

GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY
Audit and Resources Committee

Date: 4 February 2009 **Item No:** 3b

Heading: Proposed Financial Strategy to 2012 and
2009/10 Budget

Report Author: Chief Constable

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present proposals for addressing the projected revenue budgetary imbalance over the next three financial years and, in particular, proposals for the increase in council tax precept for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The report also details proposals for achieving a balanced revenue budget in 2009/10 and an initial capital programme for 2009/10.

It is proposed that the council tax precept be increased by 5% for both 2009/10 and 2010/11.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Members endorse the proposal for a 5% increase in council tax precept for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The purpose of this meeting is to consider the proposals for:

- a) achieving a balanced recurring revenue budget by the end of 2011/12;
- b) balancing the revenue budget for 2009/10;
- c) an initial Capital Programme for 2009/10;
- d) proposals for council tax precept increases for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

1.2 Members will need to either endorse the Chief Constable's proposals or provide guidance on alternative options.

2. PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE AND CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 In addition to the budget briefing given to the Audit and Resources Committee in December 2008 and the budget setting seminar attended by Police Authority Members in January 2009, the attached draft report provides details of the 2011 Review process to be undertaken in order to address the above issues and makes recommendations for a 5% increase in council tax precept for both 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- 2.2 The Police Authority Treasurer will add his recommendations on the Chief Constable's proposals in the final report.

3. STAFFING/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 As detailed in the attached report.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As detailed in the attached report.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Senior officers of the Force, partner organisations and Police Authority Members.

6. PROJECT ASSESSMENT FOR EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY MATTERS

- 6.1 This project/proposal has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Force's Equality Schemes, and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 There is a risk that sufficient CRES will not be achieved in order to address the forecast budgetary shortfall. If this position transpires and council tax precept increases have not been maximised, this will result in less resources being available to deliver police services.

8. STAYING AHEAD (2011 REVIEW)

- 8.1 The 2011 Review forms the basis for achieving a long term balanced recurring revenue budget.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 Members should approve the recommended 5% increase in council tax precept for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

10. CONTACT OFFICER

10.1 David Ansell, Director of Finance and Administration.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Police Funding Announcements.

11.2 2009/10 Budget Briefing - Audit and Resources Committee - December 2008.

11.3 2009/10 Budget Briefing – Police Authority Members – January 2009.

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Report on the proposed Financial Strategy 2012 and 2009/10 Budget