

AGENDA

Meeting: WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
Place: Council Chamber, Monkton Park, Chippenham, SN15 1ER
Date: Thursday 3 February 2022
Time: 10.00 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kevin Fielding, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01249 706612 EXT 21612 or email kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

Membership:

Cllr Junab Ali - Swindon Borough Council – (Chairman)
Cllr Abdul Amin - Swindon Borough Council
Mamie Beasant - Co-Opted Independent Member
Cllr Steve Bucknell - Wiltshire Council
Cllr Daniel Cave – Wiltshire Council
Cllr Caroline Corbin - Wiltshire Council
Cllr Ross Henning - Wiltshire Council
Cllr Jenny Jeffries - Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Vijay Manro - Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Brian Mathew - Wiltshire Council
Cllr Tony Pickernell - Wiltshire Council
Anna Richardson - Co-Opted Independent Member
Cllr Rich Rogers - Wiltshire Council

Substitutes:

Cllr Adrian Foster - Wiltshire Council
Cllr Sarah Gibson - Wiltshire Council
Cllr Gordon King - Wiltshire Council
Cllr Dominic Muns - Wiltshire Council
Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney - Wiltshire Council
Cllr Ricky Rogers - Wiltshire Council
Cllr Rahul Tarar - Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Caroline Thomas – Wiltshire Council

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Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this meeting.

For extended details on meeting procedure, submission and scope of questions and other matters, please consult [Part 4 of the council's constitution](#).

The full constitution can be found at [this link](#).

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details

AGENDA

Part I

Items to be considered when the meeting is open to the public

1 **Apologies for Absence**

2 **Minutes and matters arising**

To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 16 December 2021 and Thursday 13 January 2022.

3 **Declarations of interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

5 **Public Participation**

The Panel welcomes contributions from members of the public.

Statements

If you wish to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named on the first page of the agenda for any further clarification.

Questions

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named on the front of this agenda no later than 5pm on Friday 28 January 2022. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

6 **Formal consideration of PCC Precept proposal 2022/23**

7 **Future Meeting Dates**

To note the future meeting dates below:

Thursday 10 March 2022 - Assembly Room, Town Hall, St.John's Street,
Devizes SN10 1BN

Thursday 9 June 2022 - venue to be confirmed

Thursday 29 September 2022 - venue to be confirmed

Thursday 15 December 2022 - venue to be confirmed

Part II

Item(s) during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

None

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Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel

MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2021 AT SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES.

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali (Chairman), Cllr Abdul Amin, Mamie Beasant, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Ross Henning (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Jenny Jeffries, Cllr Vijay Manro and Cllr Brian Mathew

Also Present:

Philip Wilkinson OBE – Police and Crime Commissioner
Russell Holland – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Kieran Kilgallen - OPCC
Naji Darwish - OPCC
Megan Mouny – OPCC

Perry Haynes – Wiltshire Council
Kevin Fielding – Wiltshire Council

22 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Anna Richardson - Co-Opted Independent Member, Cllr Daniel Cave – Wiltshire Council, Cllr Tony Pickernell - Wiltshire Council and Cllr Rich Rogers - Wiltshire Council.

23 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Decision

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 September 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

24 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

25 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

26 **Public Participation**

Paul Summers – Wiltshire Neighbourhood watch Association

The following Question had been emailed to the OPCC for follow up:

Following Wiltshire Police recently receiving a 'Good' efficiency inspection rating, the admission that it had 'taken its eye off the ball' in relation to the 44% increase in burglaries across the Force area over the past three years, served as a brave admission and one that rightly merits scrutiny.

In reviewing the strategic police response to the serious crime of burglary, can the PCC advise what steps have now been taken by Wiltshire Police which will reassure public confidence in relation to the ability of Wiltshire Police to respond appropriately to such serious criminal activity?

27 **Performance Highlights**

Philip Wilkinson – Police and Crime Commissioner outlined the performance highlights for Quarter 2 – 2021/22.

Points made included:

That Wiltshire Police were reporting the lowest for recorded crimes per 1000 residents for the 12 months to Sep-21 within our most similar group (MSG) and nationally. The force was considered by HMIC to be 'better than peers'.

That 52.17 crimes were reported for every 1000 residents in the county of Wiltshire, significantly below the MSG average of 66.12.

That Wiltshire Police reported a -4.9% reduction in the volume of crime for the 12 months to Sep-21 compared to the previous 12 months, 4.6 percentage points lower than the average national decrease.

That the average reported national decrease was -0.3%; South West Region reports an average reduction of -2.3%; MSG reports an average reduction of -2.9%.

That the number of forces reporting an increase in their reported crime had risen from 8 to 14 nationally within the same time period.

That Wiltshire's crime volume was demonstrating a long term stable trend with the most recent months experiencing expected seasonal increases. During Quarter 2 2021/22 crime volume had been below the forecast when using pre-

covid volumes. This enabled the force to understand where they were expected to be by removing the exceptional activity as a result of the covid-19 pandemic and the related lockdown periods

During Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 2021-22, expected seasonal highs in reported crime had been consistently below where they were forecasted to be. Meaning that the expected seasonal high this year had not been quite as elevated as expected when comparing to our pre-covid baseline.

The rolling 12 month forecast was stable. Although Wiltshire continued to report year on year decreases in reported crime volumes, the value of that percentage was becoming less significant than reported in previous quarters during the height of the pandemic. Wiltshire should expect to see these year on year reductions become smaller as time goes on, with the potential to report small increases. This was due to the most recent 12 months of 'back to normal' volumes being compared to the previous 12 months that contains exceptionally low numbers reported through the pandemic.

