



**Philip Seccombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire**

Have your say on police funding in Warwickshire. Precept Consultation 2020/21

Introduction

It's time to have your say and give your views to Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Philip Seccombe as he sets the budget for Warwickshire Police for 2020/21.

This year, the Commissioner is asking you to consider whether you would support a number of options for an increase in the policing element of Council Tax.

Alternatively, an option to freeze the precept is also included, but this would mean a reduction in policing services.

Previously, Police Precept increases have helped the Commissioner to fund:

- 150 extra frontline police officer posts, bringing Warwickshire Police up to the 1,000 officer mark, the highest for a decade or more.
- The creation of a new Rural Crime Team, to help tackle incidents that occur in isolated parts of the county and among agricultural businesses
- Enhanced harm protection and Child Sexual Exploitation teams, providing more officers to investigate crimes against the most vulnerable;
- Boosted safer neighbourhood teams, with extra police officers and PCSOs to problem-solve in communities;
- More detectives and police staff investigators to boost CID and more complex criminal investigations.

Your feedback on this year's proposals will help the Commissioner as he considers the budget he must set in February.

A summary of the results of this survey will be published online in due course on the OPCC website and will be shared with the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel for audit and scrutiny purposes. However, we will not publish any information which identifies individuals or the responses they have given. All answers given in this survey will be treated in accordance with our [Privacy Notice](#).

How to complete

1. Read the accompanying message from the Commissioner
2. Fill in your printed version of the form with your answers to the questions
3. Send your form to: 'Precept Survey', Warwickshire OPCC, 3 Northgate Street, Warwick CV34 4SP

The survey will be open until 4pm on Friday 17 January 2020.

Message from the Police and Crime Commissioner

“Unfortunately, the timing of the recent General Election has meant that the normal cycle of funding announcements from central government have not been possible. This leaves both myself and the Chief Constable in the difficult position of not knowing how much central funding we will receive, nor what limits might be imposed on what can be raised locally through Council Tax.



“As our budget is made up roughly 50/50 in central government funding and Council Tax, any changes to either can make a significant difference to what we can deliver on the ground.

“This makes it very difficult to consult on a specific budget proposal, so I’m therefore having to take a cautious and prudent approach, based on an assessment of what Warwickshire Police currently needs to make ends meet.

“We know that due to the costs of inflation, nationally agreed salary increases, pension liabilities and the requirement to recruit and train new officers, it will cost millions more next year to provide the same level of service as this year.

“There is also a fundamental need to invest in the infrastructure which supports frontline policing to ensure that officers can work as efficiently as possible, with the right technology to do their job as safely and effectively as possible.

“As we transition out of our alliance with West Mercia Police, I also need to make sure that Warwickshire Police’s finances remain sustainable into the future and that we protect the investments during my term of office which have brought Warwickshire Police’s operational strength back up to 1,000 officers.

“I do appreciate how stretched many people’s finances have been, so I need to consider very carefully what the public has to say on any Council Tax increases and balance that against what the force needs to keep people safe. I do know from previous consultations that the public is very supportive of ensuring we have the best police service possible, so I want to hear feedback quickly on what is an acceptable balance on the Council Tax before I propose a finalised budget in February.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Philip Seccombe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Philip Seccombe
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Survey Questions

Before we get your views on police funding, help us gather some background information which will help the PCC understand your answers fully.

1. Are you a resident of Warwickshire? (Tick one)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

2. Which district do you live in? (Tick one)

- North Warwickshire
- Nuneaton & Bedworth
- Rugby
- Stratford-on-Avon
- Warwick
- I don't know
- I don't live in Warwickshire

3. Do you work for Warwickshire Police (Tick one)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

4. If yes to q.3, what role do you have? (Tick one)

- Police Officer
- PCSO
- Police staff (excluding PCSO)
- Volunteer
- Other (please specify)

5. Are you a Council Tax payer? (Tick one)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

The part of your Council Tax which pays for policing is known as the Police Precept and it is this smaller portion which we will ask about next.

The Commissioner is not responsible for setting other elements of the Council Tax which pay for local council services or for the fire and rescue service.

7. What option for changing the precept would you be willing to support in 2020/21? (Tick one)

- An increase **of 4.99%** to meet inflation-related cost pressures, meaning no further investments and **requiring the force to make savings** in order to balance the books.
- An increase **above 4.99%** to **safeguard officer posts and enable investment in new technology and infrastructure**, ensuring officers and staff are best equipped to keep the public safe in the most efficient and effective way.
- No increase** in the policing element of Council Tax (the precept) which would lead to more significant savings having to be made, **resulting in policing services being reduced.**

As an example, an increase of 4.99% would mean the following Police Precept levels per year in 2020/21:

Band A: £159.57; Band B: £186.17; Band C: £212.76; Band D: £239.36; Band E: £292.54; Band F: £345.73; Band G: £345.73; Band H: £4.78.71.

Thank you

Thank you for completing the survey. If you would like to be kept informed about the results of the consultation and the work of the Commissioner more generally, please enter your name and email address below to subscribe to our monthly email newsletter. You will receive an email once the consultation has closed to verify and complete your subscription.

Your name:

Your email address:

We will only use the details you submit to us to send you the monthly newsletter and in accordance with the [OPCC Privacy Notice](#).