

| West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Briefing | |
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| <i>5 February 2013</i> | |
| Subject and number | 027 13 Results of Policing Budget and Precept Consultation |
| Prepared by: | Jonathan Jardine |
| Executive Summary | The consultation yielded mixed views. The number of respondents was small, but there was majority support for the precept and budget proposals. A range of issues was raised. |
| Actions required: | None |

Background

Consultation on the proposed budget and precept ran from 23 January to 4 February 2013.

Consultation comprised:

- Information, links and survey on westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk
- Successive Tweets @WestMidsPCC with links further information and requests for comments
- Information and links on [facebook.com/westmidspcc](https://www.facebook.com/westmidspcc)

In total 61 responses were received, from an estimated 35 respondents. This is a small sample, so it is difficult to draw firm conclusions. Furthermore, many respondents made comments relating to other issues.

Summary

Where respondents expressed a clear preference, 19 were in favour of a 3% increase or more, while 13 wanted either a smaller increase or the precept reduced. A number of other issues were raised and points made.

Typical comments from those in favour of a 3%+ increase

“Too many officers in the back office. £3 a year won't kill anybody. One less pack of fags will more than cover it.”

“money needs spending on officers on the ground not getting tied up dealing with paperwork and stuck in offices”

“I support the proposals as long as the increase is used to support operational front line officers & staff allow A19 to cease and recruiting to take place. I would not want to see an increase in senior management ranks or money wasted on dubious 'projects'. Thank you”

“Definitely in favour of raising more money locally rather than from central government with associated constraints. Cutting money spent on leases and increasing money spent on staff sounds good to me.”

Typical comments from those against the proposals

“100 more staff then? Or taxpayers money to move people about! My thoughts, no thanks”

“There is no need for an increase. It needs a root and branch removal of senior staff from office based routine. Do you know how much time is actually spent policing as opposed to form filling?”

“I'm appalled where do you think the money will come from? I've had no pay rise for four years. Fuel & food bills keep going up & you think it's possible to find the money to increase your budget? Perhaps PCC could take a pay cut. No increase I don't have the budget to pay your increased budget. What world do politicians live in? You cause our financial problems then expect us to make up deficits in your budgets by causing more deficits in mine. Unbelievable.”

“"6p" wkly is atop rest of band D £800+ rates & benefit cuts... cut PoliceAuth costs by 0.4% BUT UP-precept 3% & INHERIT £55m from PA!”

Other issues

A number of respondents took the opportunity to raise a range of issues:

- a) Concern that senior police officers don't use public transport (“please tell the Chief & his team to start using public transport. Also why do they need drivers to take them on police business”), and get free parking (“also why does SMT need private parking space?”)
- b) Concern at A19 (“Madness your getting rid of officers experienced and replacing with inexperienced and expect your work quality not to fall”)
- c) More information should have been provided on the government's 1% grant offer (“To justify @WestMidsPCC's refusal of it, the budget proposal should show terms of Govt's 1% freeze-offer”)

- d) More and clearer information needed on the budget generally (“budget proposal's language is not sufficiently clear for lay-voter reading... budget proposal omits figures under main expense-headings so public can't make sensible comment”)
- e) Potential use of unmanned aerial vehicles (“Helicopters made a substantial contribution to reducing crime and ASB. These aircraft could be replaced by planes similar to “drones” at a fraction of the cost of helicopters. Police drones would be similar to gliders with an engine. I am sure that companies currently engaged in the manufacture of drones would be pleased to advise. No such planes are currently planned but I am sure the experts are aware of the potential for police use throughout the world of this type of air craft.”)
- f) Concern at the potential for increased bureaucracy arising from the introduction of PCCs, and perceived waste generally (“I am against an increase and the Commissioner should reduce his own bureaucracy such as his deputies.”)

