



Philip Seccombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire

Budget Consultation Results

Your Police, Your Views 2022-23

Introduction and methodology

- The Your Police, Your Views consultation launched on 17 December 2021 to seek to obtain the views of residents and ratepayers (local businesses) on the budget for policing, in line with statutory responsibilities.
- Results from the consultation will inform the Commissioner's decision making regarding revenue and capital spending and the level of the police precept.
- An online survey was launched using Smart Survey, which ran for four weeks, to obtain the views of local people and gain feedback on potential options for the precept. A total of **839** responses were received by January 17.
- A series of consultation meetings were also held with representative groups:
 - Business and rural crime organisations
 - Local MPs
 - Town and parish councils
 - Local Authority Chief Executives/Finance Leads and Council Leaders
 - Police workforce representatives
 - The Chief Constable and senior officer team

Promotion and uptake

- The survey was promoted heavily on social media, including paid promotions on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
 - On Facebook and Instagram we reached **56,000** users in Warwickshire
 - On Twitter we reached a further **27,600** users within Warwickshire postcodes
 - Facebook and Instagram ads resulted in **792** click-throughs to the survey
 - Twitter ads resulted in **1,352** click-throughs to the survey
- All town and parish councils were written to and asked to help promote the survey and encouraged to complete it.
- An email newsletter was read **1,793** times, with **193** clicks to the survey
- Internal communications were issued by Warwickshire Police and by partners, including within healthcare and local authorities.
- Media releases resulted in coverage in the Stratford Herald, Leamington/Rugby/Stratford Observer, Redditch Advertiser during early January 2022.

Leamington Observer
Incorporating Kenilworth, Warwick and Whitnash

Thursday, January 6th 2022 Week 1

WANTED
Caravan/Motorhome
Any Make, Model, Age or Condition
(Even Damp or Damaged)
Cash on Collection
Private Buyer
Please Call
James on: 07392180003

THE JONES FAMILY JEWELLERS
Tjjewellers.co.uk | 01926 882 552 | 3 Satchwell Walk, Leamington Spa, CV32 4QE (off Park st)

- On-site workshop for all repairs in store!
- Engagement ring & Diamond specialist.
- Cash for Gold, Silver, Platinum & Palladium.

More police, but what you pay will increase

WARWICKSHIRE Police is set to have its highest ever number of officers by the end of this year. The force is expected to be 1,100 strong within the next 12 months - there are currently 1,062 - but residents are going to have to pay the price.

Warwickshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe has launched his annual consultation on the policing budget, asking residents for their feedback on how best to meet the challenges facing police in the county.

Mr Seccombe wants to hear views on where people believe main priorities for spending should be placed, as he sets the finances for Warwickshire Police for 2022/23.

The consultation comes as the Government has confirmed funding is in place to support the continued recruitment of new police officers.

Aide from the core central grant from Government, just under half of the police budget is made up from Council Tax contributions, through the Police Pledge.

And that means residents are going to have to dig deeper into their pockets at a time when household bills are spiralling.

Increase

In its settlement announcement, the Government gave Police and Crime Commissioners the flexibility to increase the Police Pledge by up to 3.10 a year on an average Band D property - around £50 per month.

This equates to a percentage increase of 3.95 per cent and would raise around £500,000 more than a standard budget.

Mr Seccombe said: "We have all been faced with rising costs, with the price of fuel, utilities and a wide range of our everyday purchases now much higher than in previous years, as the impact of inflation and other factors starts to take hold.

"The same is true in policing and across the public sector as a whole. The funding required to sustain our officer numbers and to keep the goods and services necessary to support the lives of our communities.

"This all adds up to considerable cost pressures for Warwickshire Police. The budget I set next year must provide for increases in pay and National Insurance, as well as meeting the need to invest in the services

such as IT, human resources, finance systems and the vehicles and buildings which will support our record 1,100 officers by the end of 2022.

"I know that these are not easy financial times for many households and that's why it's important I gather the views of local people and council tax payers on whether an increase in the precept is justified and if so, what priorities it should be spent on.

"My aim is to seek a fair outcome which keeps taxational levels as low as possible while also protecting local services. However to do this, I really need people's input so I can best understand where that balance may lie.

The consultation closes on January 17. Visit www.warwickshire.pcc.gov.uk to take the 'Your Police, Your Voice' budget consultation.

Together - Pictured at Longbridge Island are the political group leaders - left to right - Coun Susan Juned (SDC Liberal Democrat), Coun Tony Jefferson (SDC Conservative), Coun Andrew Day (WDC Conservative), Coun Judith Falg (WDC Whitnash Residents' Association), and Coun Alan Bond (WDC Liberal Democrat).

