

Meeting	Police and Crime Panel
Date	6 February 2020
Report Title	Report on the Police and Crime Commissioner's Consultation on the Policing Precept for 2020/21
Report presented by	Angus Macpherson, Police and Crime Commissioner
Author	Kieran Kilgallen, Chief Executive

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) with a summary of the PCCs public consultation and outline which proposed increase the public would support.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS

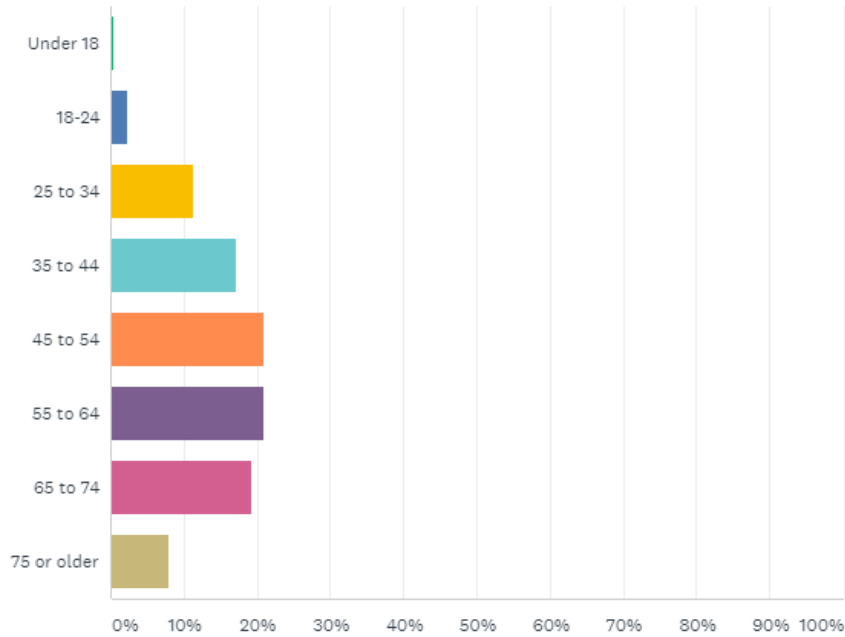
- 2.1 The public consultation on the policing precept began at 5.30pm on Monday 6 January 2020 and closed midday on Friday 31 January 2020. The start date was, necessarily, two-and-half-weeks prior to the government's announcement on grant and precept range. This report covers all responses from the consultation led by the Corporate Communications and Engagement team.
- 2.2 The consultation strategy has built on experience in recent years and the increase public awareness. This year, the priority has been to direct all consultation responses through our short and simple survey. This survey consulted on views on the precept proposal, priorities and age/location of those taking part.
- 2.3 A range of channels were used to raise awareness and encourage completion and feedback, including; high-profile media campaign launching the precept proposal, social media awareness campaign, short video setting out the proposal, community messaging, engagement with local media and press statements, PCC and D/PCC engagement with local communities at area boards and parish councils in January; a total of 9 area boards and 11 Swindon Parish Councils were attended.

3.0 THE CONSULTATION

- 3.1 I have been delighted with the response from the public and the interest through social media. In total, I have received 2522 responses to the consultation. This is an increase of 8.7% on the previous 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, whether positive or negative.
- 3.2 Four canvas questions were covered in this survey:

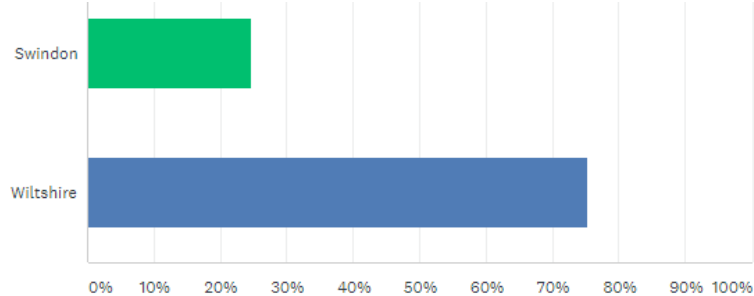
- What local authority area do you live in?
- Which one of the increases would you support?
- Which policing priority is most important to you?
- What is your age?