Complete list of consultation responses

Twitter

1. @RETNASINGHAM: @PhilBatemanMBE @westmidspcc may be he could persuade Senior Officers to use bus. Give their private parking spaces.
2. @gillpind: @WestMidsPCC Will he commit to stop making redundant our experienced long standing officers to save money.
3. @CllrIanAngus: #pccbusiness pleased to hear that @WestMidsPCC will devolve Community Safety funding back to localities. Need for community led local PCBs.
4. @Smith_Smudger: @WestMidsPCC so in short you want more money but won't employ anybody extra #no
5. @gillpind: @WestMidsPCC Madness your getting rid of officers experienced and replacing with inexperienced and expect your work quality not to fall.
6. @Smith_Smudger: @WestMidsPCC 100 more staff then? Or taxpayers money to move people about! My thoughts, no thanks
7. @gillpind: @WestMidsPCC So you can confirm that your not getting rid of long standing experienced officers to save money 1 LS officer same pay as 2new
8. @SteveJarvo14: @WestMidsPCC We would go for that as long as it really is £3 addition for Band. Needs to be frontline and out on the street Police though.
9. @gillpind: @WestMidsPCC How about stopping getting rid of long serving experienced officers and replacing them with inexperienced kids to save money
10. @Smith_Smudger: @WestMidsPCC Do you mean employing 100 extra Officers or is this spin? What does "rtn" mean??

11. @BrumPolitics: @westmidspcc Happy to hand over a tenner/yr for extra 330 officers personally. Reduce crime make streets safer & get people into employment.
12. @paullmp: @WestMidsPCC personally i will never accept a reduction in pay or pay rises for police or a reduction in numbers. this goes to nurses aswell.
13. @bikerman078: @Danhod_ @westmidspcc yeah, will be interesting to see what the general public say, fingers crossed :)
14. @Danhod_: @bikerman078 @WestMidsPCC Personally I think it's worth the extra
15. @jdan9: @WestMidsPCC do it. Too many officers in the back office. £3 a year won't kill anybody. One less pack of fags will more than cover it.
16. @bikerman078: @Danhod_ @westmidspcc probably right, but for the extra few £s it's not completely unlikely to be accepted. 100 pc's is a lot for a few £
17. @Danhod_: @WestMidsPCC With taxes being high as they are, I'm unsure that many would be willing :/
18. @Jordsw1: @WestMidsPCC @wmpolice money needs spending on officers on the ground not getting tied up dealing with paperwork and stuck in offices
19. @hgt0: To justify @WestMidsPCC's refusal of it, the budget proposal should show terms of Govt's 1% freeze-offer <http://t.co/GGQTBLrA> (para 18)
20. @hgt0: .@WestMidsPCC's 2012/13 budget proposal omits figures under main expense-headings so public can't make sensible comment <http://t.co/GGQTBLrA>
21. @hgt0: IMO, @WestMidsPCC's 2012/13 budget proposal's language is not sufficiently clear for lay-voter reading <http://t.co/GGQTBLrA>
22. @RETNASINGHAM: @WestMidsPCC if you & Chief from West Mercia happy to use public transport. Why not WMP management.
23. @RETNASINGHAM: @WestMidsPCC please tell the Chief & his team to start using public transport. Also why do they need drivers to take them on police business
24. @RETNASINGHAM: @WestMidsPCC may I ask how many other PCCs are raising council tax finding 4 policing.
25. @RETNASINGHAM: @WestMidsPCC sorry Bob by raising £3 from council tax 4 policing. Is not acceptable under the current climate. Several other ways 4 funding.
26. Sid RETNASINGHAM @RETNASINGHAM @WestMidsPCC While staff & officers struggle to park & have to use public transport.