THE BALL is now rolling on the proposed merger of Warwick and Stratford district councils.

A formal submission document has now been sent to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove, to request permission for a full political merger to create a South Warwickshire District Council.

To mark this historic event, group leaders from across the political spectrum gathered at the Longbridge Island, which borders both districts and is a well used crossing point.

Warwick District Council leader Andrew Day said: "I'm proud of fellow councillors who have squarely addressed the challenge to create a modern, efficient and more resilient district council, better able to meet the pressing needs of our communities.

Tony Jefferson, leader of Stratford District Council, was equally pleased.

He said: "We need to adapt to a changing world. Both sets of councillors recognised this. With this decision taken, a lot of hard work will now begin."

Pre Marriage Course

A series of five sessions to help engaged couples or those exploring the possibility of marriage, build strong foundations for their future together.

Starting at Christ Church on Monday 10th January at 7pm.

For more details, contact: somontho@christchurch.org.uk

Prity Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 1BA

CHRIST CHURCH

Keep up with all the latest news, sport and entertainment from around the area at www.leamingtonobserver.co.uk

Respondent breakdown

Gender



62.38%



35.44%

Non-binary 0.61%

Self-describe 1.58%

Ethnicity

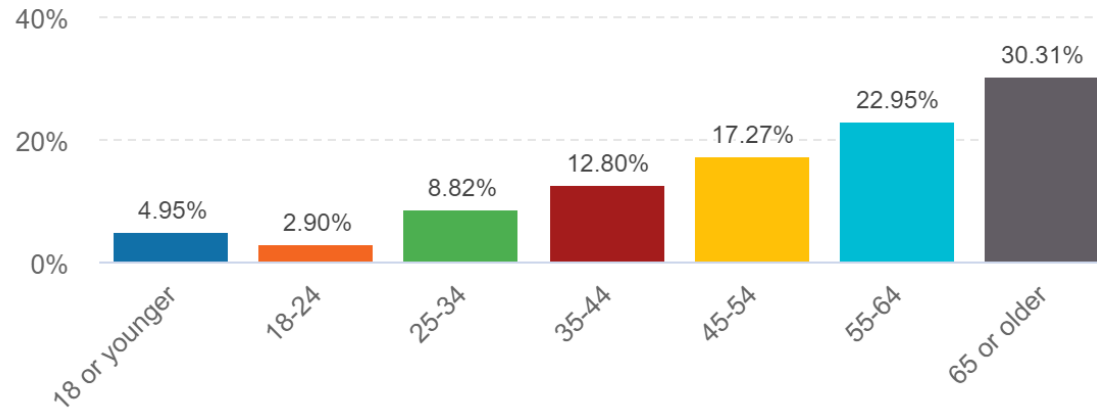
White

96%

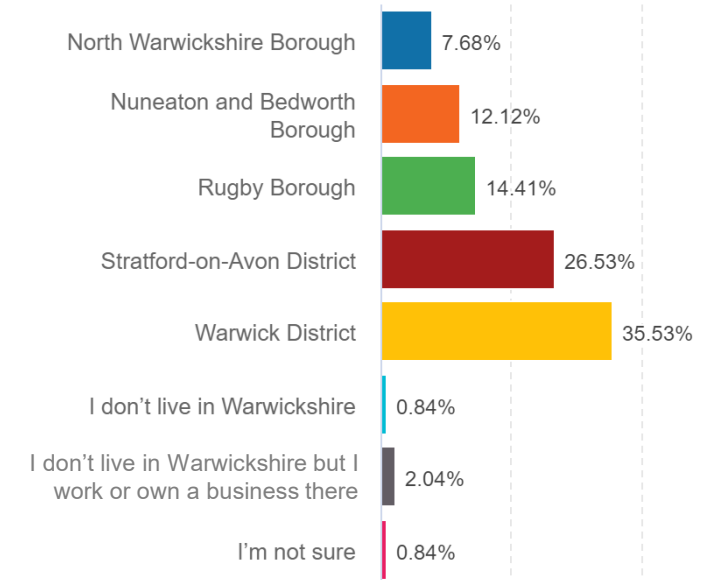
All other ethnic groups

4%

Age

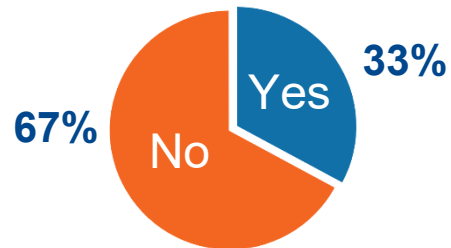


Area



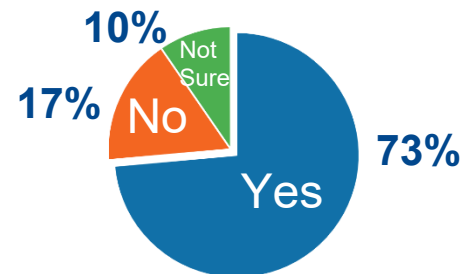
Police contact

Have you contacted Warwickshire Police in the last year?



