**Report of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Determining the PCC Component of Council Tax 2025/26**

**Mayor’s Precept Proposal**

**Friday 7th February 2025**

**1. Executive Summary**

1.1 This document constitutes the report and recommendations of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (hereafter referred to as ‘the Panel’) in respect of the PCC Component of Council Tax (hereafter referred to as the Mayor’s ‘precept’) for 2025/26.

1.2 This report is submitted to the Mayor for West Yorkshire in accordance with the requirements of Paragraph 3, Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, as modified by Part 1, Schedule 5 the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021.

1.3 The Panel endorses the Mayor’s proposal to increase the precept by 5.6% which equates to an increase of £14 in council tax for a Band D property.

**2. West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

2.1 Those Panel Members present to consider the proposed precept were as follows:

* Cllr Eileen Taylor (Chair)
* Cllr Andrew Carter
* Cllr Mohammed Shazad Fazal
* Cllr Jackie Ferguson
* Cllr Chris Hayden
* Mr Trevor Lake
* Cllr Gwen Lowe
* Cllr Lynn Masterman
* Cllr Nussrat Mohammed
* Cllr Brenda Monteith
* Cllr Nicole Lloyd
* Cllr Anthony Smith
* Mrs Jo Sykes

**3. Powers of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

3.1 The Panel have the functions conferred by Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Issuing Precepts) as modified by Part 1, Schedule 5 of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021. This enables them to:

 (i) Review the proposed precept notified by the Mayor

 (ii) Make a report to the Mayor on the proposed precept

 (iii) Include recommendations within the report as to the precept that should be issued for the financial year

3.2 The Panel may, having reviewed the proposed precept, veto the proposed precept:

 (i) If the Panel vetoes the proposed precept, the report must include a statement that the Panel has vetoed it

3.3 If the Panel does not veto the precept:

(i) The Mayor must have regard to the Panel’s report and recommendations and publish a response to it.

 (ii) It is for the Panel to decide in what way the Mayor’s response is published.

3.4 If the Panel does veto the precept:

 (i) The Mayor must not issue the proposed precept

 (ii) The Mayor must issue a revised proposed precept-

* Lower than the originally proposed precept if the Panel indicated it was too high

Or:

* Higher than the originally proposed precept if the Panel indicated it was too low

(iii) The Panel must then review the revised proposed precept and submit a second report to the Mayor including recommendations as to the precept that should be issued.

3.5 The Mayor will then:

 (i) Have regard to the second report of the Panel and publish her response to it.

**4. Panel’s Consideration of the Precept Proposal**

4.1 The Panel received formal notification from the Mayor of West Yorkshire of the proposed precept on 29th January 2025.

4.2 The Panel considered the proposal at their meeting in public on 7th February 2025. The Mayor of West Yorkshire attended to present her proposal and take questions from the Panel.

4.3 The Panel asked the Mayor a series of questions which related to her precept proposal, the budget assumptions which underpinned it and her future financial plans.

4.4 The questions covered issues including:

* The impact of an increase on the public with the current cost of living crisis
* The risks around inflation assumptions, particularly around the policing pay award
* The risks around the reserves profile and sustainability of the continued use of reserves
* The impact of the budget on neighbourhood policing
* The outcome of the public budget consultation
* Community Safety Funding which is currently ringfenced and passported to Community Safety Partnerships.

**5. Panel’s Decision**

5.1 The Panel, through its discussion with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on 7th February 2025, agreed to endorse the Mayor’s proposal of an increase of 5.6% which equates to £14 on the policing and crime component of council tax for a Band D property.

* 1. The Panel voted on the proposed precept and the votes were recorded as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| Cllr Eileen Taylor (Chair) | Support |
| Cllr Andrew Carter | Abstain |
| Cllr Mohammed Shazad Fazal | Support |
| Cllr Jackie Ferguson | Support |
| Cllr Chris Hayden | Support |
| Mr Trevor Lake | Support |
| Cllr Gwen Lowe | Support |
| Cllr Lynn Masterman | Abstain |
| Cllr Nussrat Mohammed | Support |
| Cllr Brenda Monteith | Support |
| Cllr Nicole Lloyd | Support |
| Cllr Anthony Smith | Support |
| Mrs Jo Sykes | Support |

**6. Conclusions and Recommendation**

6.1 On the basis of the commitments accepted by the Mayor, which are set out below, the Panel agreed to support the proposed increase of 5.6 % which equates to £14 on the policing and crime component of council tax for a Band D property for 2025/26.

* 1. The Panel confirmed this approval was based on the Mayor’s commitment to:
* Work with West Yorkshire Police to retain and increase the numbers of PCSO’s where funding allows
* Update the Panel on the progress of Priority Based Budgeting, ensuring that the necessary efficiencies are on track to meet projected funding shortfalls. Additionally, outline contingency plans if these efficiencies are not achieved
* To report back mid-year on the reserves position providing assurances that these are maintained at a sustainable level and reduce the reliance on reserves going forward
* Initiate the 2026/27 budget consultation early, providing an extended timeframe and continuing to aim for wider engagement from all community sectors

**6.3 RESOLVED:**

**6.3.1 That the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel support the Mayor’s proposed increase of 5.6% which equates to £14 on the policing and crime component of council tax for a band D property for 2025/26.**