

AGENDA

Meeting: WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
Place: Committee Room A - Wiltshire Council Offices, Monkton Park,
Chippenham SN15 1ER
Date: Thursday 7 February 2019
Time: 10.00 am

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

Membership:

CLlr Junab Ali - Swindon Borough Council
CLlr Abdul Amin - Swindon Borough Council
Maime Beasant – Co-opted Independent member
CLlr Alan Bishop - Swindon Borough Council
CLlr Richard Britton - Wiltshire Council
CLlr Ross Henning - Wiltshire Council
CLlr Peter Hutton - Wiltshire Council
CLlr Brian Mathew - Wiltshire Council
Anna Richardson – Co-opted Independent member
CLlr Tom Rounds – Wiltshire Council
CLlr Jonathon Seed – Wiltshire Council
CLlr John Smale - Wiltshire Council
CLlr Caryl Sydney-Smith – Swindon Borough Council

Substitutes:

Cllr Peter Evans
Cllr Sue Evans
Cllr Tony Trotman
Cllr Sarah Gibson
Cllr Ruth Hopkinson
Cllr Gordon King

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AGENDA

1 **Apologies for Absence**

2 **Declarations of interest**

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

3 **Chairman's Announcements**

4 **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

Members of the public are able to ask questions in relation to the responsibilities and functions of the Panel at each meeting. Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the Head of Democratic Services at Wiltshire Council no later than **5.00 pm** on Tuesday 5 February 2019. Please contact the officer named on the first page of the agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

5 **Formal consideration of PCC Precept proposal (Pages 5 - 8)**

6 **Future meeting dates**

To note the future meeting dates below:

- Thursday 28 March 2019 – Corn Exchange, Devizes
- Thursday 6 June 2019 – County Hall, Trowbridge
- Thursday 5 September 2019 – City Hall, Salisbury
- Thursday 19 December 2019 - Swindon Borough Council Offices

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POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
7 February 2019

AGENDA ITEM NO:

PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2019-20

Purpose

1. This paper notifies the Panel of the precept I am proposing for 2019-20.

Background

2. In January 2019, I presented to the Panel a paper which showed that the Government has made decisions surrounding both local and central funding which has a significant impact on the funding options available to me.
3. The paper I provided in January concluded with me suggesting that a £24 increase in the Police part of the Band D Precept (a 13% increase) was appropriate. This would result in the Band D police part of the precept rising from £182.27 to £206.27 in 2019-20.
4. At the January meeting, I also informed the Panel on how I would be consulting with the public this year. There is a separate paper on the agenda informing the Panel of the outcome from my consultation exercise; however in summary the majority of respondents are supportive of a £24 increase.

The Precept

5. My proposal to increase the precept by £24 was based on the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service recognising the demands placed on policing and allowing an increase to this level before a referendum would be triggered.
6. The Government also announced that core police funding would increase by 2.1% in 2019-20. This is the first increase since 2010-11.
7. Considering the pressures on the police, to increase the police part of the council tax by £24 is attractive. The MTFs shows that by utilising this opportunity I can increase Police Officer numbers by a net 41 posts and provide £0.475m in additional commissioning funds for investment in proactive and preventative work.
8. When deciding on next year's precept level, I have to consider future funding. As disclosed in the MTFs Wiltshire currently has the lowest Band D Precept in the South West. Previous decisions on the precept mean that there are less funds to finance policing in Wiltshire than other local forces. I would not wish to further exacerbate this position.

The Funding Available

9. The table below outlines the funding available to me based on a £24 increase in the Band D precept.

	2018-19	2019-20
Main Home Office Grant	£36.961m	£37.765m
Main DCLG Grant	£20.393m	£20.794m
Legacy Council Tax Grants	£5.235m	£5.235m
Total Central Funding	£62.589m	£63.794m
Precept Income	£46.589m	£53.743m
Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus	£0.781m	£0.550m
Total Funding Available	£109.959m	£118.087m

10. The Legacy Council Tax Grants includes the grant payable surrounding Council Tax Localisation and any previous freeze grants.
11. Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council have reported a new council tax base of 260,545; this is a 1.9% increase on 2018-19. This, with the £24 increase in precept and change in central funding, will result in additional funding of £8.128m (7.4%).

Funding Allocation

12. I am expected to commission services from the funding available. In addition to the funding reported in the table in paragraph 9, I do receive investment income (estimated at £0.200m in both 2018-19 and 2019-20). Therefore my funding available to commission with is £118.287m in 2019-20. The table below identifies how I intend using these resources.

	2018-19	2019-20
OPCC Office Costs	£0.899m	£0.960m
OPCC Capital Contribution	£0.766m	£0.819m
OPCC Commissioning	£1.270m	£1.533m
OPCC Additional Commissioning	-	£0.475m
OPCC Chief Constable Allocation	£107.224m	£114.500m
	£110.159m	£118.287m

Impact on the Chief Constable's Budget

13. The Chief Constable has identified a budget requirement of £115.444m (this is disclosed in the MTFs). When compared to my funding allocation to him (£114.500m) a financial gap of £0.944m exists.
14. The Chief Constable has worked with the OPCC to identify a plan (included within the MTFs) which will deliver this savings requirement.

