

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

LEAD CHIEF OFFICER: Chief Finance Officer

TITLE: Findings from the Public Consultation on the Proposed Precept Level


DATE: January 2017

TIMING: Routine/Annual

PURPOSE: To report the findings of the 2017 consultation on the proposed precept level

1.	<p><u>RECOMMENDATION</u></p> <p>That the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Executive Board considers and notes the findings within this report and utilises them to inform the setting of the 2017/18 precept level.</p>
2.	<p><u>INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND</u></p> <p>The current Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent was elected on 5th May 2016 and has a statutory duty under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to consult with ratepayers on budget and precept proposals.</p> <p>The precept is the part of the council tax which is allocated to the PCC. It is the responsibility of every local PCC to set the level of the precept for their area annually.</p> <p>The OPCC launched an e-consultation on 16th December 2016 running for 4 weeks, closing on the 20th January 2017. During this time, residents of Gwent were asked for their views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed level of increase for the precept (2017/18) <p>The e-consultation included a total of 9 questions (one of which was open ended in order to gather more detailed responses). A demographics section containing five questions was included at the end of the survey.</p> <p>The e-consultation was proactively publicised via social media, Gwent Now, local press and the PCC's website, as well as being shared with community groups, partner organisations, the third sector and local authorities. Paper copies and easy read versions of the consultation were available on request from the OPCC and all versions were available in Welsh.</p> <p>This report analyses the results of the consultation and reports the findings.</p>
3.	<p><u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u></p> <p>It was agreed, prior to the launch of the consultation that a representative sample size of 600 would be used. This provided a confidence level of 95%, including a +/- 4 margin of error. As only 491 responses were received, a representative sample was not achieved.</p> <p>All responses were received electronically through the medium of English, with the</p>

	<p>exception of one which was received through the medium of Welsh. The detailed findings from each question can be found in Annex A. An overview of the findings are as follows:</p> <p>Q1. Increase council tax by 2% (extra 8p per week) A total of 27.3% respondents agreed with this increase</p> <p>Q2. Increase council tax by 3.99% (extra 17p per week) A total of 20.3% respondents agreed with this increase</p> <p>Q3. Increase council tax by 5% (extra 21p per week) A total of 26.9% respondents agreed with this increase</p> <p>Q4. Other and why? A total of 25.5% respondents selected the other. Of this 25.5%, 4% agreed with an increase of at least 3.99% on the precept. <i>(Note: A number of respondents did select more than one choice).</i></p> <p>These findings therefore demonstrate that 51.2% of residents are in support of increasing the precept by between 2% and 5%.</p>
4.	<p><u>NEXT STEPS</u> The findings from this report will now be used by the PCC to inform the 2017/18 precept level. The final announcement will be made at the public Police and Crime Panel meeting on Friday, 27th January, 2017.</p>
5.	<p><u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u> In making the decision to run the consultation in an electronic form, running costs were significantly reduced. Any printing costs incurred would have been covered by existing office budgets within the OPCC, however, no printed copies were requested.</p>
6.	<p><u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u> There were no personnel considerations arising from this report.</p>
7.	<p><u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u> The PCC has a statutory duty under Section 14 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act to consult with ratepayers on budget and precept proposals.</p>
8.	<p><u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u> This report has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group. As the consultation was open to all it has supported the equality requirements.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 in preparing this report.</p>
9.	<p><u>RISK</u> The risk identified in this report is low as the Commissioner is discharging his statutory duties in carrying out this consultation.</p>

10.	<u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u> This report will be available to the public on the OPCC website.
11.	<u>CONTACT OFFICER</u> Jessica Tippins – Engagements Officer jessica.tippins@gwent.pnn.police.uk
12.	<u>ANNEXES</u> Annex A – Detailed Consultation Findings Report  17.01.23 Final Precept Report.pdf