27. Sid RETNASINGHAM @RETNASINGHAM @WestMidsPCC to work this one out. Also why does duty superintendents need PS driver. Also why does SMT need private parking space.
28. Sid RETNASINGHAM @RETNASINGHAM @WestMidsPCC also 600 special forces in jobs going do we need SMT. After we need police officers in the front line. We don't need KPMG
29. Sid RETNASINGHAM @RETNASINGHAM @WestMidsPCC what's the justification in sending Chsupt on ACPO command course. While we have several qualified in situ.
30. @RETNASINGHAM @WestMidsPCC Is fair while reduction of police officers. After all most Supt are just professional meeting attenders.
31. Sid RETNASINGHAM @RETNASINGHAM @WestMidsPCC Bob to ask following questions 4 CC in morning prayers. What's the justification of two Superintendents on each LPU.
32. Hubert Taylor @hgt0 @WestMidsPCP: As budget paper's for public view, hope @WestMidsPCC confiscates "pasport" & avoid jargon. Ref para 16
http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1223524150707&ssbinary=true&blobheadervalue1=attachment%3B+filename%3D88395WMPCP_Item_5_-_Revenue_Budget_2013-14_Capital_Prog_to_2016-17_6-2-13.pdf ...
33. Hubert Taylor @hgt0 @WestMidsPCP: Is it a bogus ref to "paragraph 6" in para 28 of http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1223524150707&ssbinary=true&blobheadervalue1=attachment%3B+filename%3D88395WMPCP_Item_5_-_Revenue_Budget_2013-14_Capital_Prog_to_2016-17_6-2-13.pdf ... ? Give facts of Govt 1%, not just @WestMidsPCC spin!
34. Hubert Taylor @hgt0 @WestMidsPCP: @WestMidsPCC's "6p" wkly is atop rest of band D £800+ rates & benefit cuts. Ref para 33
http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1223524150707&ssbinary=true&blobheadervalue1=attachment%3B+filename%3D88395WMPCP_Item_5_-_Revenue_Budget_2013-14_Capital_Prog_to_2016-17_6-2-13.pdf ... What of Govt 1%!
35. Hubert Taylor @hgt0 @WestMidsPCP: Which heading hides @WestMidsPCC & team sandwich/comfort fund!. Policing not perks, pls, pls! Ref para 35
<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1223524150707&ssbinary>

=true&blobheadervalue1=attachment%3B+filename%3D88395WMPCP_Item_5_-
 __Revenue_Budget_2013-14_Capital_Prog_to_2016-17_6-2-13.pdf ...

36. Hubert Taylor @hgt0 @WestMidsPCP: @WestMidsPCC halt police-framework review &estab body plus £100k private-contratc Jan2013 report. Where's report &costs a/c!
37. Hubert Taylor @hgt0 @WestMidsPCP: @WestMidsPCC cut PoliceAuth costs by 0.4% BUT UP-precept 3% &INHERIT £55m from PA! Ref para 15&26
http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobheadervalue1=Content-Disposition&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1223524150707&ssbinary=true&blobheadervalue1=attachment%3B+filename%3D88395WMPCP_Item_5_-__Revenue_Budget_2013-14_Capital_Prog_to_2016-17_6-2-13.pdf ...
38. Emma Daniel @huxley06 @WestMidsPCC let me know if considering #participatorybudgeting as some interesting discussions last week

Website

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| | | The Police and Crime Commissioner is proposing a 3% increase in the precept. Which statement best reflects your views on this proposal? | What are your views on the Police and Crime Commissioner's budget and precept proposals? |
| | Submitted | | |
| 39. | 2013-02-03T14:52:21 | The PCC should increase the precept by more than 3% | We need to recruit more officers into the force. Too long have I heard stories of shifts running short and being unable to resource immediate reponses. |
| 40. | 2013-02-03T12:04:30 | The PCC should reduce the precept | What is the purpose of increase when police are rude to public are not doing work properly is evading responsibility by saying it is a civil matter where a breach of peace is threatened?.All the talk is about more money. I feel police and GP were given too much money by mistake should be reduced all-round due to difficult times. |

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| 41. | 2013-02-01T22:53:15 | A 3% increase is about right | The rise is needed |
| 42. | 2013-02-01T18:07:08 | The PCC should increase the precept by more than 3% | |
| 43. | 2013-02-01T17:49:49 | A 3% increase is about right | |
| 44. | 2013-02-01T17:14:44 | The PCC should increase the precept but by less than 3% | He Know what he is doing let him do it |
| 45. | 2013-01-31T18:21:49 | The PCC should reduce the precept | I don't feel I can afford to pay more council tax. The police should be a smaller entity. |
| 46. | 2013-01-31T16:11:48 | The PCC should reduce the precept | |
| 47. | 2013-01-31T15:33:01 | A 3% increase is about right | Helicopters made a substantial contribution to reducing crime and ASB. These aircraft could be replaced by planes similar to "drones" at a fraction of the cost of helicopters. Police drones would be similar to gliders with an engine. I am sure that companies currently engaged in the manufacture of drones would be pleased to advise. No such planes are currently planned but I am sure the experts are aware of the potential for police use throughout the world of this type of air craft. |
| 48. | 2013-01-30T23:13:31 | A 3% increase is about right | If it means a better quality of service and more officers I'm 100% in favour of increasing the precept however I hope Mr Jones fights central government for more funding from them as WMP has been savagely cut by them during the last 5 years resulting in decreased manpower and overstretched resources. |

