

Mr Philip Seccombe
Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire
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By email: philip.seccombe@warwickshire.police.uk
cc: Polly Reed (OPCC): polly.reed@warwickshire.police.uk

7 February 2024

Dear Mr Seccombe,

Warwickshire Policing Precept 2024/25

Thank you for presenting your budget proposals to the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 5 February 2024 and for addressing the broad range of questions posed by Panel members.

I write to confirm that members of the Panel present at the meeting voted unanimously in support of your proposal of an increase of £13.00 (4.7%) in the local policing precept for an average Band D property (and equivalent percentage increase for other bands) for the 2024/25 financial year.

The Panel supports your proposed increase with three specific recommendations:

Firstly, the Panel noted the proposed improvements to services, the productivity achievements conferred by the Budget, and the commitment to improved outcomes for victims of crime. In reaching a decision, the Panel gave detailed attention to the findings of recent public engagement and consultation on the Budget. Members were supportive of your view that “the majority of the public stands behind increased funding for police services, provided they witness tangible improvements in the services delivered.” At the meeting, the Panel emphasised the importance of taking steps to ensure that the improvements to services delivered by the increased precept will be more effectively communicated to taxpayers.

At the meeting, it was considered that the provision of more detailed performance data would have benefitted the Panel's analysis of the proposed Budget. Members noted that it was difficult to make a judgement on improvements to services without data showing baseline levels and targets, giving a clear idea of how investment would lead to improved performance. The Panel recommended that progress in achieving the outlined improvements to services be monitored and reported on over the coming year.

Secondly, the Panel recognises that some areas of performance are more readily measurable than others. For example, the commitment to achieve further improvements to 101 call-handling processes could be monitored by reference to call waiting times; whereas the objective to achieve enhanced visibility of policing would require broader analysis. It is also recognised that a selective approach will be required, rather than seeking to monitor and report on a complete range of performance matrixes and indicators. To derive an indicative overview of performance, the Panel's Planning and Performance Working Group will work with the OPCC Team to assist narrowing the focus to more specific areas of community concern (for example, tackling anti-social behaviour) where clearer visibility around progress can be reported to the public. The support of your Office in this endeavour would be highly valued by the Panel.

Thirdly, at the meeting, the Panel was keen to highlight the importance of effective media and communications by Warwickshire Police to better publicise the good progress made by the Force by both recent and new investment. This would support taxpayers' understanding of the effect of this increased precept and how it is leading to tangible improvements in service delivery, effectiveness, and productivity levels of Warwickshire Police. I would be grateful if you would raise this point with the Chief Constable.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to you and the Team at the OPCC for the collaborative approach to providing information and the detailed Budget Briefing provided to the Panel ahead of the meeting.

A copy of the minutes of the meeting of 5 February will be forwarded to you shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Davis', written in a cursive style.

Mr Andy Davis
Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel Chair