

Sussex Police Budget Precept

Public Consultation – January 2018

Executive Summary

An online survey was designed to consult with Sussex residents regarding a potential increase in the budget precept.

The consultation was open from November 9th 2017 to January 5th 2018. A total of 4559 responses were received (compared with 4485 responses in 2017) which gives the results a confidence interval of approximately +/- 1%.

Around three fifths (63%) of respondents answered 'Yes' when asked *"Would you be prepared to pay more, through your council tax, for policing in Sussex?"* with the remaining 37% of respondents answering 'No'.

Of those prepared to pay more, two thirds (66%) would be prepared to pay an additional £10 a year and one fifth (20%) would be prepared to pay an additional £5 a year.

The remaining 14% answered that they would be prepared to pay an additional 'Any other amount'. These respondents were then asked to specify an amount, with the most common response being £50 a year.

To account for any possible duplicate responses, a random 20% of the sample was analysed. Of these 917 responses, 64% answered 'Yes' they would be prepared to pay more, through their council tax, for policing in Sussex, with 36% answering 'No'. This is in line with the overall findings.

Similarly, 67% of this sample would be prepared to pay an additional £10 a year, 20% would be prepared to pay an additional £5 a year and the remaining 13% answered 'Any other amount'.

A full breakdown of results of the total 4559 responses is provided in Appendix A.

Appendix A

A total of 4559 responded to the consultation through the online survey. The tables below detail the overall results:

Would you be prepared to pay more, through your council tax, for policing in Sussex?		
	Count	%
Yes	2855	63%
No	1704	37%

How much extra would you be prepared to pay in 2018-19?		
	Count	%
£5 a year per household [This would generate an additional £3.04m]	576	20%
£10 a year per household [This would generate an additional £6.08m]	1876	66%
Any other amount	403	14%

The following table details the number of responses from each of the Sussex Police Districts:

District	Count	%	District	Count	%
Adur & Worthing	382	8%	Hastings	186	4%
Arun	393	9%	Horsham	383	8%
Brighton & Hove	472	10%	Lewes	330	7%
Chichester	271	6%	Mid Sussex	383	8%
Crawley	86	2%	Rother	383	8%
Eastbourne	252	6%	Wealden	1013	22%

*Don't know = 25

The table below details the number of responses from each Sussex Division, based on responses to the question "Which District¹ do you live in?":

	Count	%
Brighton & Hove	472	10%
East Sussex	2164	47%
West Sussex	1898	42%
Don't know	25	1%

The tables below detail the results from the survey, segmented by the Sussex Police Divisions:

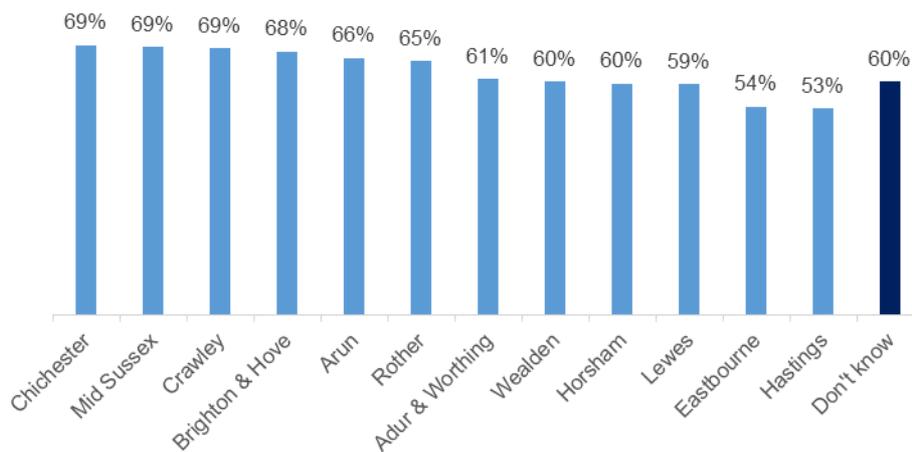
	Yes	
	Count	%
Brighton & Hove	320	68%

¹ Responses have been recoded into the corresponding Division

East Sussex	1289	60%
West Sussex	1231	65%
Don't Know	15	60%

	£5 a year...		£10 a year...		Any other amount	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Brighton & Hove	55	17%	213	67%	52	16%
East Sussex	265	21%	836	65%	188	15%
West Sussex	253	21%	815	66%	163	13%
Don't Know	3	20%	12	80%	0	0%

The following graph shows the proportion of residents in each Sussex Police District that supported an increase in the budget precept²:



Those not willing to pay an additional amount for policing were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning behind this. There were 1703 comments. All responses were analysed for common themes. The themes that appeared from most common to least common were:

Cost and affordability – Those respondents who feel that the rise in precept/council tax is too high, that they cannot afford to pay any more, or that they pay enough already.

Quality of current service – Those respondents who cite that the current service is poor, either in terms of inefficiency, value for money or general wastage and that the precept should not be increased until the standard of delivery is improved.

Priorities – Those respondents who feel that Sussex Police prioritise incorrectly when it comes to tackling crime.

Paying more for less – Those respondents who feel that the precept continues to rise each year but service seems to be declining, or a perception that the promises regarding where the money would be allocated have not been kept.

Taxation responsibility – Those respondents who feel that any increase in police funding should come from central government taxation rather than via council tax.

² Includes all 'Yes' responses – 'Yes: £5.00...', 'Yes: £10.00...' and 'Yes: Any other amount'