

Public Agenda Pack



Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel
Hosted by Somerset Council Democratic Services



Date: Thursday, 1st February 2024

Time: 10.30am

**Venue: John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road,
Taunton TA1 1HE**

Membership:

Councillor Andy Wait	Bath & North East Somerset
Councillor Ann Morgan	Bath & North East Somerset
Councillor Asher Craig	Bristol City Council
Councillor Jonathan Hucker	Bristol City Council
Richard Brown	Independent Member
Gary Davies	Independent Member
Julie Knight	Independent Member
Councillor Peter Crew	North Somerset Council
Councillor Brian Bolt	Somerset Council
Councillor Nicola Clark	Somerset Council
Councillor Heather Shearer	Somerset Council
Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts	Somerset Council
Councillor Martin Wale	Somerset Council
Councillor Raj Sood	South Gloucestershire Council
Councillor John Bradbury	South Gloucestershire Council

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County Hall, Taunton

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Agenda
Public Information Sheet

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the agenda. This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972. This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website

8 Formal Review of the Budget and Proposed Precept (Pages 3 - 8)

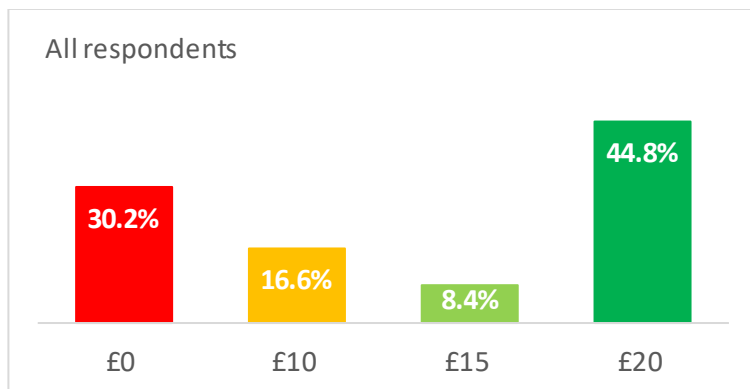
Formal review of the Commissioner's proposed Council Tax precept and the overall draft Policing budget/proposed allocation.

2023/24 Precept Survey Analysis – Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner

Results – precept

The first question respondents were asked¹ was: *How much more, per year, would you be willing to pay for the police precept?*

- £0 (would equate to a total reduction of 450 police staff roles)
- £10 (total reduction of 250)
- £15 (total reduction of 150)
- £20 (total reduction of 50)

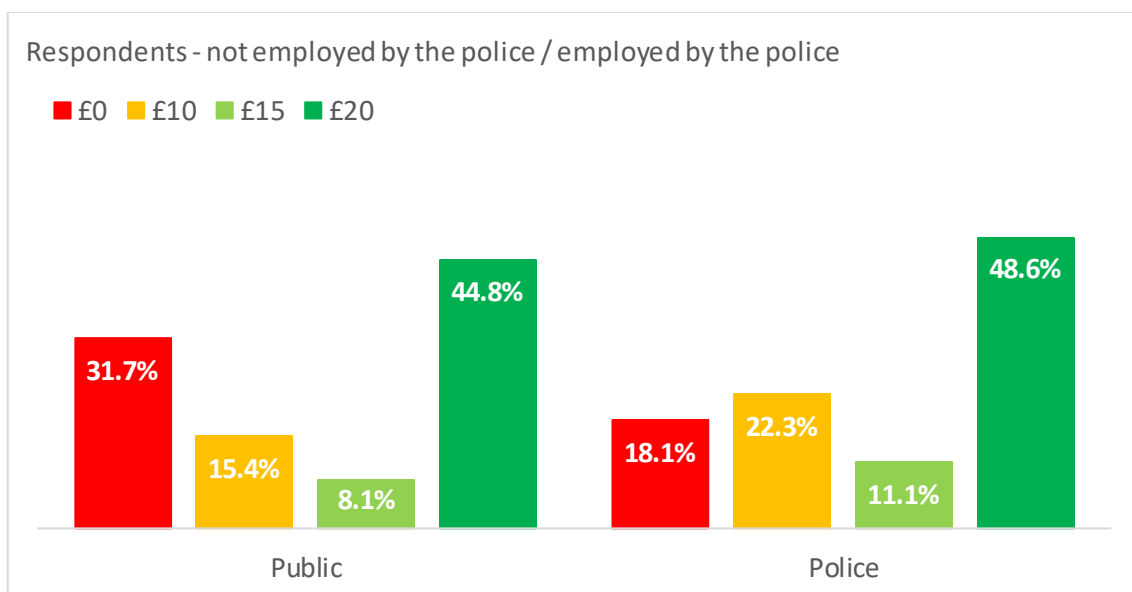


We received 6,518 survey responses.

