

Your Police, Your Views

Have your say on the funding of policing in Warwickshire

An introduction by the Police and Crime Commissioner

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, it is my job to set the budget for Warwickshire Police for the next financial year and also ensure support services have the resources they need to help victims of crime across the county.

Over the past year, the funds contributed by taxpayers have helped to boost police officer numbers in Warwickshire to their highest ever levels – now topping 1,000 officers. They have also helped me to invest in the transformation of the technology, equipment and buildings which underpin frontline policing.

Victims of crime have benefited too, with services remaining available to give tailored help, as and when victims need it. I've also been able to fund programmes to divert people away from crime and others which help to prevent crime and improve community safety.

I am keen to protect all of this local investment as much as possible. However, it is impossible to ignore that this has been an unprecedented year, with the coronavirus pandemic having a wide impact on people's lives and damaging the economy. The pressures on public sector funding have never been greater.

It's clear that we cannot spend more money than we have, so tough decisions may be needed locally in order to set a balanced budget. What you tell me through this survey will be vital to informing the decisions that lie ahead, so I thank you for taking the time to complete it.

Philip Seccombe

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

A little bit about you

Thank you for taking this survey. It should take around 11 minutes to complete. Answers provided will remain confidential and are handled in line with our [Privacy Notice for Public Consultations](#).

In order to help us ensure that we receive responses from all parts of the county and all sections of society, the first few questions ask for some information about you.

Q1: Which area (district or borough) do you live in? *(Please select 1 answer)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	North Warwickshire
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nuneaton and Bedworth
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rugby
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stratford-on-Avon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Warwick
<input type="checkbox"/>	I'm not sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't live in Warwickshire
<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't live in Warwickshire but I work within the county

Q2. What age group are you in? *(Please select 1 answer)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	18-24
<input type="checkbox"/>	25-34
<input type="checkbox"/>	35-44
<input type="checkbox"/>	45-54

<input type="checkbox"/>	55-64
<input type="checkbox"/>	65+

Q3: Gender: how do you identify? *(Please select 1 answer)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-binary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer to self-describe (state below)

Q4: Do you currently pay Council Tax? *(Please select 1 answer)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No – I am exempt from paying Council Tax
<input type="checkbox"/>	No – I am under 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't know

Q5: Do you work or volunteer within policing? *(Please select 1 answer)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Policing in your area

The following questions seek to understand your priorities for policing locally.

Q6: Where do you think policing needs greater investment? *(Please select a maximum of three answers from the following options)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	On the street where I live
<input type="checkbox"/>	In our rural areas
<input type="checkbox"/>	In our town centres
<input type="checkbox"/>	On our roads
<input type="checkbox"/>	On the internet tackling cyber enabled crime
<input type="checkbox"/>	Preventing crime
<input type="checkbox"/>	Investigating crime and bringing people to justice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protecting vulnerable people

Q7: Which of the following national policing priorities need addressing in your local community? *(Please select a maximum of three answers from the following options)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Reducing murder and homicide
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reducing serious violence (including knife and gun crime)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disrupting drug supply
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reducing neighbourhood crime (burglary, robbery, vehicle theft, personal theft)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improving victim satisfaction, with a focus on survivors of domestic abuse
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tackling cyber crime

Q8: Tell us one thing you think Warwickshire Police does well...

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Q9: Tell us one thing you think Warwickshire Police could do better...

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Funding the police

There are two main sources of funding for the policing budget. In 2020/21, just over half of Warwickshire Police’s budget (£57.592 million) came from central government, while just under half (£50.142 million) came from the Police Precept (the portion of Council Tax which is used to fund local police services).

The Government’s Spending Review has announced continued funding to enable forces to recruit their portion of the 20,000 new police officers being recruited nationally, but it is likely that the remainder of the core grant given to Warwickshire will remain at the same level as 2020/21 in real terms.

Inflation and other costs pressures may therefore mean there is less money to spend on policing locally.

We also know that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the economy and public sector finances and costs for this are still being calculated. This may also mean that the overall amount of funding for policing and other public services could reduce in future years.

Q10: If this was the case, would you be prepared to pay more in Council Tax to help bridge the shortfall in the police budget? (Please select 1 answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – go to Q12
<input type="checkbox"/>	No – Go to Q11

For those answering no to Q10 above

Q11: Would your answer be different if it meant that, without any increases to the Police Precept (Council Tax), services provided by Warwickshire Police would have to be reduced? (Please select 1 answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – I would prefer some form of council tax increase to preserve services as much as possible – go to Q12
<input type="checkbox"/>	No – my answer is the same and services will have to be reduced as a consequence – go to Q13

For those answering yes to Q10 above

Q12: Would you support: (Please select 1 answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	A small increase – which might mean larger savings would need to be found and services may need to reduce.
<input type="checkbox"/>	A moderate increase – which would provide some protection for existing services but would still require some significant efficiency savings from the force.
<input type="checkbox"/>	A larger increase – which would provide the maximum protection for existing levels of service, but still require the force to make efficiency savings.