Year on year the force continued to report reductions in the following crime groups; Shoplifting, theft offences, residential burglary, burglary business and community, criminal damage, vehicle offences, bicycle theft and theft from a person. In terms of increase, Wiltshire continued to report an increase in violence without injury, stalking and harassment, other sexual offences, public orders offences and robbery.

It was noted that this would be the last meeting that the Performance Statistics would be presented in this format, a new "slimmed" format would be delivered at the March 2022 meeting.

The Chairman advised that he and the Panel would look forward to the new format.

Decision

The report was noted by the Police and Crime Panel

The Chairman thanked the Commissioner for his presentation.

28 **PCC Consultation**

Naji Darwish gave a brief summary of the engagement activities to inform the development of the Police and Crime Plan 2022-25, including findings so far.

The report was contained in the agenda pack.

Key findings:

- 81.9% of respondents were aged 40+

- 47% of people felt a little or much less safe than 2 years ago, with 48% reporting no change with females more likely to report feeling less safe than male in the last two years (51.8% Females, 44.4% males)
- 70% of people felt safe during the day in their community
- 36% of people felt unsafe at night in their community, with 39% feeling very or quite safe
- 71% of people felt confident they could contact the police
- 47% of people did not feel confident to contact their local CPT
- 62% felt the police treated them with respect when contacted
- 44.5% supported an increase in council tax to support delivery of local policing. Of the people supportive on an increase, 38% said they would support an increase of £1.25, 37% an increase of £3 a month, and 25% said £5 per month.

The Panel members felt that the consultation had received good engagement, but that Wiltshire Police needed to be using social media more to engage with as many people as possible.

Decision

That the Police and Crime Panel noted the update on engagement activities to inform the Police and Crime Plan 2022-25 and that the Panel members noted the findings from work completed to date

The Chairman thanked Naji Darwish for his summary.

29 **Police and Crime Plan draft**

Philip Wilkinson – Police and Crime Commissioner outlined his draft plan.

Points made included:

Vision - To make Wiltshire a safer place to live and work

Mission - One crime is one crime too many, one victim is one victim too many

Principles to deliver policing, justice and the Plan

- Serving the public – services work for the public not themselves
- Engagement – communities are part of the decisions and assessment of their services

- Trust – policing and justice must have trust from all our communities
- Excel at the basics – Focus on visibility, standards and accountability

Priorities

- Priority 1 – A police service that meets the needs of its communities
- Priority 2 – Reduce violence and serious harm
- Priority 3 - Tackle crimes that matter to local communities
- Priority 4 - Improve the experience of victims and deliver justice

Next Steps

Testing and redrafting the plan based on engagement

January

- 13 Jan PCP MTFS and Precept meeting
- Precept survey
- Area boards and Swindon Parish Councils
- Focus groups for local communities and stakeholders
- Facebook live sessions, Area board presentation
- Young commissioners presentation on priorities

February

- Redrafting the plan
- Developing measures and delivery
- 3 Feb PCP on final precept recommendation
- 10 March Final plan presented to panel

Points made by the Panel included:

Good work on rural crime issues and Speedwatch issues throughout the county.

That parish councils needed reassuring that any potential investment in Community Speedwatch would be backed by Wiltshire Police, and that the data produced by the parish volunteer groups would be used to target drivers breaking speed limits.

Well done for the focus on speeding – local communities would appreciate this.

The need to re-invigorate Community Speedwatch teams – an idiots guide to Speedwatch would be appreciated to refresh the knowledge of volunteers.

That all residential roads and streets should have a 20mph speed limit in place.

The need for Salisbury to get a new Police station.

That there was a real need for a more comprehensive approach to road safety in general.

That residents living in areas of high deprivation didn't see the point in engaging the Police when their voices weren't heard.

The need for the plan to represent all communities, religions and groups.

That Wiltshire was a diverse area with different needs.

Issues with HGVs driving through communities – more joined up working with local authorities was needed.

Concerns that the under-performance of the court system may trip up some of the aims of the plan.

Drug dealing – good to see local drug dealers being targeted.

The need for Wiltshire Police to really push their pledge for Carbon Neutrality and to try and sync with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council, to achieve this goal before 2050.

The Chairman advised that it was heartening to hear all of the Panel members giving their views, and that the Commissioner would have the full support of the Police and Crime Panel to get things done.

Decision

That the Police and Crime Panel noted the Police & Crime 2022-25 draft Plan and that the Police and Crime Panel considered discussions with the OPCC on how future reporting on the new plan could support the Police and Crime Panel

The Chairman thanked the Commissioner for his presentation.

30 **Forward Work Plan**

The Forward Work Plan was noted.

31 **Future meeting dates**

The future meeting dates were noted.

It was hoped that a future meeting would be held at the Wiltshire Police Headquarters, Devizes at some point when the Covid restrictions had eased.