Victim services

Do you know there are support services for victims?



Council Tax payers

Yes

93%

No

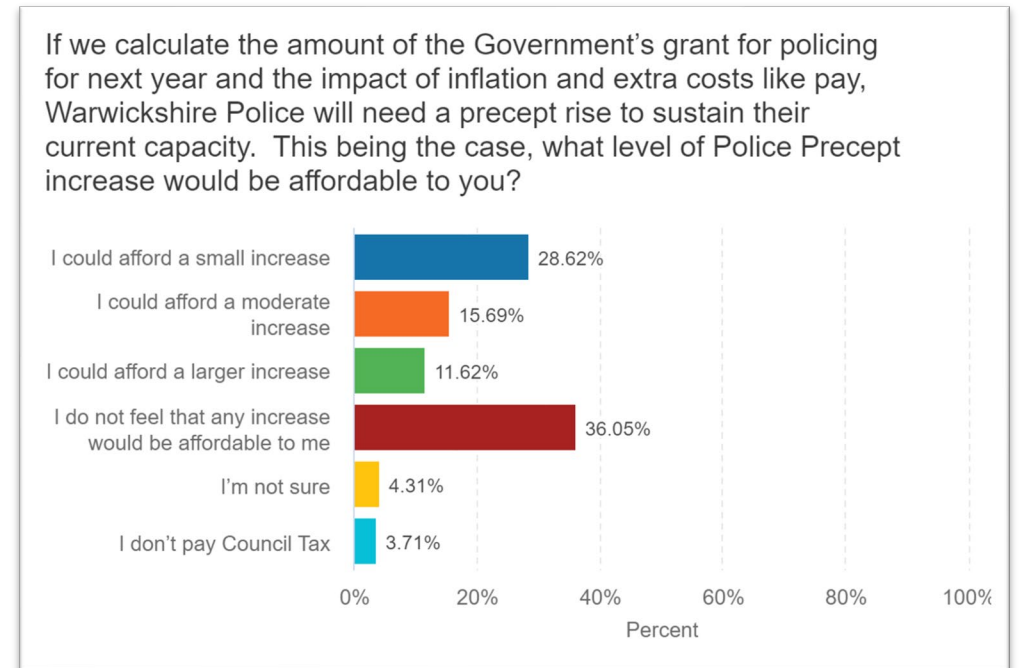
7%

Summary of results

Affordability

We asked respondents in the online survey their views on the affordability of various options to increase the precept. The question had limited contextual information and was designed to find general opinions on affordability of Council Tax increases.

- **466** of respondents felt that some form of increase was affordable to them
 - 239 could afford a small increase
 - 131 could afford a moderate increase
 - 96 could afford a large increase
- **301** felt that no amount of increase would be affordable.

