

**Report of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel  
To the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**

1 February 2016

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL REPORT ON THE PROPOSED PRECEPT  
2016/2017**

**1. Introduction**

In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Panel must review the proposed precept and make a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

On 1 February 2016 the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel considered the Commissioner's proposed Precept for 2016/17.

**2. Commissioner's Proposed Precept**

Subject to confirmation of the final grant figures, the surpluses and deficits on collection funds and the provisional settlement from government permitting the West Midlands PCC to raise the precept level by £5 per year for a Band D property, the Commissioner proposed to increase the Precept for 2016/17 by 4.69%, setting the Band D precept at £111.55, an increase of 10 pence each week.

**3. Panel Members Present**

Councillors Cooper (Chair), Arif, Burley, Hawkins, Holl-Allen, Leddy, Lucas, Rowley, Thompson, Tilsley and Tyler  
Lionel Walker (Independent member)

**4. Panel Decision**

**The Panel agreed to support the Precept increase of 4.69% for 2016/17, based on an average precept increase of £5.**

The vote was unanimous.

**5. Panel Comments on the PCC's Budget Proposals**

The Panel wish to record the following comments relating to the Commissioner's budget proposals.

**i. Community Safety Funding**

Panel Members commented on the 25% reduction in community safety funding to Community Safety Partnerships (CSP). Members noted that the PCC had made the choice to passport these funds to CSPs and that the funding had been protected up to this year.

However, Panel Members felt strongly that vital work is done by these local partnerships and that they provide necessary support to the Police. Panel Members

therefore welcomed the PCC's acknowledgement that there was a limit to the savings that could be achieved and his commitment to community safety funding in future years.

The matter of the allocation of the funds was also mentioned and a review of the formula would be welcome.

**ii. Reserves**

The Panel considered the level of reserves and some Panel members felt that there should be greater transparency on the use of reserves. It was noted that, even with the intention to spend reserves over coming years, they were substantial.

The Panel welcomed the PCC's offer of more information and look forward to the more detailed Medium Term Funding Plan to be brought to the Panel meeting in September 2016.

**iii. Information Provided to the Panel**

The Panel noted the report provided, and the fact that the PCC had reported to the Panel on financial issues throughout the year. Members also welcomed the proposal to bring the Medium Term Financial Plan back to the Panel in September 2016. Nonetheless, for future consideration of the precept, Panel Members would like to see figures showing the year on year comparisons, to enable a greater understanding of how spending was changing.

**6. Conclusion**

The Panel will publish this report on its website today: [www.westmidlandspcp.co.uk](http://www.westmidlandspcp.co.uk)

The Panel looks forward to the Commissioner's consideration of these comments and his response.