32 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Decision

That the Police and Crime Panel agreed that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Items Number 33 and 34 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public

33 **Retirement of the Chief Executive, OPCC**

Part II

Item(s) during whose consideration it was recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

34 **Establishment Standing Sub-Committee**

Part II

Item(s) during whose consideration it was recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 12.15 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kevin Fielding of Democratic Services, direct line 01249 706612 EXT 21612, e-mail kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line ((01225) 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk

MINUTES

Meeting: Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel
Place: Salisbury Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Salisbury SP1 1JH
Date: 13 January 2022
Start Time: 10.00 am
Finish Time: 11.50 am

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Kevin Fielding - Democratic Services Officer, (Tel): 01249 706612 EXT 21612 or

(e-mail) kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Junab Ali (Chairman), Cllr Abdul Amin, Mamie Beasant, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Zoe Clewer, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Ross Henning (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Vijay Manro, Cllr Brian Mathew, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Anna Richardson and Cllr Rich Rogers

Also Present:

Philip Wilkinson – Police & Crime Commissioner
Russell Holland – Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner
Naji Darwish – OPCC
Clive Barker – OPCC

Maria Doherty – Wiltshire Council
Kevin Fielding – Wiltshire Council

Total in attendance: 19

35	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>There were no apologies.</p>
36	<p><u>Declarations of interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
37	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>There were no Chairman's announcements.</p>
38	<p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p>Two questions from Mr Paul Howlett had been emailed to the OPCC.</p> <p>Question 1</p> <p>I note that the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-23 to 2025-26 concludes, "It is expected that the Chief Constable will improve the efficiency in how he delivers policing. Depending on the funding provided there is likely to be a budgetary gap, it is expected that the Chief Constable will continue to identify ways in which he can close these gaps."</p> <p>I am concerned that there is a limit to the efficiency savings that can be achieved by the Chief Constable with the risk that eventually local policing will be detrimentally impacted.</p> <p>This is a burden that the Chief Constable shares with the PCC as his responsibilities includes, amongst others, "Sets the police budget and decides how much people will pay towards policing from their council tax, as well as priorities for resources, linked to their plan."</p> <p>The current draft "Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025" describes options for modernising the police estate & yet gives no indication how any of them will be funded. It seems that further increases in the police precept will be necessary to fund estate improvements. This is at a time when household costs are predicted to increase with a rise in the cost of living, which is a cause for concern.</p> <p>In the absence of any additional central funding, what assurances can the PCC give that improvements in the police estate will not be funded through placing an undue financial burden on the people of Wiltshire as well as any reduction in the availability of local policing.</p>

Answer:

There is an expectation that Chief Constables and PCCs deliver an efficient and effective service. We are continually reviewing how we deliver services ensuring we are optimising advances in technology and removing duplication. With the new centrally funded officers there is now a requirement for officer numbers to be maintained hence reducing the concern that local policing will be detrimentally impacted.

The MTFS describes a requirement to invest in the police estate. It specifically deals with how this will be funded noting that reserves, capital receipts and capital grants will not be sufficient to deliver fit for purpose premises. The plan is to deliver major developments by borrowing taking advantage of the current low interest rates and spreading the impact over 30 years, hence the public receiving the benefits of these assets pay for them over this period. The capital financing strategy (part of the MTFS) explains how this will be achieved in a sustainable method without placing undue pressure in one year hence limiting any impact on local policing.

Question 2

I understand that currently less than 1 in 10 domestic burglaries are detected, which if true is appalling. The effective investigation of crime and the management of offenders are key to community confidence in policing as well as achieving value for money. Will the PCC consider including in future performance data regarding detection rates within publicly available crime statistics.

Answer:

Investigative standards across all crime is a priority I have identified in my plan. The level of outcomes achieved by police are a key measures for the overall effectiveness of investigations and delivering this priority for my plan. Outcome rates information already forms part of the performance measures of the current police and crime plan and I will continue to hold the Chief Constable accountably for improving this. In addition to burglary I want to see improvements in outcomes for all types of crime. My draft police and crime plan highlights many areas where I want to see improvements in bring offenders to justice in particular in relation to rape, sexual offences, and violent crime.

Cllr Zoe Clewer representing Redlynch Parish Council was in attendance and asked two questions.

Question 1

Have you consulted with officers and back office staff re the plan?

	<p>Answer:</p> <p><i>Yes, both formally and informally, visiting police stations etc, and giving briefings to police staff.</i></p> <p>Question 2</p> <p>Cannabis – would like to see more action being taken re cannabis use.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p><i>That Police would respond to all reports of illegal acts – drug related.</i></p>
39	<p><u>PCC Budget 2022/23 and MTFS</u></p> <p>Clive Barker - Chief Financial Officer, explained the detail of the budget settlement 2022-23 proposals and the Medium Term Financial Strategy and answered questions.</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <p>That the paper provided the panel with information on the draft budget and precept being considered. It also showed the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which estimated the financial position over the next four financial years.</p> <p>That on the 16 December the provisional settlement was announced by the government. Whilst this reported a 5.2% increase in Wiltshire funding this assumed that the PCC would take up the full £10 increase in precept.</p> <p>The government had set a capping level of a £10 increase on Band D council tax levels for all PCC's. In Wiltshire this would equate to an increase of 4.3% on the 2021-22 Band D level of £231.27. Whilst PCCs had the freedom to decide on the increase it should be noted that the government's communications suggesting a % increase was based on the setting of a precept with a £10 increase.</p> <p>In the MTFS the following scenarios have been considered;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A - £10.00 increase, 4.3% • Option B - £4.63 increase, 2.0% <p>The impact of a 1% increase in the precept was additional funding of £0.617m</p>