Risk

15. The use of reserves is based on a risk review. The MTFs has considered the long term funding of Wiltshire. The planned use of reserves to cover risks and early thinking about future precept levels reduces risk. Having general reserves of 2.5% and a 1% operational reserve also helps reduce risk.

Legal

16. I am required to receive advice from my Chief Financial Officer surrounding the budget and my reserves. The Chief Financial Officer is content that my budget and the Chief Constable's budget are sound and deliverable. He has also confirmed that he believes my reserves are adequate to manage risk.

Recommendation

17. After carrying out the necessary consultation I am minded to set a precept of £53.743m. This will require council tax to be set on all property bands based on £206.27 for a Band D property. This represents a £24 (13%) increase on the 2018-19 level.

Angus Macpherson

Police and Crime Commissioner

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REPORT ON THE PCC'S CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS ON THE POLICING PRECEPT LEVEL

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To provide the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) with a summary of the PCC's public consultation on the proposed 13% increase in the policing precept (policing part of council tax).

2. Background and Main Considerations for the Panel

2.1. The public consultation on the policing precept began on 3 January 2018 and closed on 31 January 2019. This report covers all responses from the consultation led by Communications and Engagement.

2.2. The consultation strategy has built on experience in recent years and the increased public awareness. This year the priority has been to direct all consultation responses through the PCC's short and simple survey. This survey consulted on views on the precept proposal and short summary of policing priorities.

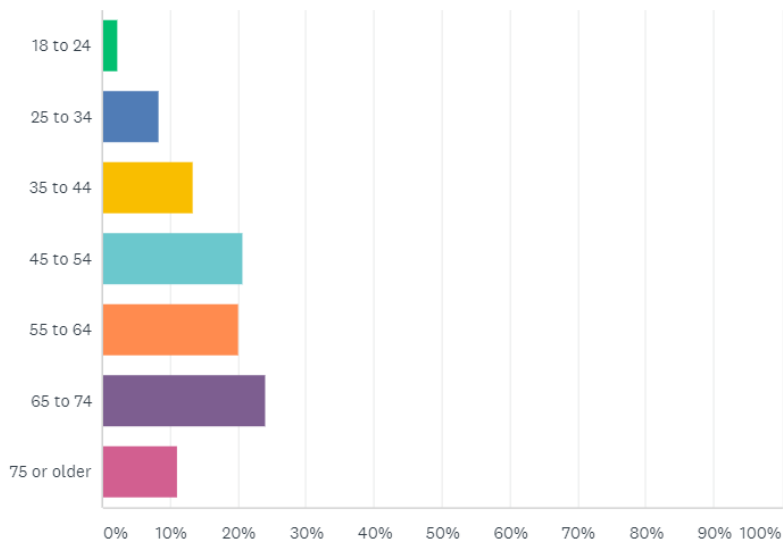
2.3. A range of channels were used to raise awareness and encourage completion of the consultation survey.

- High profile media campaign launching the precept proposals for consultation
- Social media awareness campaign
- Short video to set out the precept proposals
- Community messaging
- PCC participation in local TV and radio programmes
- Engagement with local media and press statements
- PCC and D/PCC engagement with local communities at 11 area boards and parish councils in January. (7 - Wiltshire & 4 - Swindon)

3. The Consultation

3.1. I have been overwhelmed with the response with a total of 2320 responses to the consultation. This is an increase of 360% from the 635 last year. This has been the highest number responding to any police consultation in recent years and I am grateful to the public for taking the time to share their views.

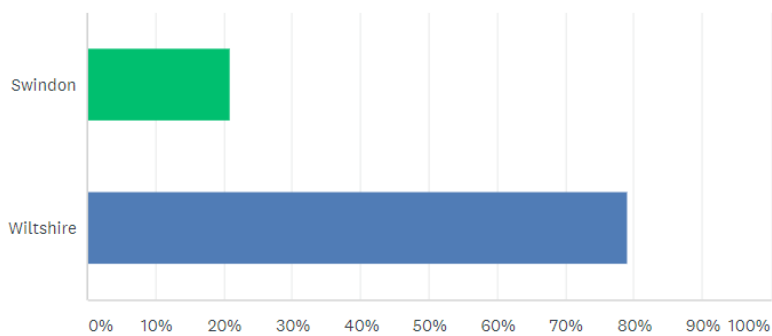
3.2. The responses have been made up of the following ages:



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
18 to 24	2.21% 51
25 to 34	8.46% 195
35 to 44	13.32% 307
45 to 54	20.70% 477
55 to 64	20.18% 465
65 to 74	24.05% 554

