

DECISION NUMBER: PCCG-2019-075

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

TITLE: Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent's Budget Requirement and Council Tax Precept Proposal 2020/21

DATE: 31st January 2020

TIMING: Routine

PURPOSE: For Decision

1. RECOMMENDATION

That the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent (Commissioner) considers the budget proposals and background information covered in the Annexe and Appendices to this submission and approves, subject to consultation with the Police and Crime Panel:

- (i) A budget requirement for 2020/21 of £133,623,773;
- (ii) The planned efficiency savings in 2020/21 of £539k and further planned efficiency savings of £1.137m (totalling £1.676m) detailed in Appendix 5b of the Annexe to this submission;
- (iii) The further proposed utilisation of the Reserves and Committed Funds (Appendix 7);
- (iv) The initial Capital Programme as described in Appendices 8a and 8b; and
- (v) The 2020/21 proposed Council Tax Precept to be levied in respect of general expenses of £60,635,761. (equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £273.39) and that this sum be apportioned to each City/County/County Borough Council according to the following table:

Unitary Authorities	£	Tax Base Band D Equivalent
Blaenau Gwent	5,648,907	20,662.45
Caerphilly	16,553,559	60,549.25
Monmouthshire	12,666,684	46,331.92
Newport	16,476,545	60,267.55
Torfaen	9,290,066	33,981.00
Total	60,635,761	221,792.17

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

Council Tax Band	£
A	182.26
B	212.64
C	243.01

		D E F G H I	273.39 334.14 394.90 455.65 546.78 637.91	
2.	<u>INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND</u> The Commissioner is required to determine the budget for 2020/21 and then set the Council Tax Precept following consultation with the Police and Crime Panel. The greater part of the budget will be allocated to Gwent Police for operational purposes, but an element needs to be retained to cover the cost of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the commissioning of services from organisations other than the Chief Constable.			
3.	<u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u> In determining the budget requirement for 2020/21, the Commissioner has had regard to the Police and Crime Plan 2017/21; the Policing Vision 2025; the Strategic Policing Requirement; the Chief Constable's view of the financial resources required to deliver the operational requirements of the Plan; the level of resources to be allocated for commissioning other than from the Chief Constable; and the cost of running the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.			
4.	<u>NEXT STEPS</u> The Police and Crime Panel are required to review the proposed Council Tax Precept and make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed Council Tax Precept (whether it vetoes or not) by the 8 th February 2020.			
5.	<u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u> This is a major financial report with clear financial implications. These are fully articulated within the Annexe and Appendices.			
6.	<u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u> The majority of the Policing and Crime Budget covers Police Officer and Police Staff salaries and employer's contributions. It follows that in the current situation, where Central Government Grant Funding is reducing in real terms, the overall Police Officer and Police Staff establishment numbers may fall. Addressing the situation in a sensible and timely manner as part of budget preparation demonstrates the actions of a good employer.			
7.	<u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u> Setting the budget requirement and Council Tax Precept are statutory responsibilities of the Commissioner.			
8.	<u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u> This proposal has been considered against the general duty to promote			

	<p>equality, as stipulated under the Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.</p> <p>In preparing this report, consideration has been given to the requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.</p>
9.	<p><u>RISK</u> A timely decision on the Council Tax Precept will minimise the risk of failing to achieve the statutory deadline.</p>
10.	<p><u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u> This report will be placed on the website of both the Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel.</p>
11.	<p><u>CONTACT OFFICER</u> Darren Garwood-Pask, Chief Finance Officer to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.</p>
12.	<p><u>ANNEXES</u> The Annexe to this report and its Appendices provide full details in support of the proposal.</p>

Jeff Cuthbert, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

I informed the Police and Crime Panel on the 24th January 2020 of my intention to raise the precept level by 6.99%.

The Police and Crime Panel considered a detailed report, annexe and associated appendices in support of the proposal at their meeting held in Monmouthshire County Hall on the 31st January 2020. In addition, due to the delays in the receipt of the Police Funding Settlement from the Home Office, the Panel were also provided with an addendum briefing on the 30th January 2020, with updated hard copy appendices provided on the day of the meeting.

On 4th February 2020 I received a report from the Police and Crime Panel that made a recommendation for me to consider reducing my proposed precept increase to 6.00%. The recommendation was made as the Police and Crime Panel had not reached the required majority to veto my proposal.

Taking into consideration that the basis of the proposed precept increase was designed to meet existing financial pressures, the challenge in meeting the 2020/21 efficiency scheme target in relation to the reduction in the Police Officer overtime budget, the risk of using funding from reserves and committed funds to meet the recurrent budgetary deficit in the short to medium term and the views of the public

supporting a much higher precept increase, I have decided that the precept level will be reduced to 6.82%.

The revised Council Tax Precept of £60,540,391 will be apportioned to each City/County/County Borough Council according to the following table:

Unitary Authorities	£	Tax Base Band D Equivalent
Blaenau Gwent	5,640,022	20,662.45
Caerphilly	16,527,523	60,549.25
Monmouthshire	12,646,761	46,331.92
Newport	16,450,631	60,267.55
Torfaen	9,275,454	33,981.00
Total	60,540,391	221,792.17


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

Council Tax Band	£
A	181.97
B	212.30
C	242.63
D	272.96
E	333.62
F	394.28
G	454.93
H	545.92
I	636.91

I will now issue the precept to the relevant billing Authorities.

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signed 	Date 6/3/20
Contact Officer	
Name	Darren Garwood-Pask
Position	Chief Finance Officer
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Background papers	None