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| 49. | 2013-01-30T21:44:03 | The PCC should reduce the precept | I am against an increase and the Commissioner should reduce his own bureaucracy such as his deputies. |
| 50. | 2013-01-30T18:50:18 | The PCC should reduce the precept | well perhaps if people believed what they are being told they wouldn't mind paying extra for policing. In our neighbourhood you never see a police officer or PCSO walking the streets but they do other areas within the vicinity but dont go up cul-de-sacs where undesirables hang out. Police officers could go back on the beat if police staff weren't being made redundant. Its like going back to the 70's having bobbies in offices thought this would have all stopped by now we should have learnt some lessons from the past surely |
| 51. | 2013-01-30T16:28:25 | The PCC should increase the precept but by less than 3% | Should accept the 1% and although a socialist politician should refrain from using political bias. He is with his deputy plus six further appointments and staff likely to cost more than the police board he has replaced. Not a good start. |
| 52. | 2013-01-30T15:19:43 | A 3% increase is about right | I support the proposals as long as the increase is used to support operational front line officers & staff allow A19 to cease and recruiting to take place. I would not want to see an increase in senior management ranks or money wasted on dubious 'projects'. Thank you |
| 53. | 2013-01-30T15:14:08 | The PCC should increase the precept but by less than 3% | Its not down to the council tax bill payer to cover the cost it was the governments fault in the first place so they should bare the extra cost not us. |
| 54. | 2013-01-30T14:59:58 | The PCC should increase the precept by more than 3% | Definitely in favour of raising more money locally rather than from central government with associated constraints. Cutting money spent on leases and increasing money spent on staff sounds good to me. |

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| 55. | 2013-01-30T14:59:26 | The PCC should reduce the precept | I'm appalled where do you think the money will come from? I've had no pay rise for four years. Fuel & food bills keep going up & you think it's possible to find the money to increase your budget? Perhaps PCC could take a pay cut. No increase I don't have the budget to pay your increased budget. What world do politicians live in? You cause our financial problems then expect us to make up deficits in your budgets by causing more deficits in mine. Unbelievable. |
| 56. | 2013-01-30T14:55:16 | A 3% increase is about right | I think they are sound providing we see less bureaucracy in the police. More proactionary give the front line the support resources it needs..bikes cars off road etc. Also look to retain and recruit more specials. they are very good but under valued by serving officers |
| 57. | 2013-01-28T23:53:06 | The PCC should increase the precept by more than 3% | I think 5p a week is a very small price to pay for police recruitment to finally start after so so long. The West Midlands Police force needs new blood and to look to the future with new recruits who are willing to take a £4000 pay cut. |
| 58. | 2013-01-26T10:47:31 | The PCC should reduce the precept | I don't trust the P&CC or his proposals. So far he only appears to be a waste of public money and the way he recruited his deputy means that he morally bankrupt; If the money allocated to the Police was more wisely spent e.g. not re-employing retired officers on inflated salaries then I believe the existing budget is more than sufficient. No doubt the increase will go ahead no matter what this consultation reveals. |

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| 59. | 2013-01-25T23:07:56 | A 3% increase is about right | How will the purchase of better IT equipment new build custody blocks and a new overdue Walsall Police Station be funded? There is almost no detail available on any of these. IT equipment purchases are always said to be better; the police track record on IT is deplorable - so why should this new model be better? So a hundred police officers are being returned to 'front line' duties. Which police officers are they. I hope the PCC actually monitors their return each individual and can report back next year. |
| 60. | 2013-01-25T20:49:16 | The PCC should reduce the precept | |

Newsletter

61. There is no need for an increase. It needs a root and branch removal of senior staff from office based routine. Do you know how much time is actually spent policing as opposed to form filling?