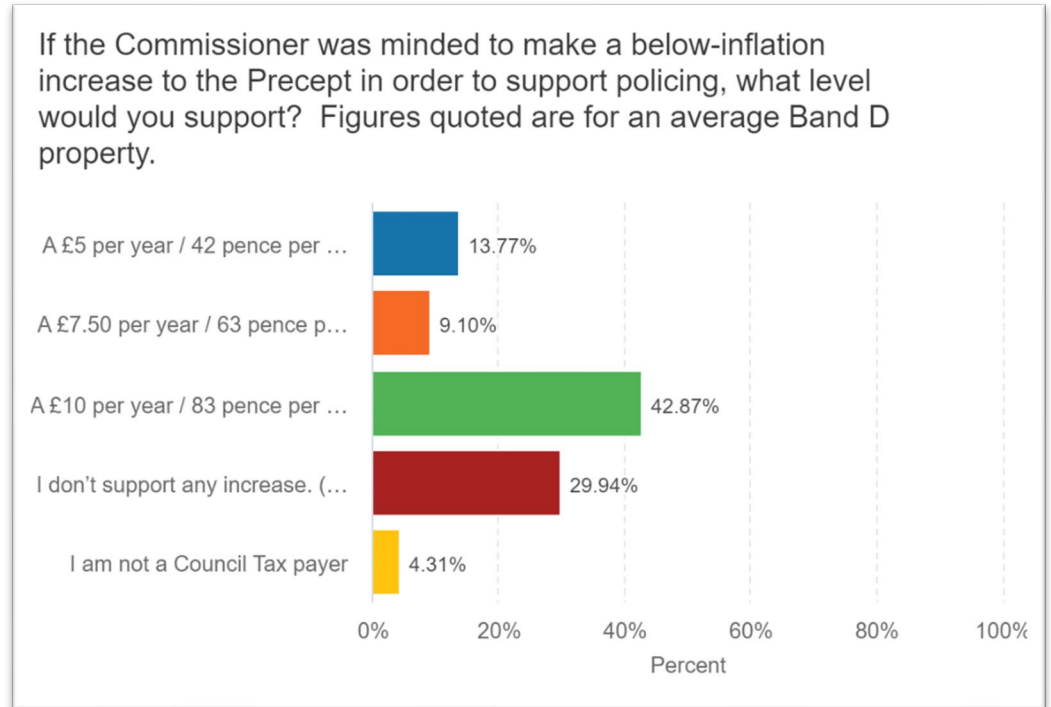


Summary of results

Precept option supported

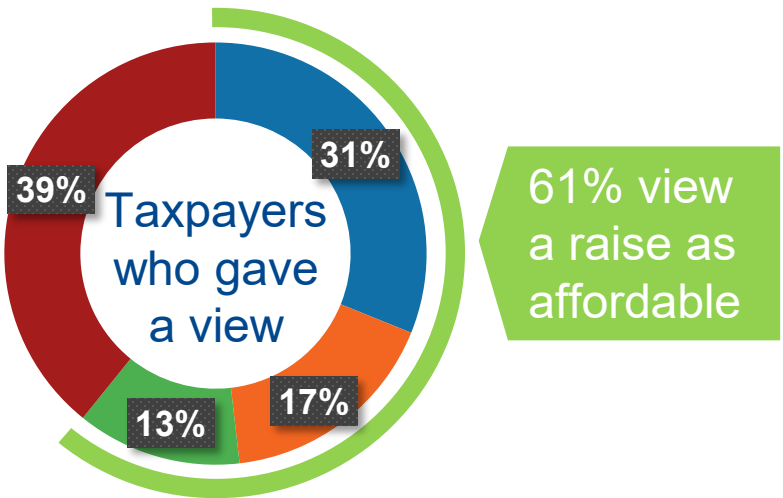
We next gave four possible options for a change to the precept increase, providing a high level overview of the implications of each based on our early budget forecasting. We asked respondents to indicate which would be their preference, with figures quoted for an average Band D property.

- **548** supported an increase of some kind:
 - 115 supported a £5 per year / 42p per month increase
 - 76 supported a £7.50 per year / 63p per month increase
 - 357 supported a £10 per year / 83p per month) increase
- **250** support no increase
- **36** do not pay Council Tax



Most people view a precept increase as affordable

39% view a raise as unaffordable



61% view a raise as affordable



Key Insights

- There are still significant numbers who view any raise as unaffordable, though the picture is different area by area
- A larger proportion in Nuneaton & Bedworth (46%) cannot afford any increase
- More people can afford a small increase in Rugby than no increase
- Minority ethnic groups are less likely to find a raise unaffordable than average

