

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
PANEL HEDDLU A THROSEDD



NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT ON THE COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2015/16

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.

Review of Proposed Precept

The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) notified the PCP on 12 January 2015 of his proposed Policing Precept Level for 2015/16.

The PCP considered the PCC's report outlining the proposed precept and budget for 2015/16 at their meeting held in Bodlondeb, Conwy on Monday, 19 January 2015.

Members of the PCP reviewed the proposed increase to the precept of £66,673,611 which would increase Council Tax by 3.44% (an increase of £7.83 per annum for a Band D property) and in their deliberations, the PCP considered the following:

- The impact inflation had on the proposed precept level.
- How the reduction in fuel and energy prices impacted on the budget and the proposed precept.
- The impact the reduction in grant of £3.940m would have on staffing budgets and, in particular, frontline services

The Panel acknowledged that the Force would need to cut a further £15.5m over the next four years, £4.448m of which would need to come out of the 2015/16 budget. Front line services had been protected as far as possible, however the more cuts that were made the more likely it was they would be affected. The PCP requested that if additional savings were found that they be invested in front line services in the first instance.

The Panel agreed to support the PCC and his proposals in relation to the policing precept, which would enable the Chief Constable to provide a viable policing service for the forthcoming year.

Recommendations:

(a) That the precept for 2015/16 of £66,673,611 be approved.

- **This will increase Council Tax by 3.44% - this is equivalent to £235.44 per annum, an increase of £7.83 per annum, or 15p per week for a Band D property.**
- **This is an increase of 4.01% from 2014/15.**

(b) That the PCP notes that the £4.448m of cuts required for 2015/16 have been identified.

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

- **That Council Tax will increase by 3.5% in 2016/17 and 2.5% in 2017/18 and 2018/19.**
- **That policing grants will reduce by 4% in each year.**
- **That changes to employer national insurance contributions, which will take effect in 2016/17 are anticipated to have an effect equivalent to a further 3.7% grant reduction.**

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