

**Warwickshire Police Authority – 7 April 2008**

**Budget 2008/09 – Update**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Summary**

This report updates the Authority on the latest position regarding the 2008/09 Budget following the capping announcement.

**Recommendation**

That the Authority discusses the options set out in the report.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008, the Minister for Local Government, John Healey, M.P. wrote to the Chair of the Authority about the Council Tax Precept 2008-09 and enclosed a statement he was making to the House of Commons that day. I attach a copy of the letter at **Appendix 1**.

Following the Minister's statement to the Commons, the Association of Police Authorities issued a press release and a briefing on the capping announcement. I attach copies of these papers at **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3**.

I received a letter on the 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 from Richard Harries, Deputy Director, Council Tax at the Department for Communities and Local Government. This letter sets out the legal and financial position in respect of capping and I attach a copy of the letter at **Appendix 4**.

Members will see that the letter sets out two options for consideration:

- (a) To accept 'designation' and agree that the maximum budget requirement for 2008-09 should be £84,082,000 as proposed by the Secretary of State, OR
- (b) To challenge the maximum amount proposed as the budget requirement and present a case to the Secretary of State in support of the decisions arrived at the meeting of the Police Authority on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

The Treasurer will outline the process of capping and update Members on the current position at the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> April.

It is suggested that, after consideration of the attached papers and taking advice as appropriate from the Treasurer and Chief Constable, Members confirm either (a) or (b) above.

**ERIC WOOD**  
**Chief Executive**

**Enquiries:** about this report should be made to Neil Gulliver on 01926 412322

**Background Papers:** As attached where appropriate