	<p>That the information had been provided by Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council, provisionally the tax base had increased by 1.13%. A surplus on the collection fund had been announced by Wiltshire Council of £0.430m, whilst Swindon Borough Council had declared a deficit of £0.135m. The net position was therefore an additional £0.295m of funding.</p> <p>The panel were given the opportunity to discuss with the Commissioner the budget settlement 2022-23 proposals and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>That the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel noted the report and the current thinking surrounding the 2022-23 precept. It was considered that a £10 Band D increase per household per year was appropriate.</p> <p>The chairman thanked the Commissioner and Clive Barker for a comprehensive paper and presentation.</p>
40	<p><u>Future meeting dates</u></p> <p>Th future meeting dates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 3 February 2022 - Committee Room A&B, Monkton Park, Monkton Hill, Chippenham SN15 1ER • Thursday 10 March 2022 - Assembly Room, Town Hall, St.John's Street, Devizes SN10 1BN • Thursday 9 June 2022 - venue to be confirmed • Thursday 29 September 2022 - venue to be confirmed • Thursday 15 December 2022 - venue to be confirmed
41	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Boxing Day Lacock Hunt issues – That Wiltshire Police would act on any illegal activities, that more police resources could have been deployed at the event, the CCTV van could perhaps have been used. That there had been some arrests made after the event.</p> <p>Auto Speedwatch – That it appeared that where communities had invested in the Auto Speedwatch system, there was some confusion on whether Wiltshire Police were using the data gathered by local volunteer groups. It was confirmed that Wiltshire Police would be using auto Speedwatch data</p>

	<p>gathered by local volunteer groups.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour in Salisbury – That Wiltshire Police would be following up on this and had been putting a pro-active plan together, local teams would be deployed accordingly.</p>
42	<u>Close</u>



Meeting	Police and Crime Panel
Date	3 February 2022
Report Title	Proposed Precept for 2022-23
Report presented by	Philip Wilkinson, Police and Crime Commissioner
Author	Clive Barker, Chief Finance Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This paper notifies the Panel of the precept I am proposing for 2022-23.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In January 2022 I presented to the Panel a paper which identified my initial thinking on the 2022-23 budget and my draft MTFs (Medium Term Financial Strategy). This paper identified that whilst overall funding levels had been announced no specific information had been received, this remains the case. This paper assumes the provisional settlement information released generally on the internet is confirmed without any changes.

CENTRAL GRANT

3. As detailed in the January paper the grant for Wiltshire has risen by £3.831m to £76.775m (excluding Pensions Specific Grant). This is Wiltshire's portion of the £550m provided by the government to fund nationally an additional 8,000 officers (the last year of the national uplift to 20,000 officers). After considering the cost of funding the 62 new officers allocated to Wiltshire the amount remaining for inflation or growth pressures is £1.8m (2.3%). Pressure on costs due to the National Insurance increase for the Social Care Tax and Pay awards are expected to exceed this amount.
4. It should be noted that the 5.2% cash increase for Wiltshire reported by the government includes the funding of the 62 new officers and that the precept is increased by £10 for all Band D dwellings (the maximum available to all PCCs without referendum).

THE PRECEPT

5. Local funding is the sum of the precept plus collection funds. Collection funds hold any variances on precept collection in both collecting authorities (Wiltshire Council (WC) and Swindon Borough Council (SBC)). The collecting authorities must estimate the number of equivalent Band D properties, considering their local support scheme and the collection rate to arrive at a council tax base.

6. Pressures still remain on local councils with SBC reporting a deficit of £0.135m. This is cancelled about by the surplus of £0.430m reported by WC leaving a net figure collection fund surplus of £0.295m.
7. The council tax base has recovered this year with a consolidated increase of 1.1% leading to a total base of 266,748.
8. My initial paper identified that I was considering a £10 increase in precept. This would result in a 4.3% increase and would help resolve issues arising from the limited central grant settlement.
9. I am considering the whole funding position. Wiltshire remains the 3rd lowest total funded area per head of population. It has the lowest council tax in the South West (the 2021-22 regional average excluding Wiltshire is £250.86 for a Band D property). Based on this low funding position I am minded to increase the precept by £10 for a Band D property to £241.27 (from £231.27 in 2021-22).
10. This increase will assist in the long term funding of Wiltshire Police as it will impact the base for which all future precepts start from. I am campaigning for fairer funding for Wiltshire. To not increase the precept when the government has specifically given me the option to do this would be a missed opportunity. I have taken into consideration the feedback from the public consultation and I intend explaining to them the benefits that a £10 increase will deliver.

THE FUNDING AVAILABLE

11. The table below outlines the funding available to me based on a £10 increase.

	2021-22	2022-23
Central Grant	£66.909m	£70.428m
Legacy Council Tax Grants	£5.235m	£5.235m
Uplift Grant	£0.800m	£1.112m
Total Central Funding	£72.944m	£76.775m
Precept Income	£61.004m	£64.359m
Council Tax Collection Fund	-	£0.295m
Total Funding Received	£133.948m	£141.429m
Investment Income	£0.079m	£0.079m
Total Funding Available	£134.027m	£141.508m

FUNDING ALLOCATION

12. I am expected to commission services from the funding available. The table below identifies how I intend using these resources.