3.3 The responses have been made up of the following ages:



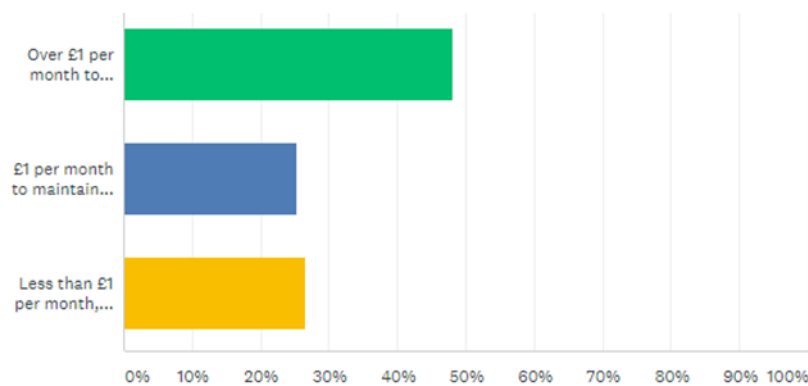
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18	0.36% 9
18-24	2.26% 57
25 to 34	11.30% 285
35 to 44	17.09% 431
45 to 54	20.98% 529
55 to 64	20.98% 529
65 to 74	19.19% 484
75 or older	7.85% 198
TOTAL	2,522

3.4 The majority of responses came from the Wiltshire local authority:



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Swindon	24.78% 625
Wiltshire	75.22% 1,897
TOTAL	2,522

3.5 The majority of the public stated they would support an over £1 per month increase:



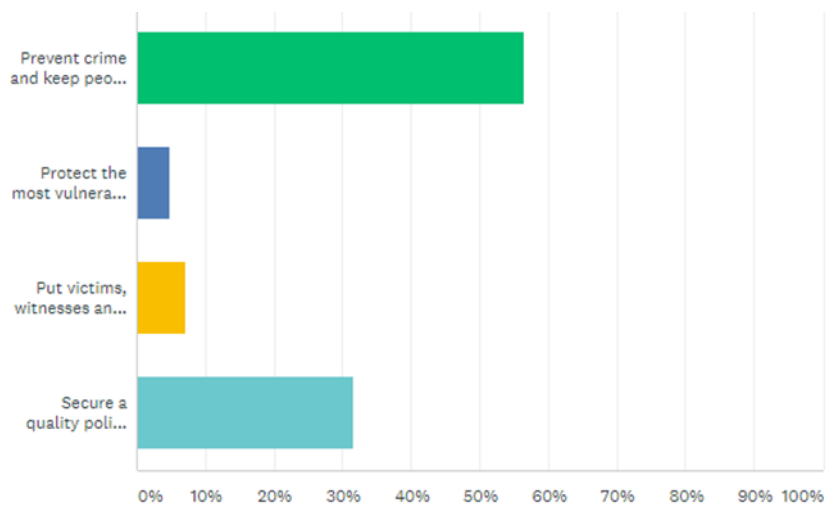
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Over £1 per month to improve services	48.18%	1,215
£1 per month to maintain services	25.34%	639
Less than £1 per month, which would see a reduction in services	26.49%	668
TOTAL		2,522

3.6 As the chart above sets out, a majority, 48.18% of respondents were supportive of paying over a £1 per month to improve police services with 25.34% supporting £1 per month to maintain services and 26.49% wanting to pay less than a £1 per month to see a reduction in service. The consultation shows that 73.52% of respondents support a rise of at least a £1 a month.

3.7 The high number of responses, and the majority in support, demonstrate overwhelming public support for improving our police service or maintaining it.

3.8 However, as the panel acknowledged at the panel on Thursday 16 January, this consultation started prior to central government announcing the settlement for 2020/21. We received clarification on Wednesday 22 January and I was delighted to see that the government have fulfilled their promise to policing. The flexibility to increase the policing precept, alongside the announcement from central government, means we can significantly invest in this public service. The small increase of £10 per year (84p per month), for an average household, will mean more money to enhancing our community policing in our neighbourhood areas. This is in addition to the extra 49 police officers we will deliver in Wiltshire and Swindon as part of the governments Uplift Programme.

3.9 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 'secure a quality police service that is trusted and efficient'.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Prevent crime and keep people safe	56.54%	1,426
▼ Protect the most vulnerable people in society	4.84%	122
▼ Put victims, witnesses and communities at the heart of everything we do	7.02%	177
▼ Secure a quality police service that is trusted and efficient	31.60%	797
TOTAL		2,522

3.10 There is a wealth of valuable information within the survey responses and this will take time to analyse. 60% of respondents provided additional comments as part of the survey. Main themes include; police officers needing to be more visible, happy to support the precept rise, police station closures, police need more resources to tackle crime, and more funding needed from government.

4.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

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