

**SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) ACT 1994 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (PRECEPTS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 1995**

**MEETING: Individual Cabinet Member Decision – Councillor P. Murphy**

**DATE: 23rd December 2015**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Countywide**

**1. PURPOSE:**

To seek Member approval of the proposals for consultation purposes regarding payments to precepting authorities during the 2016/17 financial year as required by statute.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 That the following schedule of payments be proposed:

(i) The Police Authority precept is paid from the Council Fund by twelve monthly equal instalments on the third Tuesday in each month.

(ii) The Community Council precepts are paid by three equal instalments on the last working day in April, August and December in each year.

2.2 That a further report be produced on the results of consultation enabling a determination to be made by 31st January in accordance with statute.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

- 3.1 The Council as a billing authority is required to determine the schedule of instalments for payment of Precepts from the Council Fund for each year.
- 3.2 The Regulations provide that on or before the 31st December each year a billing authority must inform each precepting authority of its proposals for a schedule of instalments to satisfy all of the precepts. This proposal should be followed by a determination on or before the 31st January, with at least 21 days elapsing between decision on the proposals and the making of a determination.
- 3.3 In each schedule the billing authority must specify the number of instalments, the proportion of each precept which is to be paid in each instalment and the dates in the year on which instalments are to be paid. The payment to the Police Authority must be made on the same day and should not be less than twelve instalments in any one financial year. In the case of Town and Community Councils the agreement can be one of the following:
  - i) Payment by three instalments in April, August and December  
or;
  - ii) Payment by one instalment on the last working day in April.
- 3.4 For the current year Monmouthshire County Council operate the arrangement identified in (i) above for Town and Community Councils and pay the Police Authority precept on the third Tuesday of each month.
- 3.5 In respect of the Police Authority precept, one Greater Gwent Council currently pays on the last working day of each month and four, including Monmouthshire, pay on the third Tuesday. There are slight cash flow advantages of the former arrangement and in deciding its proposals the Cabinet member will wish to consider whether these justify suggesting a change from the present arrangements.

#### **4. REASONS:**

To approve the proposals for consultation purposes regarding payments to precepting authorities during the 2016/17 financial year as required by statute.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 Slight cash flow advantages would be achieved should a decision be made to pay the Police Authority precept on the last working day of each month.

#### **6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**

This report outlines the available options regarding payments to precepting authorities as required by statute and as such does not have any sustainable development or equality implications.

**7. CONSULTEES:**

Senior Leadership Team  
All Cabinet Members  
Head of Finance  
Head of Legal Services

**Results of Consultation:**

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None

**9. AUTHOR:** Jonathan S Davies – Finance Manager, Central Finance

**10. CONTACT DETAILS:**

**Tel:** (01633) 644114

**E-mail:** [jonathansd Davies@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathansd Davies@monmouthshire.gov.uk)