Figure 1 Policing Precept consultation survey by age

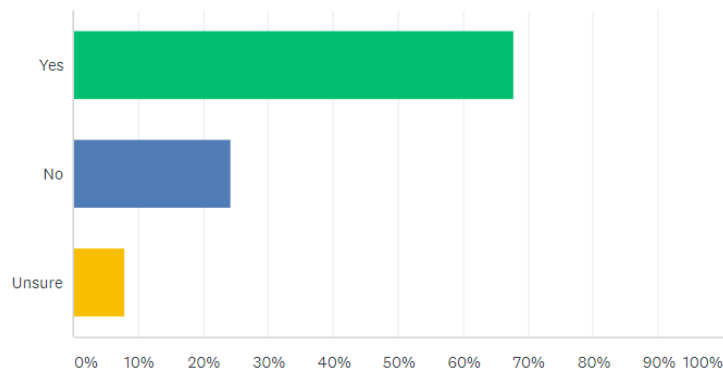
3.3. From the following local authority area



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Swindon	20.99% 487
Wiltshire	79.01% 1,833
TOTAL	2,320

Figure 2 Policing Precept consultation survey by local authority area

3.4. The breakdown of responses supportive of the increase is shown below

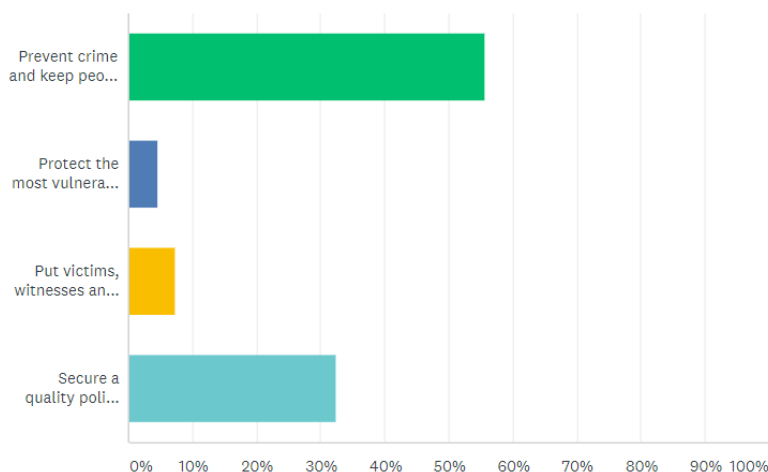


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	67.84%	1,574
No	24.27%	563
Unsure	7.89%	183
TOTAL		2,320

3.5. As the chart sets out, a significant majority, 68% of respondents, were supportive of the proposed increase with 24% not supportive and 8% unsure.

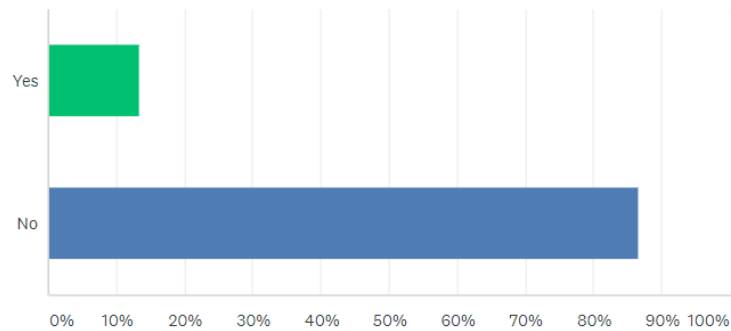
3.6. The high number of responses and the significant majority in support demonstrate overwhelming public support for the proposed precept increase and the spending plans I have set out.

3.7. I also asked the public to identify their most significant priority in my Police and Crime Plan. It is clear that the public identify with the work to prevent crime and keep people safe and in making sure the police service is providing value for money.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prevent crime and keep people safe	55.57%	1,281
Protect the most vulnerable people in society	4.64%	107
Put victims, witnesses and communities at the heart of everything we do	7.29%	168
Secure a quality police service that is trusted and efficient	32.49%	749
TOTAL		2,305

3.8. To provide some context to the experience of service, respondents were asked if they had been a victim of crime in the last 12 months.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	13.39% 309
No	86.61% 1,999
TOTAL	2,308

3.9. There is a wealth of valuable information within the survey response and this will take time to analyse. 40% of respondents provided additional comments as part of the survey. The main themes raised are included in Appendix A.

3.10. In addition, a small number of emails (37) were sent directly to the OPCC that are consistent with the themes presented below.

4. Recommendations

4.1. Panel members are asked to note and consider this report as part of their recommendation on my precept proposals.

Appendix A

Theme	Issues identified
Increase in policing 577 responses	Improve visibility of police Increased foot patrols Increase police numbers
Support for precept rise 267 responses	Welcome more money for policing Messages of support to policing
Areas to improve efficiency 226 responses	Improve police visibility in rural communities Ensure senior management is streamlined and effective Improve the governance and accountability of policing Improve efficiency of support services
Policing should be funded by government 137 responses	Recognition that policing has had significant reductions in resources and this was shifted onto local communities. Support for more funding to come from central government and fairer funding.
Difficulty is personally funding the increase 89 responses	Concerns around ability to pay and the level of taxation.
Unsatisfactory service 57 responses	Issues of poor service General dissatisfaction Individual issues related to specific part of the policing service

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