

Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Panel (virtual meetings from April 2020)

Thursday 4 February 2021

10.30 am Microsoft Teams



SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA

To: The Members of the Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Panel (virtual meetings from April 2020)

We are now able to enclose the following information which was unavailable when the agenda was published:

Item 7	Formal Review of the Budget and Precept Proposal (Pages 3 - 8)
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Published on 01 February 2021

Democratic Services, Somerset County Council, County Hall, Taunton

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2021/22 Precept Survey Analysis – Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner

Methodology

Opinions about next year’s precept were collected in three different ways. Firstly there was a question in the local Police and Crime Survey which is administered by a third party over the telephone. Although the survey is run every quarter only the quarter three results are relevant as the options available to respondents had to be changed following the Government announcement of the maximum £15 increase (for a band D home).

Secondly an online survey was hosted on the PCC website and promoted by the Communications team. This survey was open for anybody to complete from 8th December 2020 to 26th January 2021.

The third method was a postal survey. All households in Avon and Somerset were stratified based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation and their Local Authority. Addresses were then selected at random from these lists. It should be noted that people who received the postal survey were able to complete their responses online but there was an option to tell us they had received a postal copy. Responses from the postal method were received between 20th – 29th January.

The online and postal surveys asked just two questions about the precept followed by demographic/household information; they were not part of a broader suite of questions like the telephone survey.

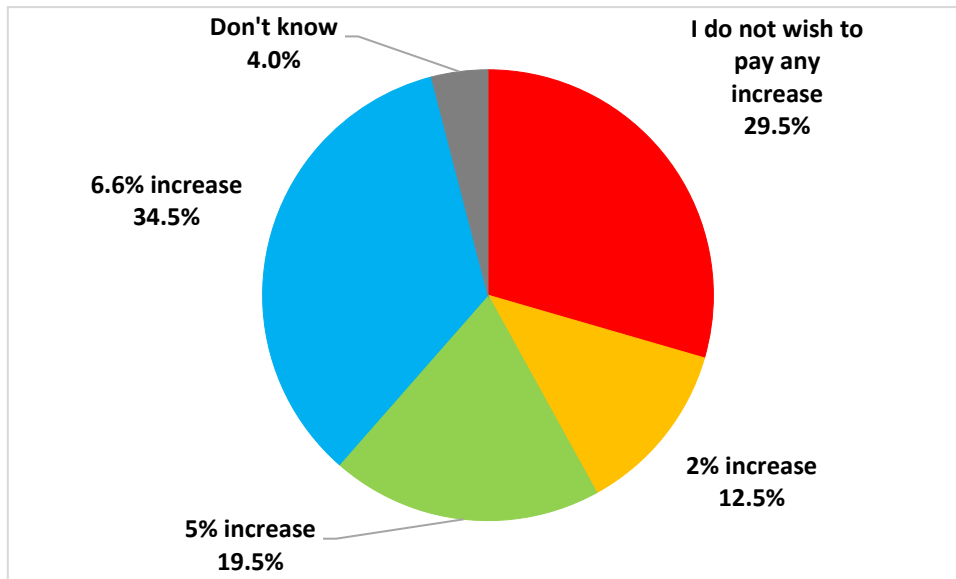
Number of responses by medium	
Telephone	751
Online	1358
Postal	1526
Total	3635

This is the single biggest consultation that has been undertaken by this office in relation to the precept for the following year.

Results

The below table shows the results of the primary question about which level of precept increase people supported. As can be seen the level that attracted most support was the maximum 6.6% increase. This had 182 more people (5% points) support this maximum option than those who did not wish to pay any increase.

Level	Number of responses	% of all responses
I do not wish to pay any increase	1072	29.5
2% increase of 38p per month	454	12.5
5% increase of 95p per month	708	19.5
6.6% increase of £1.25 per month	1254	34.5
Don't know	147	4.0



After asking what level of precept increase they supported respondents were asked why. They were given 12 options and asked to choose as many as were relevant. People being supportive of the police was the most selected response: with 453 more responses (12.5% points) than any other response.

