

Warwickshire Police announce zero per cent increase in council tax

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WARWICKSHIRE'S Police and Crime Panel have approved the precept proposed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Ron Ball for a zero per cent increase for 2013/14.

This announcement follows a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel yesterday (Thursday) where the commissioner's proposal was considered and accepted.

Chair of the Police and Crime Panel, Dennis Harvey said: "During the meeting, councillors representing every district and borough council in Warwickshire questioned the commissioner thoroughly on his current precept and his financial plans for the future of the police force. He was also challenged over the need for there to be a robust system for communicating and engaging with the public and for the proposed plans to recruit around 100 more special constables in Warwickshire.

"All in all, it was a very productive meeting and I would like to thank Mr Ball for presenting his precept to the panel."

Mr Ball said: "I welcome the fact that the Police and Crime Panel have approved my proposal for a zero per cent increase in the police precept this year.

"When I was running for the role of Police and Crime Commissioner, I felt that there should be no need to raise the precept if we took full advantage of any savings that could be made through the strategic alliance with West Mercia. Having now reviewed the force's financial position and taking into account people's views and the level of reserves, I am confident this is the right decision for the service and for local people, especially at a time when many are already struggling with their household budgets."

In addition to the precept, the Commissioner also presented the Police and Crime Plan for 2013 to 2017. For more information on the Police and Crime Panel visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/policeandcrimepanel

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