



Councillor David Reilly
Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel Chair
Shire Hall
Warwick
CV34 4RL
davidreilly@northwarks.gov.uk
www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Mr Philip Seccombe
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner
3 Northgate Street,
Warwick
CV34 4SP

By email: philip.seccombe@warwickshire.police.uk
cc: Polly Reed (OPCC) polly.reed@warwickshire.police.uk

17 February 2022

Dear Mr Seccombe,

Warwickshire Policing Precept 2022/23

Thank you for your letter of 14 February 2022 and for attending the Panel's meeting on 10 February 2022 to present details of your revised precept.

I write to confirm that on 10 February 2022, the Panel considered your report and resolved to accept your revised precept increase of £9.75 for a Band D property for the 2022/23 financial year.

The Panel was reassured that you were mindful of concerns raised associated with rising costs of living and the financial challenges currently experienced by many householders.

At the meeting on 10 February, the Panel was grateful to receive assurance that the effect of investment, particularly in ICT, will be monitored to develop an understanding of measurable efficiencies. The Panel will take a keen interest in the Commissioner's challenge and scrutiny of the 'Empower' Programme, the scope it provides to demonstrate the effectiveness of the investment to date in Warwickshire Police as a standalone force, and the extent to which the Programme will deliver further savings to close the remaining budget gap over the medium term.

The work of the Panel's Performance Framework Task and Finish Group will also contribute to an improved understanding of effectiveness and efficiency, and I am grateful to your officers for the high quality of support provided to the Group.

Your commitment to “continue to hold the force to account on their delivery frameworks and to ensure positive outcomes to benefit the residents of Warwickshire” is welcomed by the Panel. To that end, the Panel will be interested in the PCC’s oversight of the new operating model for Warwickshire Police, how the new operating model is driving the deployment of the additional uplift officers and PCSOs, and the assurance you receive that the outcomes of the Chief Constable’s Operational Review will support the effective delivery of commitments within the Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2025.

At the recent meeting, there was discussion of the anticipated national review of the Policing Funding Formula. The Panel is mindful that the ratio between government funding and council tax revenue is not consistent across policing areas and that Warwickshire is disadvantaged by the current arrangement. I am reassured to hear that you intend to promote the interests of our residents to representatives in Westminster. The Panel is supportive of this initiative and eager to lend its support to reach the best possible outcome for Warwickshire.

At the meeting, the Panel noted that an extra £424,000 had been added to the budget following receipt of final figures from collection authorities outlining surpluses on the council tax collection fund and updated details of the council tax base. The Panel was reassured to hear that, in future, you would request earlier notification and delivery of more accurate estimates from borough and district councils. The Panel notes that the scale of planned residential development across Warwickshire over the coming years is likely to further expand the council tax base and is of the view that it would greatly assist both the Commissioner and the Panel if estimates were as accurate as possible prior to the preparation of future precept proposals.

I am grateful that you have accepted the Panel’s offer of support for future consultation strategies. At the meeting on 27 January 2022, Panel members made some positive suggestions to encourage wider participation in public consultations on the budget and precept. The Panel looks forward to working with you and your office to develop proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Reilly', followed by a period. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Councillor David Reilly
Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel Chair