	2021-22	2022-23
OPCC Office Costs	£2.021m	£2.197m
OPCC Commissioning Costs	£1.646m	£1.728m
OPCC Shared Services Costs	£29.126m	£31.433m
OPCC Capital Contribution	£2.504m	£3.298m
OPCC Chief Constable Allocation	£98.730m	£102.852m
	£134.027m	£141.508m

13. The 2022-23 allocation will allow for 3 new staff in the OPCC commissioning services (funded over 2 years) and an investment in the legal team to ensure the service is fit for purpose.
14. The Shared Service allocation increase surrounds providing the necessary infrastructure required to deliver the Uplift increase and ensuring we are able to obtain the opportunities available from technology. £0.430m of ICT staffing growth is required to enhance services (new O365 developer), ensure systems are stable and secure (Infrastructure posts) and to look to the future (Apprenticeships).

CAPITAL

15. The Capital Financing Strategy is essential in helping me plan future investments in a viable manner. With depleting capital reserves and the removal of capital grants it is essential that I increase the revenue funding in this area (by direct revenue contributions or funding debt).
16. Within the draft MTFS a revised Capital Financing Strategy was reported. This shows a need to increase the revenue funding of capital spend from £3.3m to £7.1m by 2029-30 (this is dependent on the capital plans over the next 9 years). This budget is in line with the strategy and is the next step in making capital plans viable into the future with the approach of smoothing the increase over the life of the strategy.

IMPACT ON THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S BUDGET

17. The draft MTFS showed the budget requirement increase by £5.271m. When considering cost reductions £4.5m of this is unavoidable costs, these include the funding of the 62 new officers, inflation (including pay awards) and the National Insurance increase.
18. The table in paragraph 12 shows the Chief Constables funding allocation increase by £4.122m with a £10 council tax increase, meaning that £1.149m of savings would be required.
19. The growth requested by the Chief Constable focuses mainly on vulnerability, this is broken down below. All these posts are support staff with Police Officer growth requests funded from within the 62 new officers (detailed later), there is however a line for funding the additional costs involved with new posts requested above the introductory PC rank.

Violence and Women (11 posts)	£0.438m
Above PC rank Uplift Growth	£0.235m
CAB Data Assurance Guardian (post)	£0.033m
Domestic Abuse Training	£0.087m
CIET Researcher (post)	£0.033m
Coroners Officers (2 posts)	£0.066m
Clinical Governance (0.5 post)	£0.019m
Total Growth Requirement	£0.911m

20. The requirement to increase staffing is based on the outcome of the Force Management Statement (FMS) and the Risk Register. The draft MTFS includes information from the FMS which identifies the key threats. The table above shows an increase of 15.5 staff.
21. Year 3 of Uplift funding has provided me with 62 additional officers (excluding 4 I am required to provide to regional units for Serious and Organised Crime). The table below shows the impact on the Chief Constables workforce and where he has advised me to place the officers to best reduce threat and harm. The increase in Neighbourhood Policing Officers is aligned to the proposed Police and Crime Police Plan. It is important to note that these officers have to

be employed and trained before they can be released to target these areas. With intakes planned across the financial year some officers will not join until March 2023, with a 9 month training plan this means they will not be available for independent duty until December 2023.

	Officers
Starting Position	1096
In Year 2021-22 adjustments (Uplift Infra, etc.)	7
VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls)	5
CIET (Child Internet Exploitation Team)	4
CAIT (Child Abuse Investigation Team)	7
Authorised Firearms Teams	5
Roads Policing and Collision Investigation	10
Student Officers Assessors	2
Training Posts	2
Rural Crime	3
Drone Capability Post	1
Protest Intelligence Officer	1
Neighbourhood Policing Teams	22
Total	1165

SAVINGS

22. To finance the growth requested requires for savings of £1.392m to be identified across the various budgets. The table below shows how some of these savings will be achieved;

Description	Budget Impacted	Saving
Reduced inflation budgeting	All	£0.202m
Increase Mutual Aid Income	Chief Constable	£0.100m
Increase Staff Vacancy level from 3% to 4%	All	£0.300m
Reduce Budgeted PCSOs by 10	Chief Constable	£0.339m
Total		£0.941m

23. This would leave £0.451m of savings still to be identified. I have asked the Chief Constable to look at current structures and identify areas where efficiencies can be made to save these savings, I am not expecting this to impact front line delivery.

24. I have considered the additional savings required if I decided not to increase the precept. The savings target would increase by £2.668m to £4.060m. With officers ringfenced due to the Uplift programme the savings would need to come from staff and other costs. Due to my low level of funding Wiltshire's costs are low when reviewed against the HMIC Value For Money profiles. There is therefore no 'easy' option but the areas I would need to consider include;

Option	Impact	Savings
Removing all VAWG staff growth proposed in the budget	Unable to respond as expected to the national VAWG strategy leaving vulnerability	£0.438m
Removing all ICT growth proposed in the budget	Unable to improve stability of critical systems and invest in future service opportunities	£0.430m
Reduce the Commissioning part of the budget by 25%	Unable to fund essential prevention initiatives	£0.432m

Reduce the Revenue contribution to capital increase by 50%	Would need to reduce capital plans or fund bigger increases in future years	£0.397m
Fund new officers at 50% of budget	Would require the 2023-24 budget to be increased by this level	£0.930m
Reduce Police Staff Local Crime Investigators by 10% (8 posts)	Would impact investigation success and require officers to fill the roles	£0.320m
Reduce Finance, HR, Professional Stds, Communications and Business Improvement staff by 5%	Would result in recruitment issues, more risk, less change, less assurance and reduced engagement.	£0.278m
Reduce Call Handlers by 5% (8 posts)	Would reduce capacity to answer calls impacting service to the public	£0.200m

25. It should not be forgotten that the MTFs shows a savings requirement of £1.5m in 2023-24, some of the changes above would increase this requirement significantly (specifically the 50% funding of new officers).

