215.55, an increase of £13 compared to 2023/2024.

5) Panel Recommendations

In addition to supporting the proposed precept, the Panel made the following recommendations for the Commissioner to consider: -

- I. The Commissioner provides reassurance to the public that additional funds collected from the increase in the precept is invested in the delivery of policing as identified in the findings of the Police and Crime Commissioner's public budget consultation.
- II. The Commissioner and Chief Constable fulfil the commitment made at the Panel meeting to fund 10 additional officers in the Public Protection Unit and 10 non warranted police staff investigators to support case file progression, the prosecution of serious sexual offences and the management of sex offenders.

6) Next Steps

The Panel looks forward to the Police and Crime Commissioner's consideration and response to this report. This report and the Commissioner's response will be published on the Panel's website: www.westmidlandspcp.co.uk.

Please ask for: Jane Heppel
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For the attention of Sarah Fradgley on behalf of West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Sent by email only:
Sarah.Fradgley@birmingham.gov.uk

20 February 2024

Dear Councillor Jaspal

Thank you for your letter dated 7 February 2024 and for the Panel's report, in relation to my proposals for the Revenue Budget 2024/25, the Precept and the Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28.

The Panel asked me to consider two recommendation as follows:

1. The Commissioner provides reassurance to the public, that additional funds collected from the increase in the precept is invested in the delivery of policing, as identified in the findings of the Police and Crime Commissioner's public budget consultation; and
2. The Commissioner and Chief Constable fulfil the commitment made at Panel, to fund 10 additional officers in the Public Protection Unit and 10 non warranted police staff investigators to support case file progression, the prosecution of serious sexual offences and the management of sex offenders.

In relation to recommendation one, it was explained to Panel that every penny of the £10.00 precept increase we expected to be able to achieve, before the draft settlement consultation in December 2023, was needed to avoid further necessary cuts and savings. We are still having to use some reserves, one off sources of funding, to ensure that we can balance the budget next year. However, to the extent that the precept increase of £13.00 provides any additional funding, it will be invested in delivering the people's priorities.

It is my intention to comply with Recommendation two, which is to ensure that the Chief Constable allocates an additional 10 officers into the PPU and not 10, but 15 additional staff into criminal justice case file progression. This will ensure that officers and staff are serving the people of the West Midlands at important times – when they are a vulnerable victim of crime, when preventing criminals reoffending or when their case is being prepared for court, to hold perpetrators to account.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Foster".

Simon Foster
Police and Crime Commissioner