

**Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Budget Consultation 2016/17**

Results

Summary

1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has a statutory duty to consult Norfolk people on his proposals over whether to raise the amount they pay for policing through their council tax (or precept).

2 This report presents the results of the public consultation held from 4 January and 29 January 2016.

3 The consultation was carried out in line with the approach approved by Members on 8 December 2015.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner has a statutory duty to consult Norfolk people on their proposals over whether to raise the amount they pay for policing through their council tax, or precept.
- 1.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner decided to consult on whether to raise the policing element of the Council Tax by 2% or whether the precept amount should be frozen for 2016/17.
- 1.3 The consultation received a total of 2,321 responses from across Norfolk.
- 1.4 Of the responses received, 1,491 (64%) said they would support a 2% increase, with 830 (36%) saying they would support a freeze.

2.0 Breakdown and results

Direct contact	Prepared to pay 2% more	Support a freeze	Total	% pay more	% freeze
Hard copy form	17	8	25	68	32
Letter	1	1	2	50	50
E-mail	1	3	4	25	75
Telephone call	2	3	5	40	60

Online Survey	Prepared to pay 2% more	Support a freeze	Total	% pay more	% freeze
Total	1,365	759	2,124	64	36
Breckland	211	99	310	68	32
KL & West	186	129	315	59	41
Broadland	271	114	385	70	30
North Norfolk	130	54	184	71	29
South Norfolk	268	156	424	63	37
Gt Yarmouth	100	70	170	59	41
Norwich	199	137	336	59	41

Public Meetings	Prepared to pay 2% more	Support a freeze	Total	% pay more	% freeze
KLynn/W Nfk	6	1	7	85	15
Norwich	9	2	11	82	18

Public events	Prepared to pay 2% more	Support a freeze	Total	% pay more	% freeze
Gt Yarmouth ASDA	40	26	66	61	39
Gt Yarmouth Sainsbury's	50	27	77	65	35

	Prepared to pay 2% more	Support a freeze	Total	% pay more	% freeze
TOTAL	1491	830	2,321	64%	36%

3.0 Further information:

Consultation:

The consultation ran from 4 January to 29 January 2016 and was carried out in line with the report "Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner Budget Consultation 2016/17" which was before the Panel on 8 December 2015.

In addition to the outlined approach, the OPCCN noted a limited response from the Great Yarmouth area so visited two supermarkets to speak to shoppers face-to-face.

The results of the public consultation and comments received will be published on the OPCCN website.

Do Not Pay Council Tax:

107 responses were received from members of the public who do not pay Council Tax. 67 (63%) of those responses were in support of an increase, with 40 (37%) choosing a freeze.

Data:

During the process of monitoring and analysing the responses, 4 were found to have been duplicated, so each was only counted once in the final figures.

Media:

Coverage for the consultation was secured in and on all the main media outlets including EDP, Evening News, Lynn News, Bury Free Press, Mustard TV, KLFM, Heart, Radio Norwich, and North Norfolk Radio. Many covered the consultation more than once.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner promoted the consultation via social digital media channels throughout the consultation period and via staff.

Response summary/repeated themes:

Of the 2,124 responses received to our online survey, almost 900 people wrote comments. As you would expect these were hugely varied in their content but there were some definite themes that emerged. The main ones are included below:

- Clear view that people are prepared to pay more but they want to see/understand what they are paying for in their neighbourhood/community/ "on my street".
- Many people pointing out they are on fixed incomes and are being asked to pay more year-on-year for police and council services.
- People are prepared to pay more for PCSOs and police officers.
- Strong call for PCC and CC to be lobbying Government and "pushing back" on funding.
- Calls for greater efficiency and cuts to "back office" and people saying get rid of PCC.
- Calls for levy on clubs and bars to pay for own policing and for a redress of the rural versus urban balance.
- For every 'clamp down on speeding drivers' there is a 'stop traffic police harassment'.
- PSCOs are either greatly appreciated or seen as police 'lite'.
- Some making the point that the Government has not reduced funding so no need for rise.

Great Yarmouth Asda - one hour 27.1.16

Comment headlines:

- 'if it's used for services locally',
- 'only if used for the frontline'.

Great Yarmouth Sainsbury's - one hour 27.1.16

Comment headlines:

- 'no, they should be funded by Government',
- 'yes, if it means they're more visible', if they were more visible I would feel safer',
- 'I'd want more information on where the money is going'.