Results by demographic

I could afford a small increase

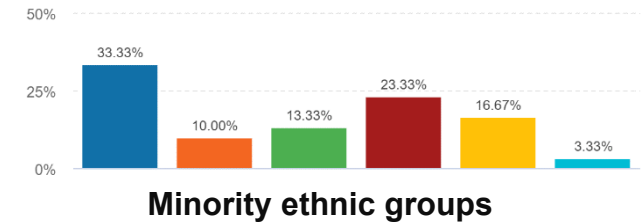
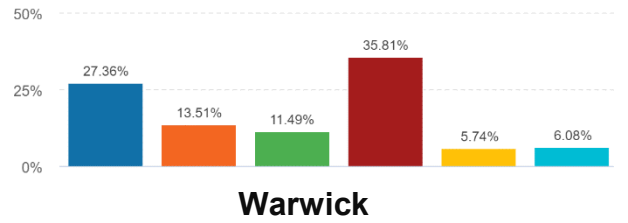
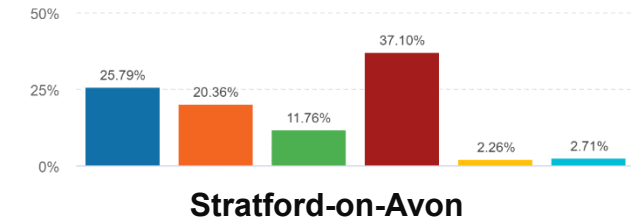
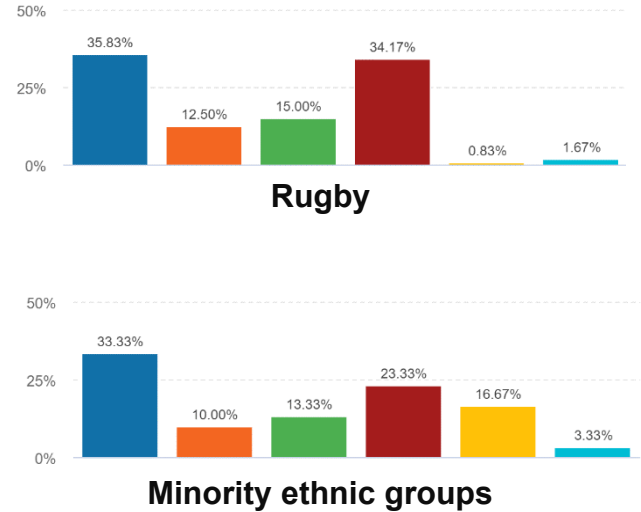
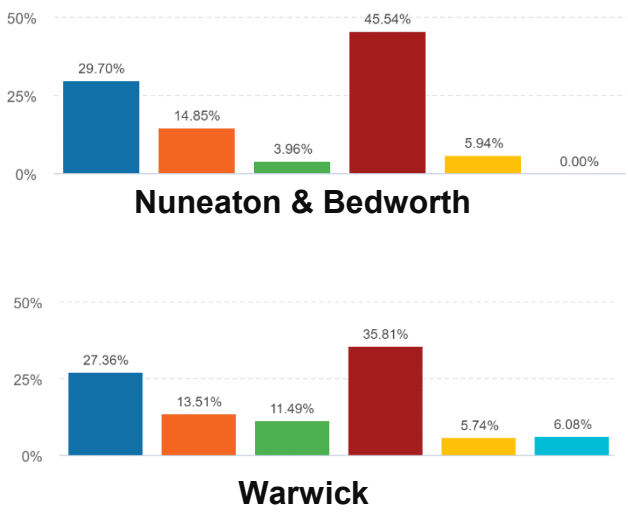
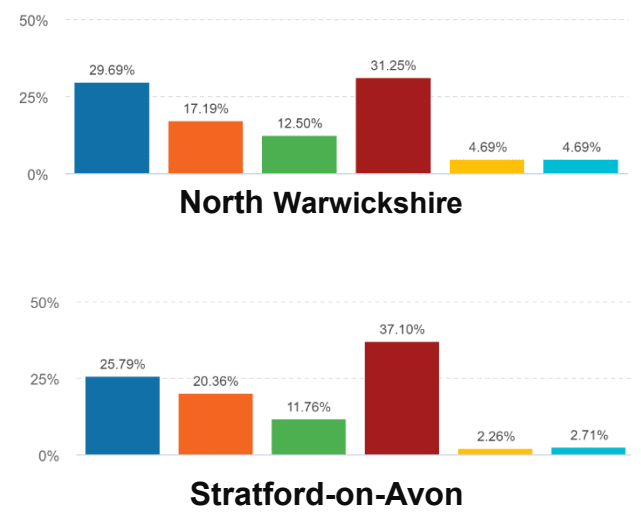
I could afford a moderate increase

I could afford a larger increase

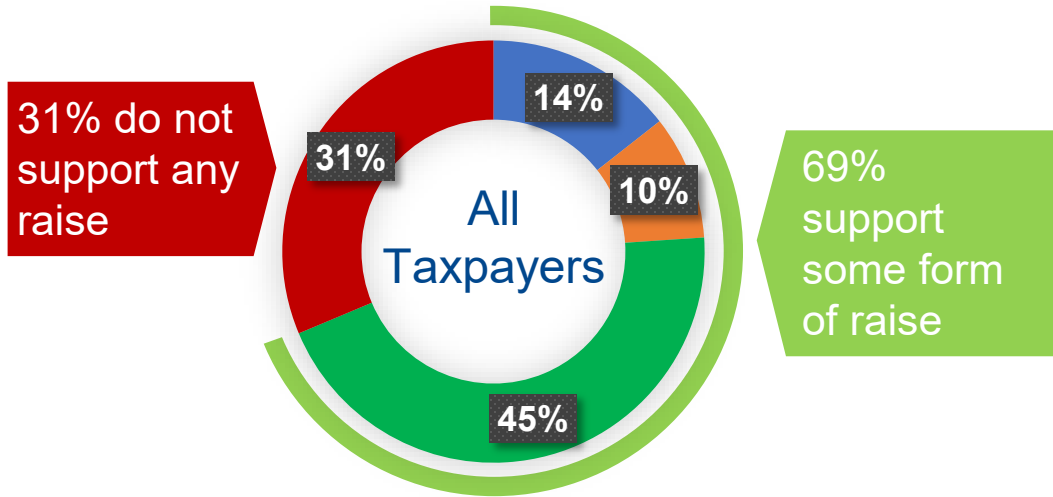
I do not feel that any increase would be affordable to me

