

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

18 April 2023

SUBJECT: Cost of living – Exception paper

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines the work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of the cost of living potential increase in crime/demand.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise WYP.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 21-24

3. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of 'The Voice of West Yorkshire'. Face to face and online consultation and engagement ran from 1 September 2021- 30 November 2021; The Voice of West Yorkshire is one a of two key documents which supports the Police and Crime Plan 2021 -24.
4. The plan sets out a series of objectives under each of the priorities which also impact on discussions around the cost of living impact as follows:

Priority 2: Keeping people safe and building resilience

- Understand and mitigate the hidden harm of the COVID-19 pandemic, including child sexual offences and domestic abuse
- Bring a whole person approach to the different strands of vulnerability.
- Reduce exploitation of vulnerable people by disrupting drugs supply and County Lines activity.
- Work in partnership to protect those most vulnerable to Cyber Crime including fraud, online abuse, and exploitation.

Priority 3: Safer Places and Thriving Communities

- Stop young people becoming involved in Serious Violence.
- Through a collective and collaborative approach, target the most dangerous and determined organised criminals who exploit vulnerable people.
- Tackle ASB at the earliest opportunity through a tiered approach of prevention, intervention, and enforcement.
- Tackling inequality and poverty to help communities to increase their prosperity and recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Priority 4: Responding to Multiple and complex needs

- Protecting vulnerable young people and ensuring they do not get exploited and drawn into a life of criminality.

KEY INFORMATION

5. Mayoral/DMPC and VRU activity to date includes:

- Setting the annual budget for West Yorkshire Police. This includes agreeing the local 'police precept' - the part of the Council Tax that helps to fund local policing. Every part of the country relies on funding gathered through Council Tax payments to support their local police force. The cost of the police precept in West Yorkshire is actually the fourth lowest in England and Wales, but it still provides 28% of West Yorkshire Police's total net annual budget, with almost all of the remainder coming from central government funding.
- The Mayor is in frequent budget conversations with the Chief Constable to ensure West Yorkshire Police continue their work with the funding needed to sustain it during a time of acute cost increases.
- The Mayor has consulted with the public on this years precept proposals.
- Funding gained through the police precept will help us to maintain the safe, just, and inclusive police service we need.
- The Mayor has provided a 9% uplift allocation to the MoJ funded VCSE providers.
- The Mayors Violence Reduction Unit has also made 10% uplift payment to their VCSE providers and where the VRU invests support via Local Authorities to a VCSE provider they received 15% (5% to cover Local Authority costs and the full 10% to be passed to the VCSE provider.
- Within the Combined Authority the Mayor also has a Cost of Living Emergency Fund.
- Mayors Safer Communities Fund – In late 2022 the Mayor increased the level of funding projects could apply for from 6k to 8k to support the VCSE sector.
- In February 2023, the Mayor/DMPC awarded the largest ever Mayor's Safer Communities Fund grant round to date at over half a million pounds to 73 projects.
- Mayors Safer Communities Fund – In late 2022 the Mayor increased the level of funding projects could apply for from 6k to 8k to support the VCSE sector.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

The Policing and Crime Team have several Partnership Boards including:

- Violence Reduction Unit
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board
- Programme Precision
- Children's Risk and Vulnerability Group

- Internal Commissioning Group

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

- It is clear that those who reside in more deprived high crime areas are likely to be hit harder by any potential increases in crime and are more likely to be vulnerable to criminal exploitation.
- People may be more vulnerable to criminal exploitation based on their protected characteristics.

ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constables report – Cost of Living impact](#)