26. It should also be noted that once the opportunity to increase the base budget has not been taken it can never be recovered and will impact the base budget for the long term. A zero increase would widen the funding gap between Wiltshire and other South West Forces. Based on all these factors I am minded to set the precept increase at £10.

RISK

27. To deliver an increase of 62 police officers and replace leavers the Chief Constable will need to recruit and train 146 officers in 2022-23. This is 20 more than 2021-22, currently we are on plan to deliver in March but it is close. Options are currently being considered as to how we will recruit and train the additional 20 officers. Failure to recruit and maintain officer numbers would result in me not securing the additional service for the public and could lead to me not being able to claim the full specific grant available.

28. Precept and budget increases will increase public expectations of an immediate, visible, policing impact. With the timelines surrounding recruitment and training outlined in the paper this immediate impact will not be seen.

29. It should be noted that at the time of writing this is a provisional central grant settlement and could change.

30. Reserves exist to help manage risk. The review of reserves, as part of the MTFs, provides me assurance that overall these are adequate.

LEGAL

31. I am required to receive advice from my Chief Financial Officer surrounding the budget and my reserves. The Chief Financial Officer is content that with a £10 increase my budget and the Chief Constable's budget are sound and deliverable. The Chief Financial Officer has also confirmed to me that he believes my reserves are adequate to manage risk.

RECOMMENDATION

32. After carrying out the necessary consultation I am minded to set a precept of £64.359m. This will require council tax to be set on all property bands based on £241.27 for a Band D property. This represents a £10 (4.3%) increase on the 2021-22 level.

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Meeting	Police and Crime Panel
Date	3 Feb 2022
Report Title	PCC consultation on the policing precept 2022/23
Report presented by	Philip Wilkinson, Police and Crime Commissioner
Author	Emma Morton, Head of Communications and Engagement

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This paper provides the panel with a summary of the public consultation process undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on a proposed policing precept increase for 2022/23. It also provides a top-line analysis of the engagement and feedback received from Wiltshire and Swindon's residents.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS

Consultation with the public on a precept increase began in October with the launch of the PCC's Use Your Voice campaign. Residents were asked to consider whether they would support a rise in the policing precept – without knowing what that increase may be.

Post notification of the central funding settlement from government in late December, a further piece of consultative work, with specific proposals of an increase of £10 per year, per Band D household, was launched on 11 January 2022. This closed on 2 Feb.

Interestingly, those who supported an increase in the precept without knowing the final proposal of 83p a month per Band D household, supported an increase of more than the final proposal - with the majority supporting a £3 a month increase.

For the purposes of this report, a snapshot of all responses up until 26 January was taken and used to inform the following report. A further update on the responses received between the snapshot being taken and the survey closing will be given to the panel in person by the PCC.

This report will cover the survey responses from both consultation processes and will also give an indication of how widely the PCC engaged and consulted to ensure Wiltshire and Swindon's residents' awareness of the proposals. Both consultations and engagement with key stakeholders and the public was led by the PCC's communications and engagement team.

Questions within the short precept survey asked whether people would support an increase, their age and location, as well as which policing priority was the most important to them.

The main focus of this year's consultation was to ensure as wide an awareness of the proposed increase to this year's policing precept as possible, as well as a statistical significance to numbers of people responding to both surveys.

Feedback and engagement was consistently encouraged via an online survey, but options to respond via email and social media were also offered. Sentiment to the proposed increase from was monitored across all communications channels.

A wide range of zero-cost communication and engagement activities were carried out to ensure residents felt consulted and empowered to respond to the survey.

This included sustained, and wide-ranging, media coverage across Wiltshire's radio stations, television news, including a chunky segment on BBC Politics West, traditional print media, and their online editions, of all major Wiltshire and Swindon newspapers, and coverage in parish magazines throughout January. The PCC also utilised Community Messaging to inform and ask for survey responses alongside requests for responses from staff and officers via existing internal communications channels.

A consistent and sustained social media campaign ran throughout across all digital channels and the PCC took his precept consultation, alongside his consultation on his draft Police and Crime Plan, presenting it across 20 different events throughout January. These included audiences from the OPCC's key stakeholders and partners, commissioned services, his Youth Commissioners, MPs, parish, town, borough, city and Wiltshire councillors and Wiltshire Police officers and staff, as well as members of the public.

In person public events were planned across the county and Swindon but due to the sustained spread of Omicron during December, it was decided to take these public events online, using social media.

