

Police and Crime Panel

1st February 2023

Precept Consultation

Report of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner



Purpose

To update the Panel on the process for setting the Policing precept for 2023/24 and to seek the Panel's support for an increase of £15 per household per year for properties in Band D, and commensurate increases for other properties.

Background

In December each year, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is informed by the Home Secretary of the provisional amount of Government grant that will be provided for policing during the following financial year. That enables the PCC to formulate plans for the level of precept that she will need to ask Council Taxpayers to contribute, in order to deliver policing in County Durham and Darlington in line with the Police and Crime Plan. The Government normally puts a cap on the level of precept increase. The Government announced the provisional funding settlement for 2022/23 on the 14th of December 2022. From this, the Force and PCC Office has been making the calculations in relation to the effect of the settlement on the overall budget, along with the priorities for its use.

In addition to local taxation and central government grant the Durham Office of the PCC generates and manages additional funding streams. These include from the Ministry of Justice and also grants dependent on bids submitted by the PCC. In the last 12 months this has resulted in total additional funding to the value of £ £2,593,573 to benefit communities of County Durham and Darlington.

Funding in 2023/24

Government funding for policing in Durham and Darlington in 2023/24 includes the following:

- The Police Grant will increase by 1.8% to £107.6m. This comprises:
 - An addition £1.1m, which was already included in the 2021 Comprehensive Spending Review announcement. It is designed to cover all spending pressures across pay, officer incremental pay growth and non-pay
 - An additional £1.5m toward the cost of the 2022 pay award
 - A reduction of £0.8m due to the reductional in employers' national insurance contributions.
- Capital funding will remain at nil.

- The PCC is enabled to increase funding from the precept for the council taxpayer by 6.2% or £15 for a Band D property as a maximum.
- The total potential revenue funding, assuming maximum precept, increases from £146.8m to an estimated £151.3m, an increase of £4.5m or 3.4%. This compares to the averages increase of 3.6% across all forces.

To achieve the £151.3m, it will be necessary to increase precept by the maximum permitted, i.e., £15 per household per year, for properties in Council Tax Band D. If this happens, the implications for each Council Tax Band would be as follows:

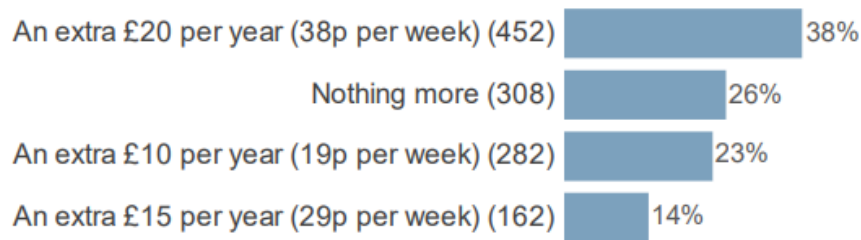
Council Tax Band	Police Precept 2022/23	Proposed Annual increase for 2023/24	Proposed Police Precept for 2023/24
	£	£	£
Band A	160.16	10.00	170.16
Band B	186.85	11.67	198.52
Band C	213.55	13.33	226.88
Band D	240.24	15.00	255.24
Band E	293.63	18.33	311.96
Band F	347.01	21.67	368.68
Band G	400.40	25.00	425.40
Band H	480.48	30.00	510.48

Consultation

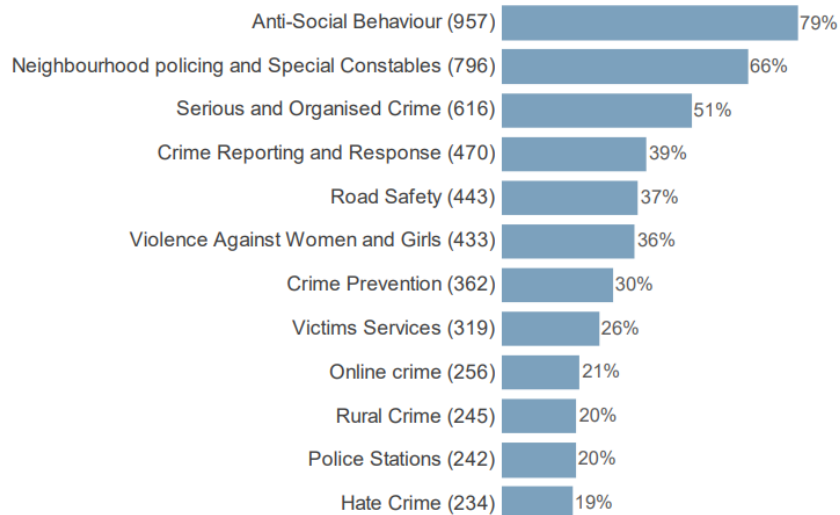
PCC launched an on-line survey on the 23rd November 2022 and closed at 4pm on the 13th January 2023. It was publicised using social media, releases to local media outlets and the PCC website, along with some meetings with MP's and AAP/ councillors.

The survey asks respondents about how much they would accept to pay extra for the provision of its policing service. The survey and the results are attached to this report. In addition to questions relating to precept tax levels, the survey also asks respondents for their views on priorities within the Police and Crime Plan.

There was a total of 1,204 responses as shown below, analysed by how much more they would be willing to pay.



The following show the main areas for continued focus as indicated in the responses.



Summary

Given the overall support for an increase, and the clear need to support Policing beyond the constraints of Uplift funding, the Panel is recommended to support an increase in precept of £15 per household per year for Band D properties.

As agreed with the Force this will enable in particular:

- Officer numbers to be maintained at 1,363 until at least April 2024
- PCSO numbers maintained at 146
- Continued IT technology improvements
- New shift patterns maintained to enable greater coverage in relation to roads, response and safeguarding teams
- Increase in cybercrime capability.

Under Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Panel is required to review the proposed precept, and to make a report on it (the Panel are to determine the manner of this report). The report can include recommendations on the level of the precept. The panel has the power to veto the proposed precept, which requires a two-thirds majority in favour of a veto.

Recommendation

The Panel is recommended to:

- a) Note the current position of the consultation and the outcome
- b) Consider my proposal for a £15 precept increase at Band D
- c) Decide whether to veto my proposal
- d) Produce a report setting out their views.

Joy Allen
Police and Crime Commissioner

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance

The outcome of consultation will influence the size of the PCC's, and the Constabulary's, budget in 2023/24.

Staffing

None

Equality and Diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Children's Act 2004

None

Stakeholder/Community Engagement

A consultation exercise has taken place as set out in the report

Environment

None

Collaboration and Partnerships

None

Value for Money and Productivity

None

Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

Size of budget will influence delivery of priorities

Commissioning

None

Other risks

None

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