I'm not sure

I don't pay Council Tax

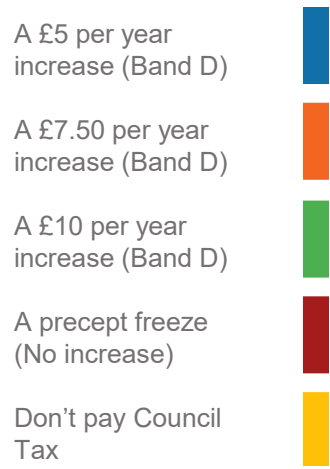


There is support for the maximum precept raise

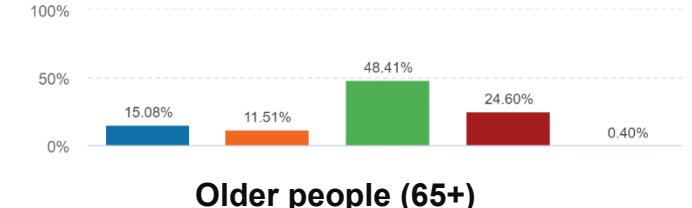
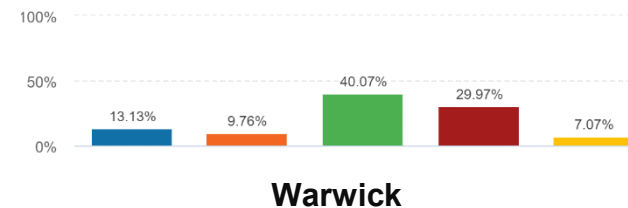
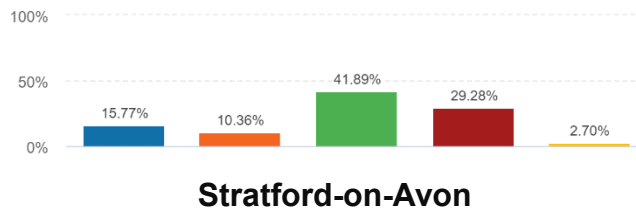
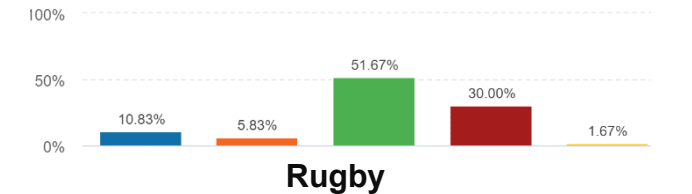
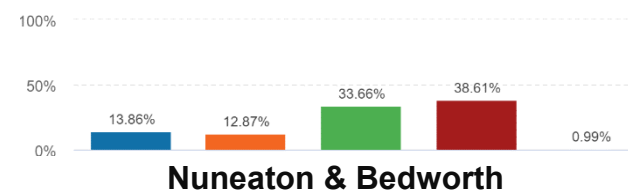
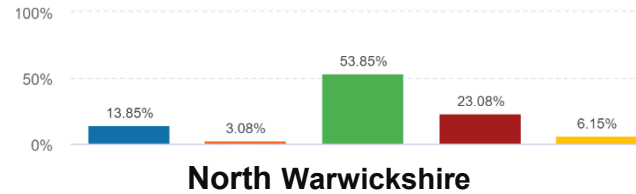


Key Insights

- With context around the size of an increase, support for the maximum raise increases considerably from 13% to 45%.
- Older people (65+) support for a freeze only half of that of £10 raise
- Nuneaton & Bedworth the only area where support for a freeze was the highest response, though a majority still support a raise.
- Half of 18-24 year olds support the maximum raise; but 30% don't pay Council Tax and 13% support a freeze.