3. THE CONSULTATION

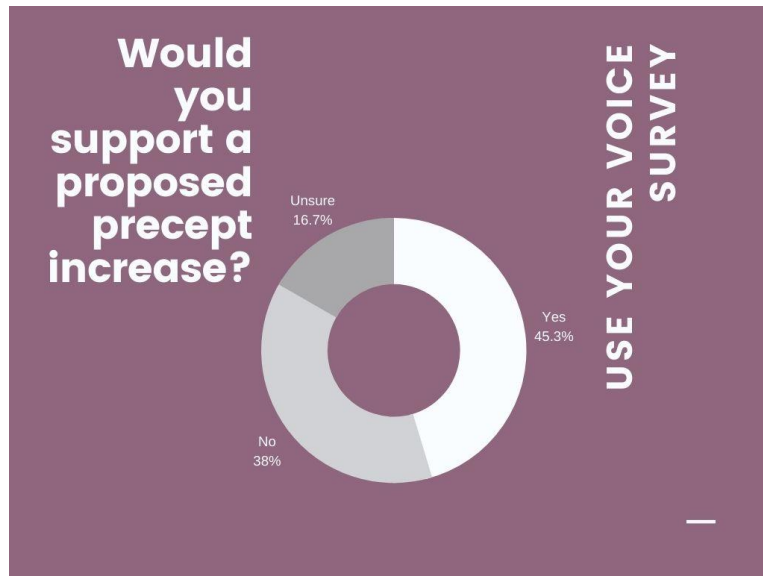
I have been pleased with the engagement on the precept increase, both in person, during my virtual Focus Groups and across social media, including a live Q&A session with the public.

This year, we have managed to engage with, and reach, more members of the public and key stakeholders than ever before. I believe in the importance of dialogue with the very people who are on the receiving end of their policing service.

Residents have not been shy of making me aware of their concerns but also ensuring I am aware of where they would like to see their precept spent. Sentiment tracked throughout this campaign has seen a more negative tone overall when the question of a precept increase was proposed. Usually we would see a 65/35 split in favour of an increase at this point, where as now it is much more 50/50 in terms of sentiment.

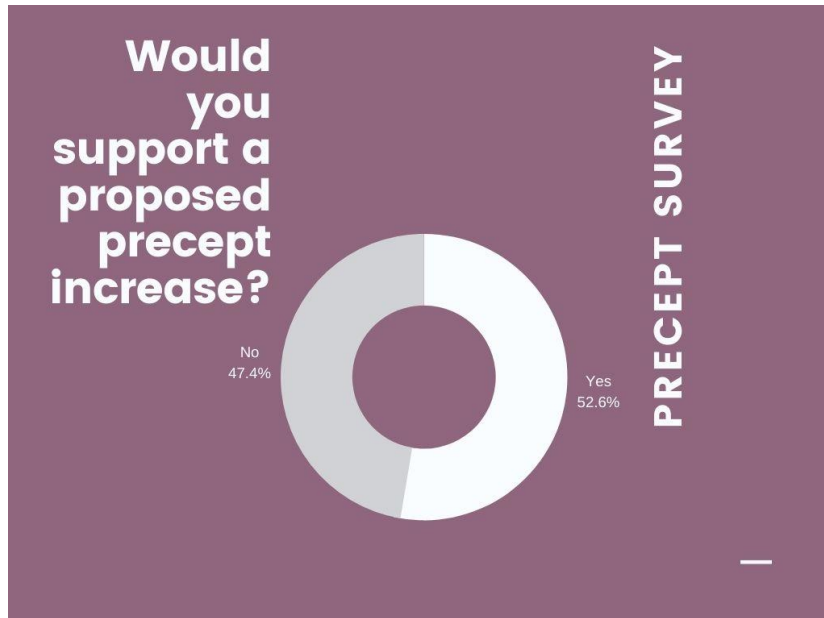
Responses from my Use Your Voice survey totalled 2,600 respondents who particularly answered the question: *would you support an increase in precept?*

You can see that 45% of people responded with a yes, 38% with no and nearly 17% of people were not sure.



Responses from my precept survey totalled just close to 1,200 responses on 26 January. An updated position on closure (2 Feb) will be presented by me, in person, at panel on 3 Feb.

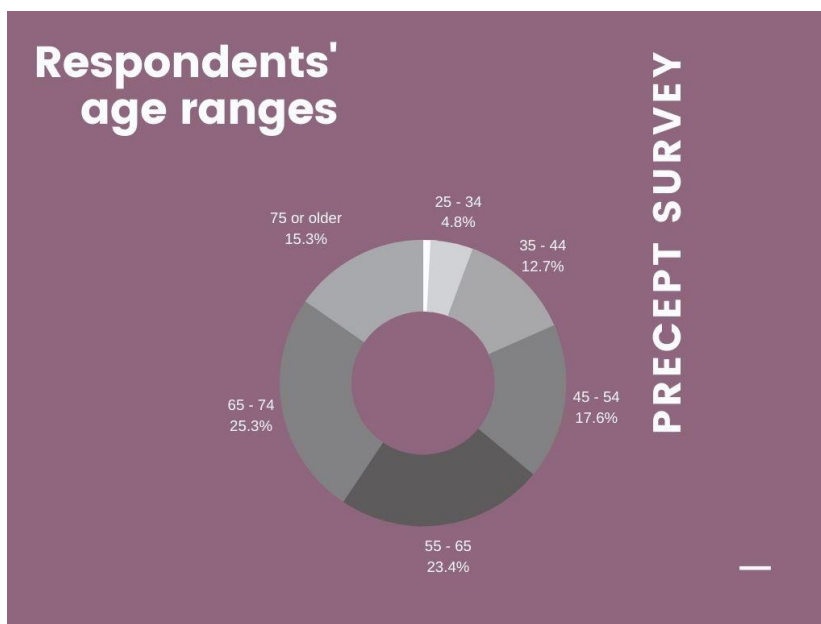
You can see the proposed increase survey on the precept is much more split down the middle, with only a smaller margin of people voting for the increase of £10 per year, per Band D household.