The highest response that was not supportive of an increase (or a bigger increase) was that people felt they already contributed enough.

Reason	Number of responses	% of all respondents
I am supportive of the police	992	27.3
Already contribute enough	539	14.8
Impact of cuts on policing	471	13.0
Financial constraints / can't afford to	468	12.9
The police budget has already been reduced enough	463	12.7
Should be funded via Central Government	397	10.9
Inefficient / do not provide good value for money	281	7.7
Lack confidence in police	275	7.6
Concerned by reduction in budget on my safety	252	6.9
Would need more information about spend	247	6.8
The police budget is already increasing enough recently via Central Government	90	2.5

About the respondents

In order to understand the types of people responding to the survey there were a series of demographic or household questions. It should be noted that there were additional questions of this type in the online/postal survey compared to the telephone survey.

Gender	Number	%
Female	1563	43.0
Male	1876	51.6
Non-binary	12	0.3
Prefer to self-describe	4	0.1
Prefer not to say	180	5.0

Age	Number	%
16 to 24	137	3.8
25 to 34	415	11.4
35 to 44	556	15.3
45 to 54	533	14.7
55 to 64	669	18.4
65 to 74	677	18.6
75 or above	471	13.0
prefer not to say	177	4.9

Ethnicity	Number	%
Asian or Asian British	28	0.8
Bangladeshi	5	0.1
Chinese	6	0.2
Indian	10	0.3
Pakistani	6	0.2
Any other Asian background	1	0.0
Black or Black British	21	0.6
African	5	0.1
Caribbean	10	0.3
Any other Black background	6	0.2
Mixed	24	0.7
White and Asian	8	0.2
White and Black Caribbean	6	0.2
White and Black African	1	0.0
Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background	9	0.2
White	3268	89.9
White - British	3133	86.2
White - Irish	25	0.7
White - Gypsy or Irish traveller	2	0.1
Any other white background	108	3.0
Other	7	0.2
Other ethnic group - Arab	1	0.0
Any other ethnic group	6	0.2
Prefer not to say	287	7.9

Sexuality	Number	%
Bisexual	69	1.9
Gay man	49	1.3
Gay woman / lesbian	23	0.6
Heterosexual / straight	2977	81.9
Prefer to self-describe	25	0.7
Prefer not to say	492	13.5

Religion / Faith	Number	%
Buddist	17	0.5
Christian	1607	44.2
Hindu	4	0.1
Jewish	3	0.1
Muslim	6	0.2
Sikh	2	0.1
Other	68	1.9
None	1513	41.6
Prefer not to say	415	11.4

Disability	Number	%
No	2966	81.6
Yes	392	10.8
Prefer not to say	277	7.6

Local Authority	Number	%
BANES	323	8.9
Bristol	662	18.2
North Somerset	531	14.6
Somerset	950	26.1
South Gloucestershire	466	12.8
Prefer not to say / invalid	703	19.3

Council tax band*	Number	%
A	156	5.4
B	333	11.5
C	385	13.3
D	725	25.1
E	232	8.0
F	114	4.0
G	100	3.5
H	16	0.6
Don't know	548	19.0
Prefer not to say	275	9.5

*This is not asked in the telephone survey

Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Number	%
1	117	4.0
2	178	6.1
3	193	6.6
4	331	11.3
5	310	10.6
6	341	11.6
7	365	12.5
8	336	11.5
9	312	10.6
10	448	15.3

Learning

It is important to note that this is the first time a postal survey has been used, by this office, in this way. The overall data about the respondents shows us that there is a need to improve the representation, in different respects, across Avon and Somerset. For example younger and non-White British people were under-represented in the response. It has also been noted that the representation differs depending on the medium of the survey delivery.

Further, more in depth analysis, will be undertaken to understand these differences and allow the office to plan how to improve this type of engagement in the future.

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