Results by demographic

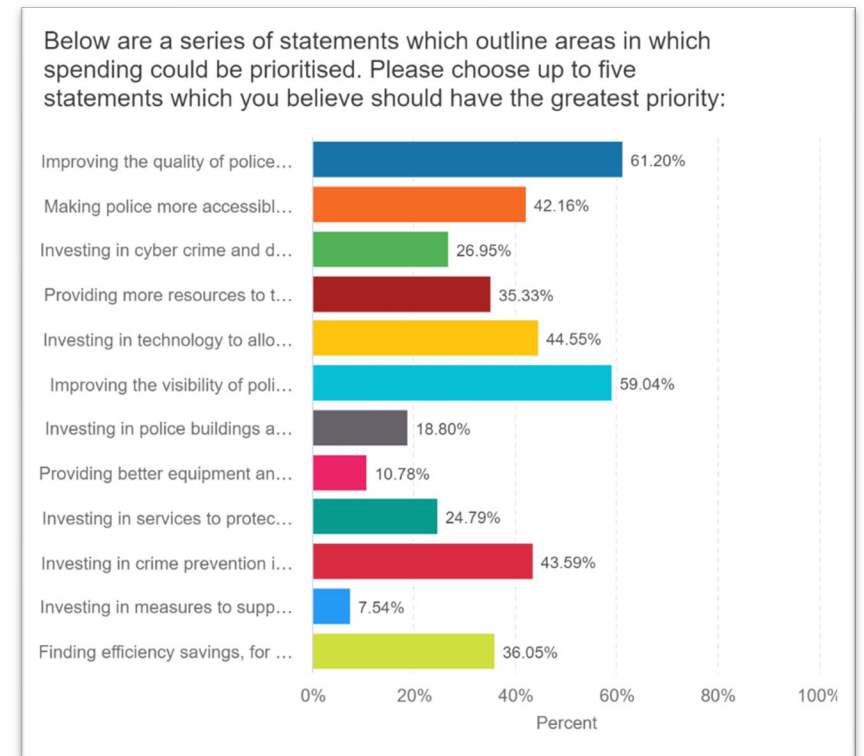


Priorities for spending

We gave a series of statements outlining areas where spending could be prioritised. Respondents were asked to select up to five statements which they felt should have the highest priority.

The top five results were:

1. Improving the quality of police investigations with better outcomes for victims (61%)
2. Improving the visibility of policing (59%)
3. Investing in technology to allow front line policing to respond more efficiently and effectively (45%)
4. Investing in crime prevention in the community (45%)
5. Making police more accessible, including at police station front counters (42%)

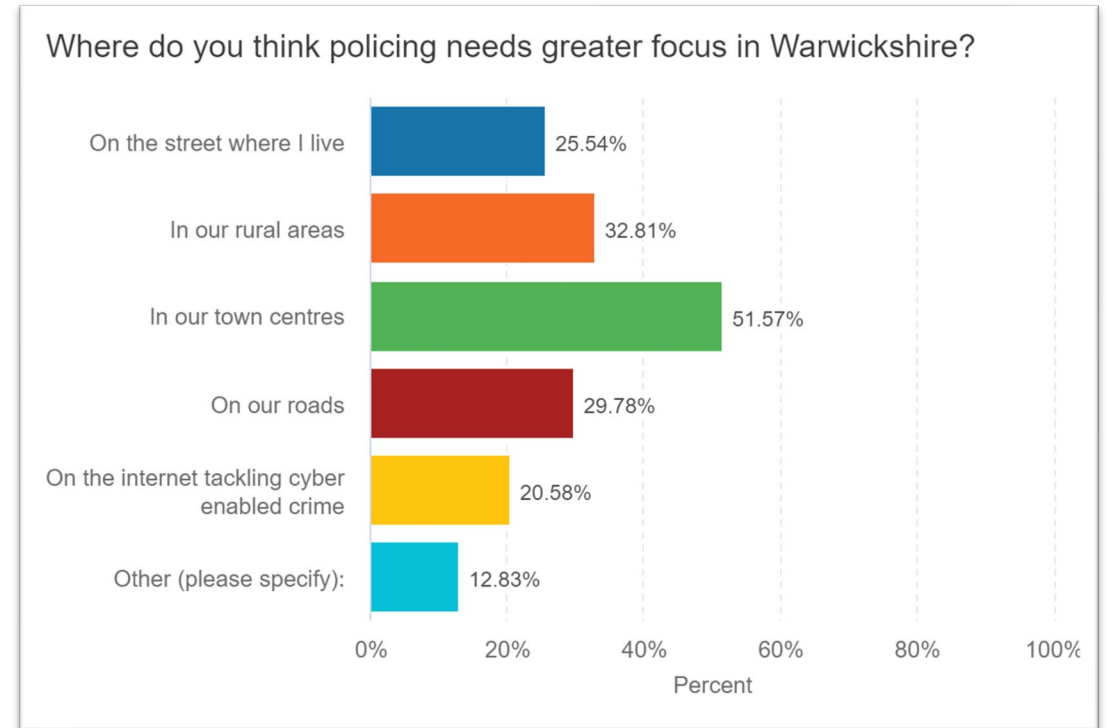


Where greater focus is needed

We asked respondents to state where policing needed a greater focus and gave a list of different options.

