

Consultation outcome – police precept 2015/16



Overall results

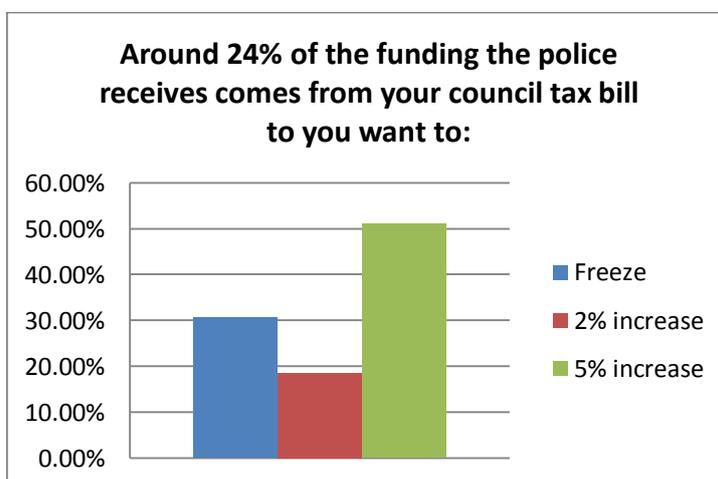
In addition to the market research undertaken via telephone we wanted to ensure those with an interest in policing in Lancashire and those responsible for paying council tax were given the opportunity to have their say on precept levels.

A simple survey was devised replicating the precept question asked as part of the SMSR telephone research. This time however respondents were invited to respond either online via Surveygizmo software or via a leaflet distributed via police enquiry desks, libraries and direct to a number of individuals who requested them to be sent to their home address.

They were also distributed by the Commissioner at his engagements throughout the consultation period and at roadshows within the County in mid-January.

The survey was heavily promoted on social media, via In the Know police alert system and in the local press and generated 1000 responses compared to the usual 400 sample.

The majority (69.5%) of respondents indicated a willingness to pay an increase in the level of policing precept, with 18.5% saying they were prepared to accept an increase of 2% and more than half (51%) saying they would be willing to pay an additional 5%.

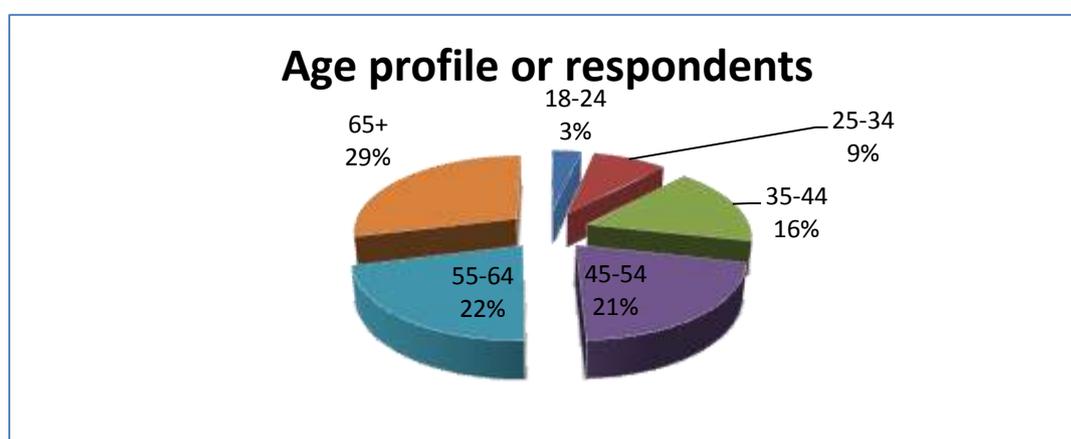


Response analysis:

In the free text responses respondents indicated the main driver in supporting an increase in the level of precept was their views that policing services were important; that the amount being considered was not too much to ask to ensure people were safe and that police are worth the money. Others felt that the increase wasn't necessary and some indicated the additional funds should come from other sources such as Government, not council tax payers.

As responses were voluntary there is no way of ensuring an overall representation of each district. However an analysis of the post codes provided by contributors demonstrates significant contributions from area although they may not be equally spread among all 14 district areas.

All those who completed the survey were also asked which age group they belonged to and the table of respondents by age is as follows:



Questionnaire

Details of the question and response options relating to the police precept are in the table below:

Survey question	Answer options
Around 24% of the funding the police receives comes from council tax payers in the form of a precept payment on your bill. The remaining funding comes from Government grants. Currently a band D household pays an average of £156 towards policing. The Police and Crime Commissioner can increase this amount to help reduce some of the impact of the cuts to Government grants. We want to know how much you are willing to pay towards policing in Lancashire through the precept in 2015/16 Do you want to:	Freeze/Keep it the same? If this happens we may receive a Government grant to cover £600,000 but we will still need to find significant (19m) savings
	Increase by 2%? Paying an extra 2% or 6p per week/£3.12 per year will generate an extra £1.2m towards policing in 2015/16. This is equivalent to 26 police officers or 45 PCSOs
	Increase by 5%? Paying an extra 15p per week/£7.85 per year will generate an extra £3.1m towards policing in 2015/16. This is the equivalent of up to 68 police officers or 115 PCSOs

