

# Council Tax and the Police Precept

## Your Questions Answered

*We know that Council Tax can be confusing—so here are some answers to frequently asked questions.*

### Q: What is Council Tax?

A: Council Tax is a local charge which pays towards the cost of services, including the police. The Council Tax year runs from 1 April to 31 March and how much you pay depends on which band your house is in. Each band is calculated as a proportion of band D.

You can check your band at: [www.gov.uk/council-tax-bands](http://www.gov.uk/council-tax-bands)

### Q: What is the Police Precept?

A: This is the portion of a Council Tax bill that is put towards paying for policing services locally. On Council Tax notices it may be marked as being for the Police and Crime Commissioner, who sets the budget for the police. The majority of the precept is used directly for the Warwickshire Police budget, with a small portion used to pay for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### Q: How much money does the Police Precept contribute to Warwickshire Police each year?

A: The precept for 2018/19 will raise approximately £ 41.8 million – around 42% of the net funding for Warwickshire Police. This assumes the PCC increases the precept by the maximum of £12 for a Band D property. He is also consulting on smaller increases of £10 and £8.

### Q: Where does the remainder of the money come from for Warwickshire Police?

A: Central Government provides a number of additional grants each year. These are the Police and Revenue Settlement Grant, Council Tax Support Grant, Victims Support Grants and grants awarded as a result of previous Council Tax freezes.

Some additional funding may also come from underspends from previous years or reserve funds (money put aside for future use on a one-off basis). Forces may also bid for additional funding from Central Government for specific projects.



**Q: How much can the Commissioner alter the level of the Police Precept?**

A: The Commissioner can vary the level of the Police Precept by up to £12 on a Band D property. In Warwickshire this equates to an increase of 6.25%. Any proposed change above this figure would require a local referendum to take place with voters backing the proposal before it could be enacted. The Commissioner is not proposing to go to referendum.

**Q. If the Police Precept is increased by the maximum amount in Warwickshire for 2018/19, what will I pay?**

A. If the maximum allowable increase is applied, the Police Precept for each property band will be as follows:

Band A: £135.99

Band B: £158.65

Band C: £181.32

Band D: £203.98

Band E: £249.31

Band F: £294.64

Band G: £339.97

Band H: £407.96

**Q: How much of the money raised goes towards the Office of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner?**

A: Around 2.7% of the total police budget is allocated to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The majority of this allocation (approximately £1.6 million) relates to the funding for victims' support services and the Commissioner's Grants Scheme, which supports projects in the community which deliver against the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. The costs of running the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (c. £980,000) remain lower than those of the Police Authority which it replaced (when inflation is taken into account).

**Q: Is police funding changing?**

A: The Government is continuing to review changes to the Police Settlement Grant ahead of the next spending review, though this will not apply to the 2018/19 or 2019/20 budgets. The Commissioner will make representations at national, regional and local levels to ensure Warwickshire will receive a fair funding settlement in future years.

**Q: How can I have my say?**

A: The Commissioner is consulting the public on his proposals for the Police Precept for 2018/19. Visit [www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/preceptsurvey](http://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/preceptsurvey) for more information and to have your say.

*"A safer, more secure Warwickshire"*



Philip Secombe  
**Police and Crime  
Commissioner**  
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