

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

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.

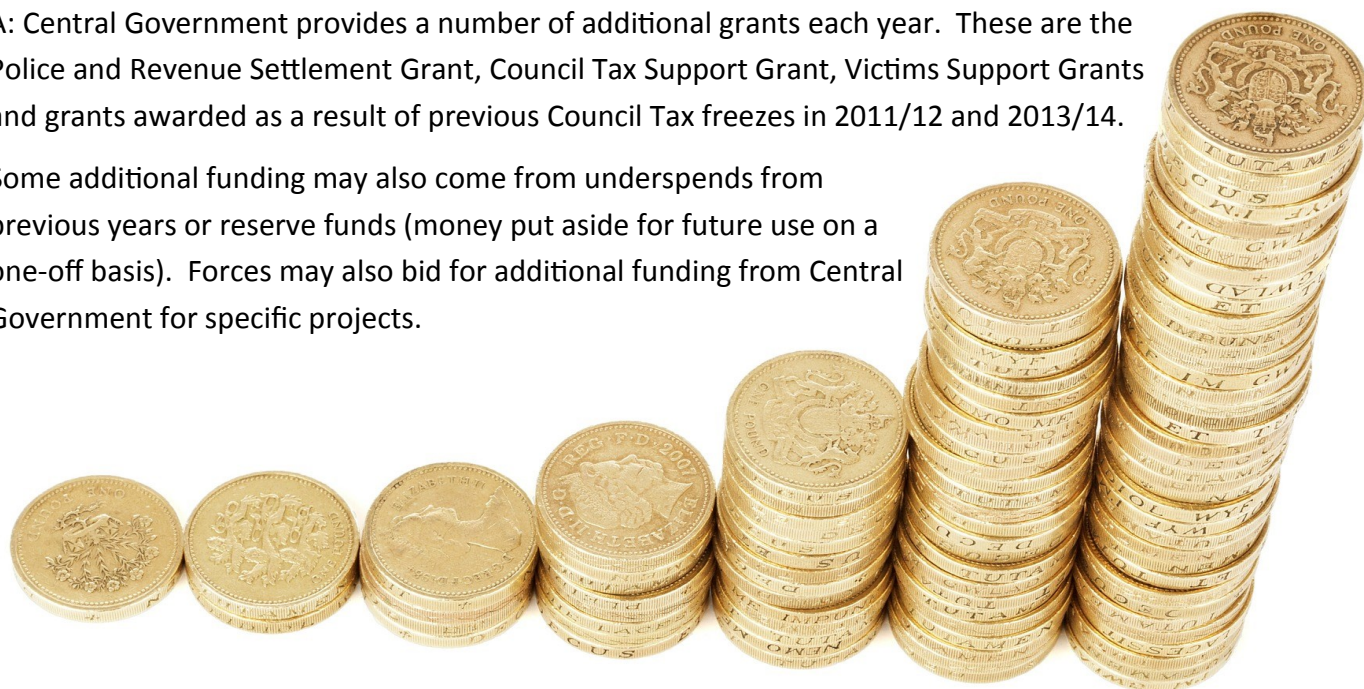
Q: How much money does the Police Precept contribute to Warwickshire Police each year?

A: The precept for 2017/18 will raise approximately £37.8 million – around 39% of the net funding for Warwickshire Police.

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 in 2011/12 and 2013/14.

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. If the Police Precept is frozen in Warwickshire for 2016/17, what will I pay?

A. If no increase is applied, the Police Precept for each property band will be as follows:

Band A: £127.99

Band B: £149.32

Band C: £170.65

Band D: £191.98

Band E: £234.64

Band F: £277.30

Band G: £319.97

Band H: £383.96

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. £900,000) remain lower than those of the Police Authority which it replaced.

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 two percent. Any proposed change above this figure would require a local referendum to take place with voters backing the proposal before it could be enacted. In 2016/17 and again for 2017/18, the Government has allowed the 10 PCCs who have the lowest Police Precepts to make increases equivalent to an extra £5 per year on a Band D property – taking them above the 2% threshold – without the need for a referendum. Warwickshire is not one of these areas and therefore the normal 2% limit applies.

Q: Is police funding changing?

A: The Government is consulting on changes to the Police and Revenue Settlement Grant. The Commissioner will push hard to ensure Warwickshire will receive a fair funding settlement in future years. No changes have been made to the funding arrangements for 2017/18.

Q: How can I have my say?

A: The Commissioner is consulting the public on his proposal to freeze the Police Precept for 2017/18. Visit www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/preceptsurvey for more information.

"A safer, more secure Warwickshire"



Philip Seccombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire