



NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT ON THE COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2013/14

Background

This report is made in accordance with the Panel's 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 notified the Panel on 15 January 2013 of his proposed Police and Crime Budget and precept for 2013/14.

The Panel considered a detailed report outlining the proposed budget for 2013/14 at their meeting held in Bodlondeb, Conwy on Monday, 21 January 2013. Members of the Panel reviewed the proposed increase and considered matters relating to the grant settlements; the impact on Band D Council Tax (an increase of 3.98% or £8.55 per annum, 17p per week); the savings targets for 2013/14 and the proposals for reinvesting part of the savings (£4.634m and £1.777m respectively); and the impact of any increase in the precept.

The Panel agreed to support the Commissioner and his proposals in relation to the policing precept for the reasons outlined below:

- The Commissioner had been recently elected and had a mandate to deliver on behalf of the people of North Wales.
- The Panel acknowledged that the setting of the precept and the adoption of the Police and Crime Plan were not currently aligned and the Plan was yet to be published, however the Panel would expect the Plan to set out the details of how the Commissioner intended to achieve the electorate's mandate.
- The Commissioner was accountable to the North Wales Police and Crime Panel, who would monitor the activities and actions of the PCC going forward, following this decision.
- Whilst the Panel acknowledged that North Wales had one of the highest Council Tax levels, the area was also one of the safest in the country.
- The Panel noted the Medium Term Financial Plan, however it did not commit to the planning assumptions of a 4% increase in Council Tax for future years.

Recommendations

- (a) That the precept of £62.124m for 2013/14, an increase of 3.47% be approved for the reasons highlighted above.**
- (b) That the £1.777m of the savings identified be reinvested in 51 additional front line Police Officers and that these savings be ring-fenced for that purpose only.**
- (c) That the Medium Term Financial Plan, which outlined a possible increase of 4% for each year to 2015/16 based on an estimated grant reduction of 3% be noted; however the Panel does not commit itself to these assumptions for future years.**

January 2013