The results were:

1. In our town centres (426)
2. In our rural areas (271)
3. On our roads (245)
4. On the street where I live (211)
5. On the internet tackling cyber enabled crime (170)
6. Other (106)

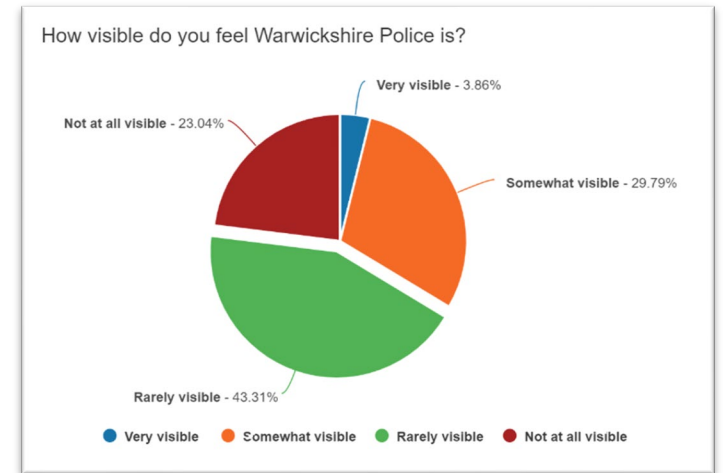


Visibility and accessibility

We asked respondents to state how visible Warwickshire Police is to them.

The results were:

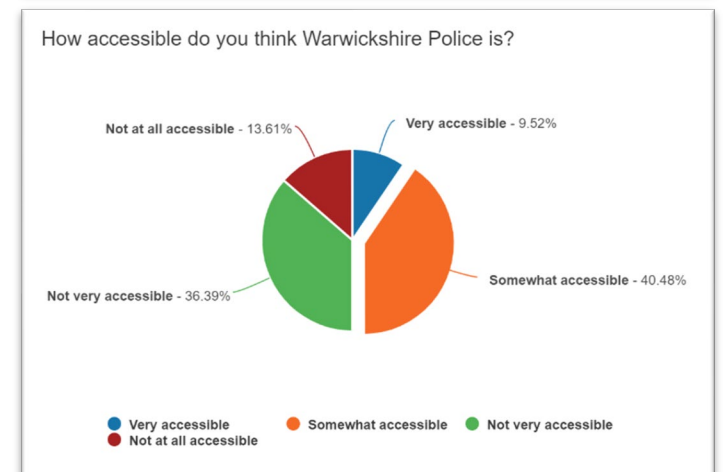
1. Rarely visible (358)
2. Somewhat visible (247)
3. Not at all visible (191)
4. Very visible (32)



We asked respondents to state how accessible Warwickshire Police is to them.

The results were:

1. Somewhat accessible (336)
2. Not very accessible (302)
3. Not at all accessible (113)
4. Very accessible (79)



Conclusions

- The survey shows there is a majority support for a precept raise, with just under half of responding taxpayers supporting the maximum raise.
- There is nevertheless concern from around a third of respondents who do not support any raise.
- The consensus from the face-to-face consultation meetings was that while no taxpayer is ever keen to see a raise, they can support it if the benefits being delivered are seen and felt.
- However visibility and accessibility of policing are both areas which need to see clear improvement.
- The priorities for spending identified in the consultation are supported by the additional benefits anticipated from the proposed budget:
 - Improvements to investigative standards and outcomes with Evidential Review Officers.
 - A strengthened response to violence against women and girls with investment in teams dealing with vulnerability.
 - Extra officers to improve resilience and increased visibility, supported with appropriate equipment and fleet.
 - Better equipment and enhanced training for Specials to further support SNT's and provide increased visibility
 - Improved ICT infrastructure and systems to enable flexible and remote working on more robust Warwickshire networks.
 - Additional funding for the Commissioner's grants to promote crime prevention activity and road safety.
 - Improved public contact methods to improve accessibility of police, including front counters.