

Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel

Friday, 28 January 2022

PRESENT: Councillor A. Lloyd-Jones (Chair), Ceredigion County Council Member

Carmarthenshire County Council Member:

Councillors K Howell, J. Jones and J. Prosser

Ceredigion County Council Member:

Councillor K. Evans

Powys County Council Members:

Councillors D. Evans and W. Powell

Independent Members:

Mrs. H Thomas

Prof. I. Roffe

The following Officers were in attendance from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:

Mr. D. Llywelyn - Police and Crime Commissioner;

Mrs. C. Morgans - Chief of Staff;

Ms. B. Peatling - Chief Finance Officer;

The following Officers were in attendance:

R. Edgecombe, Legal Services Manager

K. Evans, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer

S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP - 10.00 am - 12.20 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND PERSONAL MATTERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rob Summons and Les George

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest made at the meeting.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 5TH NOVEMBER, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel meeting held on the 5th November 2021 be signed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (IF ANY)

No matters were raised at the meeting.

5. 2022-2023 POLICE PRECEPT

The Panel considered the Commissioner's report on the proposed police precept for 2022/23. The Panel was advised that it could make the decision to either approve, reject, or veto the proposed precept at the meeting and thereafter had to issue a report on its decision to the Commissioner. The decision to approve or reject could be made by a simple majority while a veto vote had to be supported by a two-third majority of the entire Panel membership. It was further advised that, if the Panel chose to veto, the Commissioner would not be able to issue the proposed precept and would have to publish a response to the Panel's report, indicating a different proposed precept, for consideration by the 15th February, 2022. The Panel would not be able to veto the revised proposed precept but could only decide to approve or reject it.

Councillor Keith Evans (Panel Lead on Finance) provided a presentation on the Panel's Finance Subgroup's scrutiny of the 2022/23 precept proposal including the 2022/23 - 2026/27 Medium Term Financial Plan, Reserves Strategy and Capital Strategy.

He advised that the 2022/23 grant settlement for Dyfed-Powys Police was £60.684m. This included a grant to partly cover additional costs from changes to employer's pension contributions as well as ring-fenced funding for recruitment of additional officers. The Panel was further advised that, without an increase in the capital grant, there was continuing pressure on diminishing reserves to fund critical investments into estate, IT and fleet infrastructure. Useable reserves stood at £15.611m at 31st March 2021.

Cllr. Evans advised that the precept sub-group under his chairmanship, commended the report, which proposed a precept increase of £1.22 per month on a Band D property equating to a 5.3% increase on the previous year. He thanked the Commissioner and Chief Constable for organising a finance seminar that supported scrutiny of the report.

The Panel thanked Cllr. Evans and the Commissioner for their detailed and informative reports.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Commissioner's proposal to increase the Dyfed-Powys Police's precept by 5.3% for 2022/23 be endorsed and to include the following caveats:-

- **That the Panel expects the Commissioner to re-evaluate the capital programme for future years and give serious consideration to the cancellation or deferment of some elements of it in recognition, that going forward, the capital programme has to be funded from revenue due to the demise of Home Office capital funding.**
- **That the panel further recognises that the new Chief Constable has not had the opportunity to put his entire influence into these proposals, and the panel wishes to encourage the Commissioner to work with him to seek a solution that places a lesser burden on rate payers whilst maintaining a quality service in future years.**

6. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSIONER

The Panel considered a report on decisions taken by the Commissioner during the period 19th October 2021 to 18th January, 2022.

In response to a query raised regarding Future Farms Wales, the Commissioner advised that the link to the website would be shared once it went live.

In response to a query raised regarding the rigid Hull inflatable boat, the Commissioner advised that this would be a replacement for the current one.

In response for an update regarding race relations and Policing in Wales, the Commissioner advised that he would provide a short paper to members providing an update on activities that the diversity officer has been co-ordinating for the force.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

CHAIR

DATE