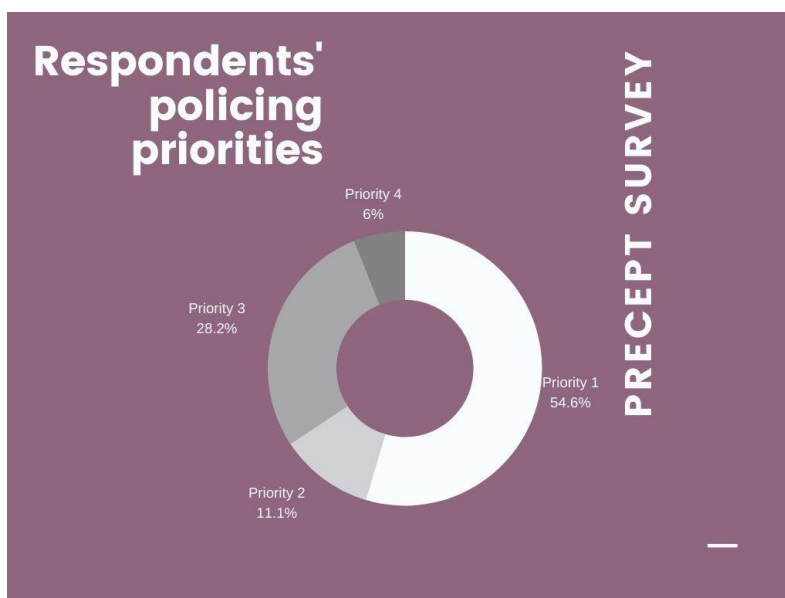
On 26 January, geographically we can say that 80% of our responses were from the Wiltshire local authority area and 20% were from the Swindon local authority area.

Having a response rate of 3,800 individuals is one of the highest rates, the OPCC has had to a police consultation in recent years. It is an increase in direct responses of 1,300 upwards from last year's figures of around 2,500 responses.

And while we can see that while Use Your Voice age demographics were in favour of our older population, responses from our precept survey were relatively evenly spread across the age ranges but I acknowledge that our traditional audience is slightly older.



I also asked the public which priority from my new Police and Crime Plan did they feel was most important. Nearly 55% of respondents said: *A policing service which meets the needs of its communities* was most important with nearly 28% of responses indicating Priority 3: *Tackle the issues that matters to communities* was next important.



We can also show that the level of engagement across our digital channels has been incredibly high with residents engaging with our consistent social media information campaigns – Use Your Voice, Making Wiltshire Safer and precept information.

Residents have been talking about the increase, and what it means to them (although this hasn't necessarily correlated with the click throughs to the survey). It is clear from the engagement that the dialogue and conversation in the 377 comments, in January alone, has been engaging and robust.

Performance data – Facebook (all posts) during Use Your Voice, Making Wiltshire Safer and Precept campaigns.

	Posts	People Reached	Engagement	Link Clicks	Comments	Shares	Reactions	New Followers
October 2021	18	39,400	1,218	183	57	78	74	10
November 2021	27	38,261	3,117	254	142	118	178	15
December 2021	30	22,349	1,204	132	44	69	119	12
January 2022 (25th)	20	20,800	4,352	405	377	119	169	11
Total:		120,810	9,891					

The engagement rate on Facebook for this four-month period is 8%. In terms of digital performance, a great Facebook engagement rate is considered to be over 3%.

The public have been able to respond via a survey, send in questions for response and have had the opportunity to question me in a virtual Facebook Live session. While the numbers on the evening fluctuated, the video has reached more than 2.1k viewers across Wiltshire.

Using insight analytics, we are able to see our Facebook audience is from a variety of towns across Wiltshire, with Swindon residents having the highest representation. All but a tiny percentage of our Facebook followers are from the Wiltshire county.

This far outstrips what we would have been able to provide at in-person events but I recognise the importance of in-person engagement and plan to continue with a sustained in-person engagement throughout the year, restrictions allowing.

Performance data – Twitter (all posts) during Use Your Voice, Making Wiltshire Safer and Precept campaigns.

	Tweets	Profile Visits	Impressions	Engagement Rate	Likes	Mentions	New Followers
October 2021	29	3,799	22,400	1.9%	48	31	12
November 2021	31	6,653	32,900	1.8%	117	52	2
December 2021	36	6,644	25,900	2.3%	112	205	16
January 2022	29	4,697	21,800	3.8%	52	158	9

During this period, the OPCC recorded a 2.45% average* engagement rate. A good engagement rate on Twitter is anything over 0.5%. A great Twitter engagement rate is over 1%.

Coupled with the qualitative responses sent via email, we have seen a far wider engagement with the precept discussion this year than in previous years.

There is a further wealth of information contained within both the Use Your Voice and precept surveys, along with the qualitative analysis, and this will take time to collate.

Nearly every respondent to the Use Your Voice survey provided a written response which we are currently collating and formulating into a qualitative results report.

We aim to publish the full results from both surveys on my website during the spring in an easily accessible, and understandable, format.

In order to take this engagement and consultation further, I have presented my proposals around the precept increase to eight Focus Groups sessions, 12 Area Boards, four internal engagement sessions with Wiltshire Police, and provided briefings to councillors ranging from parishes upwards, provided briefings to all Wiltshire MPs, as well as to my Youth Commissioners, during January.

RECOMMENDATION

Panel members are asked to note this report and the increased engagement and conversation with residents.