Affordability of the Police Precept

Currently, the Police Precept in Warwickshire is set at the following rate in each Council Tax band (You can find out which Council Tax band applies to your household on the [Gov.uk website](http://www.gov.uk)):

Council Tax band	Amount per year
Band A	£158.65
Band B	£185.09
Band C	£211.53
Band D	£237.97

Council Tax band	Amount per year
Band E	£290.85
Band F	£343.73
Band G	£396.62
Band H	£475.94

As with other authorities which set the overall Council Tax level (for example for council services, local parishes and fire and rescue services), the Police and Crime Commissioner can increase or decrease the amount of the Police Precept each year. In past years, the Police Precept has been frozen (remained unchanged) or was increased at levels between £2.88 and £24 per year for an average Band D property. Households in lower bandings paid proportionately less and those in higher bandings paid proportionately more.

For the year ahead, the Government has confirmed that Police and Crime Commissioners in England will have the flexibility to increase local Police Precepts by up to £15 per year on a Band D property.

Bearing this in mind:

Q13: If there was an increase in the police part of your Council Tax bill, do you feel this would be affordable for you? *Please choose the statement below which best represents your views:*

<input type="checkbox"/>	I could afford a small increase (for example, less than £5 per year on a Band D property)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I could afford a moderate increase (for example, between £5 and £10 per year on a Band D property)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I could afford a larger increase (for example, £10-£15 per year on a Band D property)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not feel that any increase would be affordable to me
<input type="checkbox"/>	I'm not sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't pay Council Tax

Revenue and capital spending choices

The overall policing budget for Warwickshire during the current year is just over £101 million. This is split into revenue and capital funding.

Revenue funding is how we pay for the general running costs of Warwickshire Police, such as police officer and police staff salaries, maintaining vehicles etc.

Capital funding is our investment into maintaining our assets, such as investment in information technology systems or our buildings and equipment etc.

Pay and employer's contributions to pensions and National Insurance for our officers and staff accounts for around 80% of the total budget.

Taking this into account:

Q14: Below are a series of statements which outline areas in which spending could be prioritised. Please number each statement in order of importance in the left column, with '1' being the most important to you and '12' being the least important to you.

	Investing in the capability to respond to emergency incidents (i.e. 999 calls)
	Investing in the capability to respond to non-emergency incidents
	Investing in the capability to detect serious crimes
	Investing in neighbourhood policing
	Investing in technology to allow frontline policing to respond more efficiently and effectively
	Maintaining officer numbers to protect visible policing
	Investing in police buildings and equipment to make them fit-for-purpose
	Reducing running costs of vehicles and buildings

	Investing in services to protect the vulnerable
	Investing in crime prevention in the community Investing in measures to support the climate change emergency
	Finding efficiency savings, for example, through changed work practices and different use of existing resources to make them go further

Grants and commissioning

Around 2.4% of the total police budget is allocated to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The majority of this allocation (approximately £1.7 million) relates to the funding for commissioned support services for victims, alongside programmes to reduce re-offending. The Commissioner’s Grants Scheme also supports projects in the community which deliver against the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan, help improve community safety and reduce crime.

Q15: Please consider the following statements about grants and commissioned services and indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with them (place an X in the column which matches your views for each statement):

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Victims of crime should have easily accessible support services available, even if a crime has not been reported to the police.					
Specialist support should be available for victims of domestic abuse.					

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Drug and alcohol intervention services should be provided for those with substance misuse issues in order to reduce reoffending.					
Specialist support should be available for victims of sexual abuse and violence.					
A recovery service should be available for children who have suffered exploitation and sexual abuse					
Any surplus generated through efficient delivery of retraining schemes for driving offences should be invested in road safety initiatives.					
Grants should be available to help services involved in community safety cope with the impact of COVID-19.					
Small grants should be available to support projects which help prevent or reduce crime or improve community safety overall.					
Grants for initiatives that protect vulnerable people should be prioritised					

Q16: In light of the challenging position public sector finances are likely to face over the next few years, how would you change the amount of funding allocated for grants and commissioned services?

<input type="checkbox"/>	The funding should remain the same.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The funding should be increased.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The funding should be decreased overall to put more into frontline policing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Priority should be given to commissioned services for victims of crime and those protecting the vulnerable but other grants should be decreased so that more funding is available for frontline policing.

Any other comments

If you have any other comments or observations on policing priorities in Warwickshire or funding arrangements for policing, please enter them in the box below.

Thank you for completing the survey

That concludes our survey questions. Your responses will be reviewed by the Police and Crime Commissioner and will help him to determine how best to formulate the policing budget for 2021/22.

A second consultation will take place in January 2021, once the details of the draft budget have been finalised.

If you would like to be kept informed about the results of this survey and take part in future consultations on policing in Warwickshire, please enter your email below.

You can also [sign up to receive the Commissioner's monthly newsletter](#)

Completed forms can be emailed to opcc@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk or alternatively may be posted to:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

3 Northgate Street

Warwick

CV34 4SP

Please note that emailed and postal responses must be received no later than Tuesday 5 January, 2021 in order to be included as part of the consultation results.

Please contact the us on the email address above or by phone on 01926 412322 if you require the survey in a different format.