

**POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**  
**PANEL HEDDLU A THROSEDD**



## **NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

### **REPORT ON THE COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2020/2021**

#### **Background**

This report is made in accordance with the Police and Crime Panel's (PCP) statutory duty contained in Paragraph 3(2), Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Act).

#### **Review of Proposed Precept**

The North Wales PCP was notified of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) proposed precept for 2020/2021 on 16 January 2020, in accordance with Paragraph 2, Schedule 5 of the Act.

The PCP considered the PCC's report outlining the proposed precept and budget for 2020/2021, together with the Medium Term Financial Plan at its meeting held in Bodlondeb, Conwy on Friday, 31 January 2020. A further addendum was circulated to the PCP on Tuesday, 28 January 2020, to update the PCP following the Home Office funding announcement on 22 January 2020.

Members of the PCP reviewed the proposed increase of the precept to £84,990,106 (an increase of 4.89% from the 2019/2020 precept), which would increase Council Tax by 4.50% (equivalent to £290.61 per annum, an increase of £12.51 per annum, or 24p per week for a Band D property).

The PCP also received a presentation from the Chief Finance Officer (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner), which highlighted the following:

- Budget Update for 2019/2020.
- Update on the additional investment agreed in 2019/2020 to deliver the Operational Improvement Programme.
- Budget Planning Cycle and Priority Resource Planning (PRP), which provided for a structured approach, whereby Managers set out various service levels and the resources required to deliver them; this allowed estimated available resources to be applied to the priorities and inform the allocation of the 62 additional Officers from Operation Uplift.

- Total savings and total growth.
- Survey Responses.
- Funding Allocations.
- Changes in funding between 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.
- Central Allocations (top slicing).
- Comparison of funding between 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.
- Risks.

In scrutinising the proposed precept and addendum, the PCP acknowledged that whilst there had been an increase in the Home Office Settlement from the assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Plan, the proposal within the report to increase the precept by 4.89% (which would increase Council Tax by 4.5%) remained the same. This was due to the requirement to fund Phases 1 and 2 of the Officer Uplift and associated infrastructure, and the uncertainty around funding from 2021/2022 onwards.

The PCP also raised a number of questions and concerns including the following:

- The PCP felt the nationally agreed pay increases (including pension contributions) should be funded by the UK Government and not by local taxation.
- The amount held in reserves, which was approaching the lower end of the acceptable range and the impact this could have on the Capital Programme and the Estates Strategy going forward.

The PCP acknowledged that the PCC had considered all the options within the resources available and the extensive work carried out by the PRP process, which would enable the intelligent allocation of the 62 Operation Uplift Officers based on the priorities. The PCP also acknowledged that the full cost of the additional Officers, including support and infrastructure was unknown and therefore, taking these factors in account, the PCP felt they could support the proposed increase, in order to provide a sufficient budget to enable the operational delivery of the policing service in North Wales for 2020/2021.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**(a) That the precept be increased for 2020/2021 to £84,990,106.**

- **This will increase Council Tax by 4.50% - this is equivalent to £290.61 per annum, an increase of £12.51 per annum, or 24p per week for a Band D property.**
- **This is an increase in precept of 4.89% from 2019/2020.**

**(b) That it be noted that £2.358m of savings have been identified for 2020/2021.**

**(c) That it be noted that £2.358m of the savings will be reinvested in front line activities.**

**(d) That it be noted that a further 62 Police officers will be funded by the Government (Operation Uplift).**

**(e) That the Medium Term Financial Plan be noted, which includes the following assumptions:**

- That Council Tax will increase by an estimated 4.50% in 2020/2021, 4.13% in 2021/2022, 3.97% in 2022/2023, 3.81% in 2023/24 and 3.67% in 2024/25.**
- That policing grants will be frozen at current levels in 2020/21 onwards.**
- That annual pay awards will be 2.5% from September of each year.**

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