



Meeting	Police and Crime Panel
Date	4 February 2021
Report Title	Report on the Police and Crime Commissioner's Consultation on the Policing Precept for 2021/2022
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 PCC's public consultation and the public's view on the proposed £15 a year, per household, increase in the policing precept on a band D property.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2.1 The public consultation on the policing precept began at 11am on Tuesday 5 January 2021 and is due to close on Tuesday 2 February. This report covers all responses from the consultation led by the Corporate Communications and Engagement team, and highlights responses/statistics as of Tuesday 26 January at 1pm.
- 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 our short and simple survey. This survey consulted on views on the proposed increase, 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, video setting out the proposal, community messaging, engagement with local media and press statements, PCC and D/PCC virtual engagement with local communities at area boards and parish councils in January.

## **3.0 THE CONSULTATION**

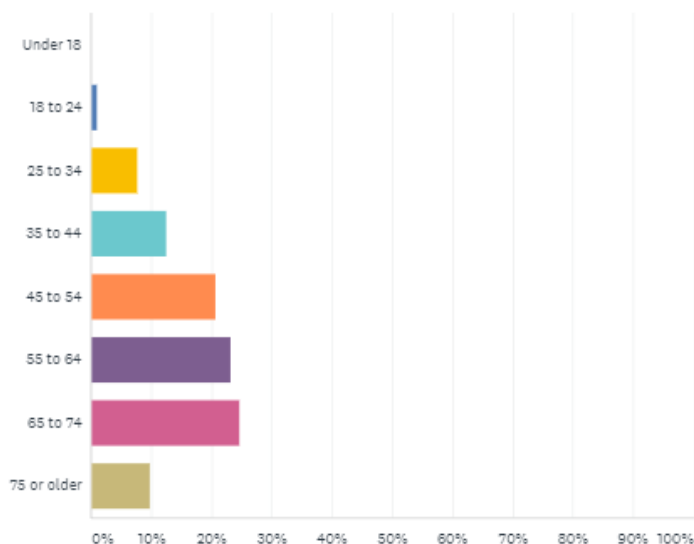
- 3.1 Despite the response rate being down on last year, I am still pleased with the response from the public and the comments received. In total, I have received 1526 responses to the consultation. I am grateful to the public for taking the time to share their views, whether positive or negative.
- 3.2 Four canvas questions were covered in this survey:
- What local authority area do you live in?

- Would you support a £15 per household, per year, increase in the policing precept to support the recruitment of 46 additional officers for Wiltshire and Swindon in 2021/22 and maintain essential services?
- Which one of these policing priorities is most important to you?
- What is your age?

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

#### What is your age?

Answered: 1,521 Skipped: 5

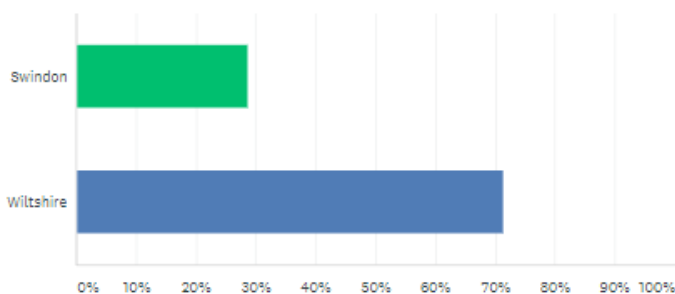


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18	0.07% 1
18 to 24	1.12% 17
25 to 34	7.82% 119
35 to 44	12.62% 192
45 to 54	20.71% 316
55 to 64	23.21% 353
65 to 74	24.65% 376
75 or older	9.80% 149
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,521</b>

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

#### Which local authority area do you live in?

Answered: 1,521 Skipped: 5

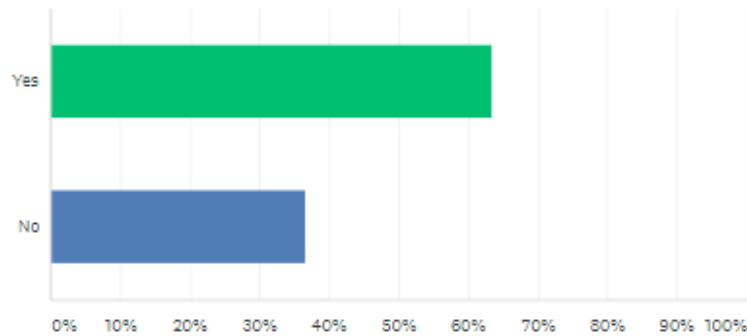


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Swindon	28.60% 435
Wiltshire	71.40% 1,086
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,521</b>

3.5 The majority of the public stated they would support the proposed increase.

Would you support a £15 per household, per year, increase in the policing precept to support the recruitment of 46 additional officers for Wiltshire and Swindon in 2021/22 and maintain essential services?

Answered: 1,522 Skipped: 4

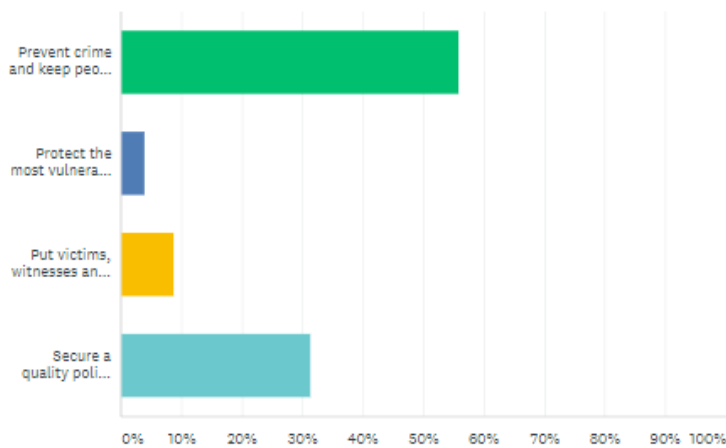


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	63.47% 966
No	36.53% 556
TOTAL	1,522

- 3.6 As the chart above sets out, a majority, 63.47% of respondents were supportive of paying an extra £15 per household, per year, in the policing precept to support the recruitment of 46 additional officers for Wiltshire and Swindon in 2021/22 and maintain essential services.
- 3.7 The high number of responses, and the majority in support, demonstrate overwhelming public support for increasing our officer numbers and maintaining essential services.
- 3.8 The suggested £15 increase followed a national announcement made about central police funding which was based upon the assumption that all PCCs would seek to use the maximum flexibility afforded them by the Government to increase local precepts. The extra £15 a year funding, or £1.25 a month, means that Wiltshire Police will recruit 46 additional officers for Wiltshire in 2021/22. The Force is also on track to recruit this year's target of an additional 65 police officers by March 2021. This will take officer numbers to 1,050 - the highest number of Wiltshire Police officers in six years. The additional 46 officers in 2021/22 would see officer numbers rise to 1,096 by March 2022.
- 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'.

## Which one of these policing priorities is most important to you?

Answered: 1,519 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Prevent crime and keep people safe	55.89% 849
▼ Protect the most vulnerable people in society	3.88% 59
▼ Put victims, witnesses and communities at the heart of everything we do	8.82% 134
▼ Secure a quality police service that is trusted and efficient	31.40% 477
TOTAL	1,519

3.10 There is a wealth of valuable information within the survey responses and this will take time to analyse. 71% 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, concern over finances during the Covid-19 pandemic, and more funding needed from central government.

### 4.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

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