



South Wales Police and Crime Panel

REPORT ON THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH WALES' PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2026/27

Background

This report is made in accordance with the South Wales Police and Crime Panel's ("SWPCP") statutory duty contained in, Schedule 5, Paragraph 3(2) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ("the Act"). The SWPCP must make a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner on the proposed precept.

Review of Proposed Precept for 2025/26

The Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales ("the Commissioner") notified the SWPCP on the 28th January 2026 of the Precept Proposal for 2026/27.

The SWPCP met on Tuesday the 3rd February 2026 at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's offices at the Orbit Centre, Merthyr Tydfil to review the Precept and to report on the proposed precept. A copy of the report detailing the proposed Precept is available to view on the SWPCP pages on the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council website.

Link to SWPCP Report

<https://democracy.merthyr.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=349&MId=6784&Ver=4&LLL=0>

The following Members of the SWPCP were present:

Cllr Bernie Bowen Thompson (Chair) (Cardiff Council)
Cllr Louisa Addiscott (Vice Chair) (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Cllr Sean Driscoll (Cardiff Council)
Cllr Bob Harris (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Cllr Hannah Lawson (Swansea City Council)
Cllr Caroline Lewis (Neath Port Talbot Council)
Cllr Sandra Perkes (Vale of Glamorgan Council)
Cllr Johanna Llewellyn-Hopkins (Bridgend County Borough Council)
Ms Sarah James (Co-opted Member)

Report

The Commissioner recommended an 6.99% increase in the 2026/27 precept.

The SWPCP considered the Precept proposal and after questioning the Commissioner, the Chief Constable, the Deputy Chief Constable and members of the Commissioner’s team and following a full debate, resolved to approve the proposed Precept. The Commissioner is therefore permitted to implement her proposed increase which provides for a 2026/27 revenue budget of £442,211,587 with a total precept income of £211,664,158 which is an increase of £26.47 a month on a band D Property and an annual Band D Precept of £405.14.

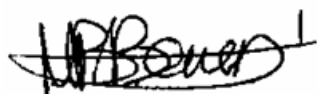
Recommendations

In the first instance the SWPCP wanted it recorded that it would have welcomed a lower Precept proposal but recognises the pressures and demands placed upon policing South Wales and to that end it was cognisant of the fact that effective policing can only be maintained if South Wales Police are properly funded. However, once again the SWPCP expressed its disappointment that the financial burden of paying for an effective police force is being gradually transferred from central government to the council tax paying public via the Precept and the SWPCP feels strongly that this should not continue.

The SWPCP notes and supports the work undertaken by the Commissioner and her office to lobby Central Government to provide South Wales Police with Capital City Funding and recommends that further efforts are made to secure this funding. The SWPCP will write to the Home Office to support the Commissioner’s application for Capital City Funding. The SWPCP also recommends that to add further weight to this application the Commissioner should contact the leaders of the seven South Wales Police area local authorities for them to endorse their support to the application.

The SWPCP welcomed the Commissioner’s commitment to neighbourhood policing. It recognises that policing is a critical and essential service and that reducing funding would present unacceptable risks to the public and would negatively impact upon wider public services for example the health services.

The inequity of Apprenticeship Levy continues to be a concern for the SWPCP. South Wales Police is disadvantaged to the sum of £2.5M per annum compared to a similar sized force in England by the government’s application of the Apprenticeship Levy in Wales. The SWPCP recommends and supports further engagement with the Home Office to address the inequity.



Signed:

Chair of the South Wales Police & Crime Panel

Dated: 3rd February 2026