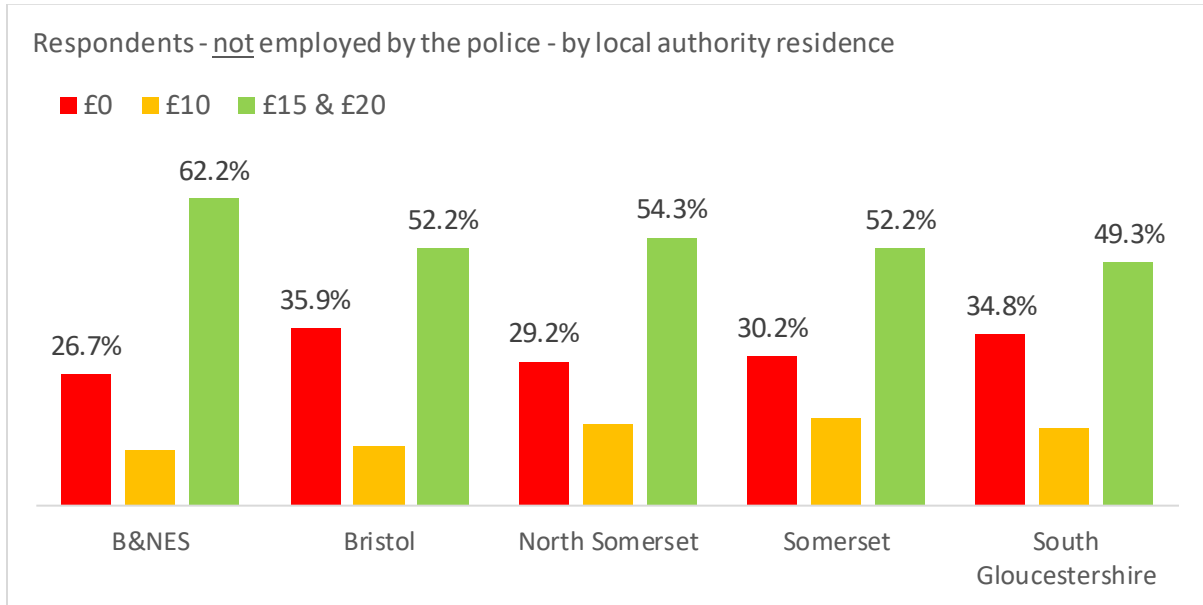
There is strong support for a precept increase with over half of people willing to pay an extra £15 or more.

There is less support for an increase from those not employed by the police.

Response	Number of responses	% of respondents	% of respondents <u>not</u> employed by the police	% of respondents employed by the police
£0	1,971	30.2%	31.7%	18.1%
£10	1,080	16.6%	15.4%	22.3%
£15	548	8.4%	8.1%	11.1%
£20	2,919	44.8%	44.8%	48.6%



¹ Prior to the first question respondents were provided with context – this can be found in Appendix 1.



Results – priorities for policing

The second question asked was: *What should be the top three priorities for Avon and Somerset Police?* Respondents were asked to select three options from the below list (which was presented in alphabetical order).

Priority	Number	%
Anti-social behaviour	2,060	32%
Burglary	1,237	19%
Complaints and misconduct	100	2%
Domestic abuse	694	11%
Drug crime	1,241	19%
Fraud and cybercrime	425	7%
Hate crime	224	3%
Male violence against women and girls	727	11%
Neighbourhood policing	1,682	26%
Preventing crime	1,230	19%
Responding to calls promptly	1,924	30%
Retail crime (including shoplifting)	299	5%
Road safety	460	7%
Robbery	259	4%
Rural crime	255	4%
Serious and organised Crime	1,300	20%
Serious violence (including knife crime)	2,134	33%
Sexual offences	783	12%
Stalking and harassment	131	2%
Theft of or from vehicles	147	2%
Visible police patrols	1,830	28%
Vulnerable people	296	5%

Results – confidence

Thirdly, people were asked how much they agree or disagree with the following statements:

- *Taking everything into account I have confidence in the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner*
- *Taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area*

Agreement level	I have confidence in the PCC		I have confidence in the police	
	Number	% (of those with an opinion)	Number	% (of those with an opinion)
Strongly disagree	1,214	19.7%	1,095	17.2%
Tend to disagree	1,071	17.4%	1,342	21.1%
Neither disagree nor agree	2,308	37.5%	1,437	22.6%
Tend to agree	1,165	18.9%	1,820	28.7%
Strongly agree	393	6.4%	654	10.3%
Don't know	367		170	

Of respondents with an opinion, 25% agreed they had confidence in the PCC while 37% disagreed.

Of respondents with an opinion, 39% agreed they had confidence in the police while 38% disagreed.

Methodology

Opinions about next year's precept were collected in two different ways. First, an online survey was hosted on the PCC website and promoted by the OPCC. This survey was open – for anybody to complete – from 6 November 2023 to 29 January 2024.

The second method was a postal survey: 20,000 were dispatched on 8 December 2023. Targeting of these surveys was based on two strata: local authority area and ethnicity of the population. The methodology was applied separately to batches of 15,000 and 5,000.

First, each of the five local authority areas were assigned a number of surveys, from the 15,000, directly proportional to their total population. Within each local authority area, the surveys were sent to the Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which had the highest proportions of people whose ethnicity was other than White. Where part of an LSOA was needed to reach the total, addresses were selected at random.

