

## **REPORT ON THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT'S PROPOSED COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT FOR 2019/20 – 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This report is made in accordance with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent's (Commissioner) statutory duty contained in Paragraph 5, Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. The Commissioner notified the Gwent Police and Crime Panel (Panel) on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 of his proposed Police and Crime Budget and Council Tax Precept for 2019/20. The Panel considered a detailed report, annex and associated appendices in support of the proposal at their meeting held in Monmouthshire County Hall on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
3. Following a full debate regarding the financial outlook facing the Commissioner, the policing pressures in Gwent and the proposed Council Tax Precept, the Panel resolved to endorse an increase of 6.99% on the Council Tax Precept for 2019/20. It was within the Panel's gift however, whilst endorsing the Council Tax Precept increase, to make recommendations to the Commissioner on the entirety of his report.
4. On the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the Commissioner received the formal report from the Panel endorsing his Council Tax Precept increase. The report also included a recommendation from the Panel concerning the Commissioner's £1m allocation of funding contained within his report, to fund potential policing costs to address protests in respect of the M4 relief road. Should the Welsh Government decide not to proceed with the proposed M4 relief road, the Panel recommended the Commissioner considers alternative uses for this £1m allocation.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE GWENT POLICE AND CRIME PANEL'S COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT REPORT**

5. Upon receipt of the Panel's formal report and recommendation on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the Commissioner and Chief Finance Officer met on the same day to consider the Panel's report.
6. The Commissioner commended the valued challenge, scrutiny and importantly the support the Panel provided during its meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and in

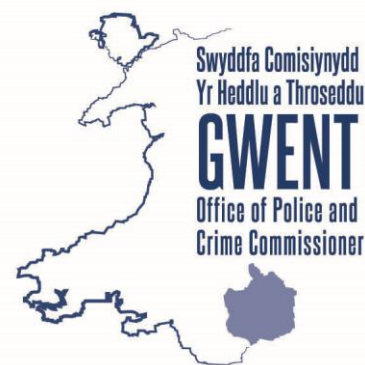
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particular the work of the Panel's Finance Sub-group. The Commissioner also conveyed his appreciation regarding the thanks given by the Panel, for the work undertaken by the Chief Finance Officer regarding early discussions about the Commissioner's Medium Term Financial Plan and the detailed budget and precept report.

- The Commissioner fully accepts the Panel's recommendation regarding the alternative use of the £1m of earmarked funding for the policing costs associated with the M4 relief road, should the Welsh Government decide not to proceed. Indeed, opportunities have already been identified and considered; one of which (the reduction in the Commissioner's future borrowing requirement) was conveyed to the Panel at the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 meeting.

## RECOMMENDATION

- The submission of this report to the Panel (and its subsequent publication) concludes the scrutiny process for the Council Tax Precept for 2019/20.
- The Commissioner will therefore issue his Council Tax Precept of £56,042,426 for 2019/20, equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £255.53, reflecting an increase of 6.99% or £16.69 per annum.
- The Council Tax Precept of £56,042,426 will be apportioned to each City/County/County Borough Council according to the following table:

Unitary Authorities	£	Tax Base Band D Equivalent
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>5,158,425</b>	<b>20,187.16</b>
<b>Caerphilly</b>	<b>15,378,807</b>	<b>60,183.96</b>
<b>Monmouthshire</b>	<b>11,778,980</b>	<b>46,096.27</b>
<b>Newport</b>	<b>15,118,686</b>	<b>59,165.99</b>
<b>Torfaen</b>	<b><u>8,607,528</u></b>	<b><u>33,685.00</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,042,426</b>	<b>219,318.38</b>

- The Council Tax Precept shown in the above table generates the following amounts of council tax for the various bands:

Council Tax Band	£
<b>A</b>	<b>170.35</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>198.75</b>

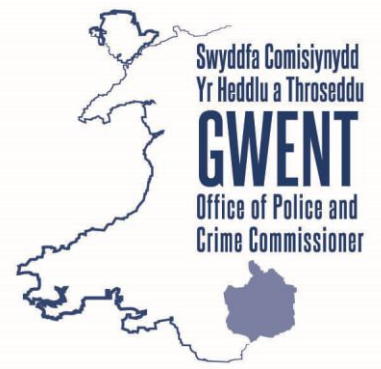
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<b>C</b>	<b>227.14</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>255.53</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>312.31</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>369.10</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>425.88</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>511.06</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>596.24</b>

12. The Commissioner requests that this report is circulated to Panel Members for their immediate consideration.