

West Mercia
Police and Crime Panel

Mr John Campion
West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner
Hindlip Hall
Worcester
WR3 8SP

12 February 2026

Dear Mr Campion,

PROPOSED PRECEPT

In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, I write to confirm that the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel reviewed your proposed precept on 6 February 2026 in a public meeting at Wyre Forest House, Kidderminster. Thank you for attending and answering questions.

As required in the Act, the Panel must formally make a report to you as Commissioner on your proposed precept; please accept this letter as the formal report of the Panel.

The precept proposal you recommended to the Panel was to increase the precept by 5.2% for 2026/27, adding an average extra £15.00 to the annual Council Tax bill for a typical band D home.

Members of the Panel acknowledged and were grateful that that they had been provided with the latest information from the PCC and noted that that the Budget this year was challenging and complex. The Panel considered the details in the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan report and the report of the Panel's Task Group as included with its agenda.

The main areas of discussion were around:

- The £2.5m budget deficit and the proposals to bridge the gap.
 - The impact of the savings on frontline policing including the reassurance provided by the Chief Constable that overall, that the impact was manageable. There was some flexibility around Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee in that some officers could be repurposed from police staff posts without negative impact, there was also management of vacant posts and resources during the year and whilst these initiatives came at a cost, when taken together the Chief Constable believed that there would not be any one area that would significantly affect the communities of West Mercia.
 - The government expectation that the PCC would increase the precept by 5.2% for 2026/27, adding an average extra £15.00 to the annual Council Tax bill for a typical band D home and the impact on the budget of not applying for additional precept flexibility.
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- The reserves position - the PCC's Treasurer explained that £5.2m had been put back into reserves in 2025/26 and £800,000 from the Revenue Budget had been put into reserves for 2026/27 of which £500,000 was to increase the General Reserve Fund.
- That the collection fund surplus had been less than expected and had created a £700,000 pressure.

Having considered the reports, the following recommendation as proposed by the Panel's Budget Sub-Group was considered:

That the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel supports the PCC's proposal for an increase of Council Tax by £15.00 for an average Band D home (equivalent to 5.2%).

This recommendation was **unanimously** agreed by Members of the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel.

I note that you are required to have regard to the Panel's report and provide a response which will be published. I look forward to receiving this response in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Barry Durkin
Chairman of the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel
12 February 2026

Cllr Barry Durkin
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