The other 5,000 surveys were sent out in Bristol also to LSOAs which had the highest proportions of people whose ethnicity was other than White. The reason for putting additional surveys into Bristol was twofold. First, Bristol has the most ethnically diverse population. Secondly, in last year's survey Bristol was under-represented in terms of the total responses.

Number of responses by medium	Last year	This year
Online	3,118	5,530
Postal	642	988
Total	3,760	6,518

It should be noted this survey was open for a 12-week period, compared to 6 weeks for last year's survey.

About the respondents

After the substantive questions there were a series of demographic or household questions: asked in order to understand the types of people responding.

Gender identity	Number	%
Female	2,853	43.8%
Male	3,147	48.3%
Non-binary	25	0.4%
Prefer to self-describe	11	0.2%
Prefer not to say	482	7.4%

Gender identity the same as sex assigned at birth	Number	%
Yes	5,947	91.2%
No	33	0.5%
Prefer not to say	538	8.3%

Age	Number	%
16 - 24	116	1.8%
25 - 34	564	8.7%
35 - 44	754	11.6%
45 - 54	938	14.4%
55 - 64	1,258	19.3%
65 - 74	1,442	22.1%
75 or above	941	14.4%
Prefer not to say	505	7.7%

Ethnicity	Number	%
Asian or Asian British	110	1.7%
Bangladeshi	18	0.3%
Chinese	11	0.2%
Indian	37	0.6%
Pakistani	14	0.2%
Any other Asian background	30	0.5%
Black or Black British	95	1.5%
African	44	0.7%
Caribbean	31	0.5%
Any other Black background	20	0.3%
Mixed	98	1.5%
Asian and White	38	0.6%
Black African and White	6	0.1%
Black Caribbean and White	17	0.3%
Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background	37	0.6%
White	5,703	87.5%
White – British/English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish	5,421	83.2%
White – Irish	49	0.8%
White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller	7	0.1%
White – Roma	4	0.1%
Any other White background	222	3.4%
Other	21	0.3%
Arab	4	0.1%
Any other ethnic group	17	0.3%
Prefer not to say	491	7.5%

Religion / Faith	Number	%
None	2,596	39.8%
Buddhism	47	0.7%
Christianity	2,787	42.8%
Hinduism	16	0.2%
Islam	43	0.7%
Judaism	19	0.3%
Sikhism	1	0.0%
Other	155	2.4%
Prefer not to say	854	13.1%

Sexual orientation	Number	%
Bisexual	154	2.4%
Gay / lesbian	116	1.8%
Heterosexual / straight	5,114	78.5%
Prefer to self-describe	47	0.7%
Prefer not to say	1,087	16.7%

Disability	Number	%
Yes	815	12.5%
No	5,152	79.0%
Prefer not to say	551	8.5%

Local Authority	Number	%
B&NES	667	10.2%
Bristol	1,067	16.4%
North Somerset	1,119	17.2%
Somerset	2,503	38.4%
South Gloucestershire	972	14.9%
Prefer not to say	190	2.9%

Council tax band	Number	%
A	369	5.7%
B	696	10.7%
C	853	13.1%
D	1,608	24.7%
E	649	10.0%
F	308	4.7%
G	230	3.5%
H	49	0.8%
Don't know	1,163	17.8%
Prefer not to say	593	9.1%

Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Number	%
1	197	6.2%
2	238	7.5%
3	140	4.4%
4	275	8.7%
5	342	10.8%
6	380	12.0%
7	502	15.9%
8	310	9.8%
9	223	7.1%
10	550	17.4%

Employed by the police	Number	%
No	4,953	76.0%
Yes	1,157	17.8%
Prefer not to say	408	6.3%

Appendix 1 – survey introduction/context

Police Funding Survey

The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is responsible for setting the amount of money you contribute to local policing through your council tax bill (known as the 'precept').

The precept accounts for 41% of police funding and the rest is from central Government. The Government set the maximum amount by which PCCs can increase the precept each year.

The Government has not yet confirmed the maximum amount PCCs can increase the precept for next year, however it will be at least £10 for a band D household (3.8% of your council tax bill). The Government assume that PCCs will ask for the maximum allowed and use this assumption in their budget setting.

Our current financial planning assumes the precept will be increased by £10 next year. Even with this assumed increase savings still need to be made. The size of the savings needed will likely result in about 250 staff roles being cut across the next few years. These cuts will have an impact on front line services such as visible policing and the ability to investigate crime.

Council tax band	Maximum precept increase	
	Month (£)	Year (£)
A	0.56	6.67
B	0.65	7.78
C	0.74	8.89
D	0.83	10.00
E	1.02	12.22
F	1.20	14.44
G	1.39	16.67
H	1.67	20.00

On the 19 December 2023 the following update was added to the online version:

The Government have now confirmed that the maximum amount, by which PCCs can increase the precept next year, is £13 for a band D household.

The Government have also announced the central funding they will provide next year, and this is broadly in line with the assumptions made in our financial planning.