



Budget Consultation Summary Report

February 2020

Consultation

As set out in section 96 of the Police Act 1996, as amended by section 14 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the PCC must obtain the views of the local community on the proposed expenditure (including capital expenditure) in the financial year ahead of the financial year to which the proposed expenditure relates.

Public consultation is undertaken through the year by the Police and Crime Commissioner. During 2019 members of the public have taken part in face to face consultation at a range of local community and county-wide events. This consultation has included asking if local residents would support an increase in the policing precept and on policing priorities. Following the announcement of the Police Grant Settlement on 22 January 2020, an online survey was immediately launched to provide an opportunity for local residents to indicate if they would support the specific increase of £10 per year, equivalent to 83p per month. The survey was hosted on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website and shared through a number of channels. Due to the limited time focus groups were not undertaken this year.

The public consultation exercise on the precept increase has had three distinct elements:

- i. An online survey, which saw 4,419 people submit responses.
- ii. An engagement consultation card, which was completed by 1,204 members of the public at events attended by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner since June 2019. An online version of the consultation engagement card was completed by 471 people.
- iii. A YouGov survey of 500 demographically weighted respondents across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The outcome from each individual element of the consultation, and the overall collective outcome shows that there is significant support for a precept increase.

Online Survey

The overall online survey results achieved a statistically relevant response and show that 74% of respondents supported an increase of £10 per year.

The online survey went live and has been promoted to the public since 22 January 2020 and ran till Monday 3rd February 2020. 4,419 people from across the Hampshire Policing area have fed back their views by completing the online survey.

Individuals responded to the specific question:

'This year (2020/21) the government is giving the PCC flexibility to increase the policing element of the council tax by £10 per year which is equivalent to 83p per month (based on a Band D property). Would you be willing to pay this?'

Of those responding:

- 74.% said they would support an increase in council tax of £10
- 26% said they would not support an increase in council tax of £10

Engagement Card (including online version)

During external events, an engagement card survey has been used to gauge public views on the policing precept and priorities. This has created an opportunity for face to face consultation throughout the year. An online version has also been available since the start of 2020. Through the engagement card survey, local residents were asked:

'If the commissioner is permitted by Government to increase the council tax again in 2020/21, would you be willing to pay more?'

Respondents who answered this question were given the following choices:

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

The following results show that 66% of respondents to this question would be willing to pay more in their council tax:

		% of respondents
Yes	793	66%
No	158	13%
Don't know	253	21%
Total	1204	100%

The top areas where respondents would prioritise a funding increase are:

- ASB
- Violent Crime
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Theft (including burglary and vehicle crime)

YouGov Survey

An additional survey of 500 respondents was undertaken through YouGov in November 2019 to ensure a demographically representative sample of responses were also achieved. The survey was conducted using an online interview administered to members of the YouGov panel. The responding sample is weighted to ensure responses are fully representative from across the 14 districts.

The outcome from this survey was that:

Willingness to pay more council tax to improve policing:

- 58% (290) - willing to pay more
- 27% (135) - not willing to pay more
- 16% (80) - not sure

PCC investment of council tax: top three areas of importance for residents:

- 59% Anti-social behaviour
- 49% Theft (burglary and vehicle crime)
- 32% Crime prevention