



FUNDING SAFETY TOGETHER

South Wales Police Precept Consultation Results

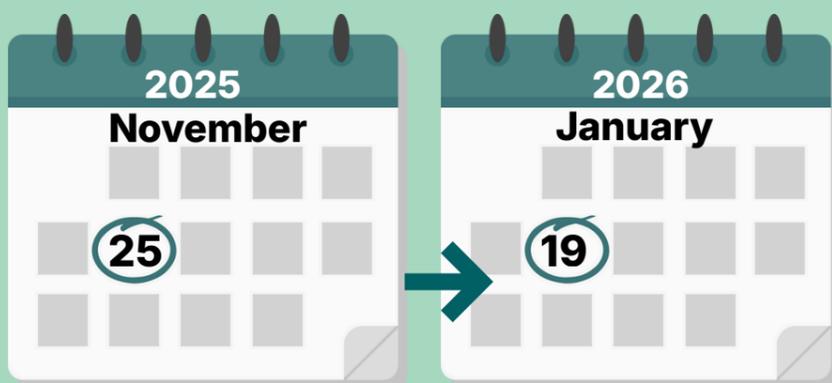
INTRODUCTION

The Police & Crime Commissioner is responsible for setting the annual police budget and council tax precept in South Wales. This budget not only funds the police service, but also specific initiatives that help support crime reduction and victim services across South Wales. Prior to the Commissioner making a decision on the police budget in January 2026, she launched a public consultation to understand the level of support from residents for the proposed increases, in order to achieve a fair balance between what's needed and what people can afford. Whilst waiting for confirmation from the UK Government, three proposed increases were prepared based on different funding scenarios, therefore there were a number of uncertainties and interdependencies on the exact levels of funding that South Wales Police would receive.

This report summarises the consultation results.

CONSULTATION SUMMARY

The public consultation was conducted over an eight-week period:



Made available in different formats:



Easy Read



Paper Copy



English & Welsh



Large Print

Promoted various ways:

SOCIAL MEDIA



Posted **75 times** across our social media channels, which included **7 paid adverts**. This resulted in:

122,331 impressions
(times viewed on screen)

1,297 engagements
(reactions, shares, photo views, & comments)

1,085 link clicks to the survey

EMAIL DISTRIBUTION



Circulated to **over 1,000 stakeholders**, which included:

- **elected members**
- **local authorities**
- **community groups**
- **commissioned services**
- **third-sector organisations**
- **volunteers**

FACE TO FACE



A series of pop up stalls were organised and attended by team members to promote awareness and encourage participation. During this period, **55 individuals provided feedback** by indicating the increase amounts they supported, if any.

WEBSITE



A news article announcing the launch of the survey was published on our website and prominently featured on the homepage throughout the consultation period.

SURVEY RESULTS

620

people engaged in the consultation



548

people completed the online survey / paper copy



55

people shared their feedback face to face



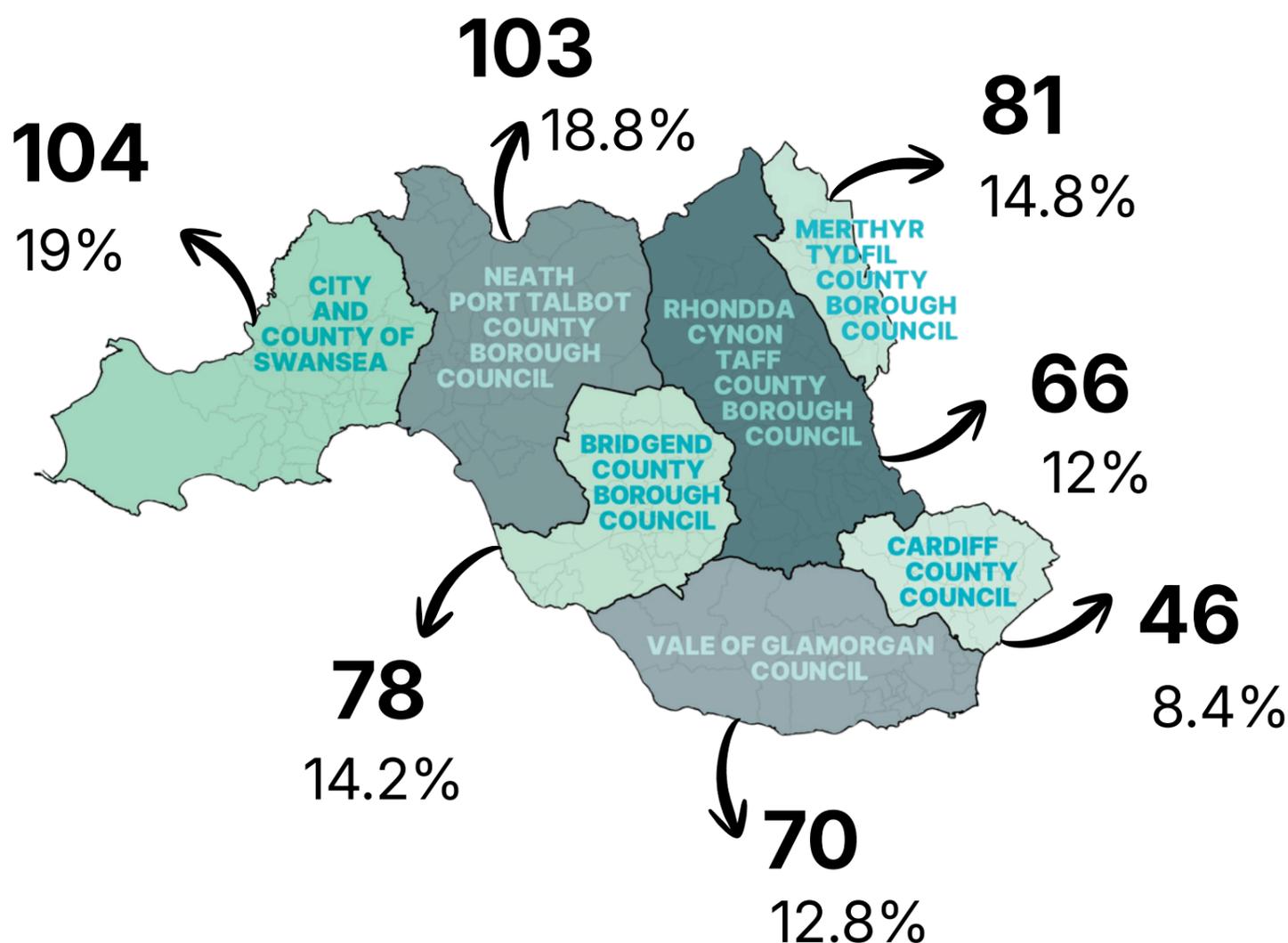
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people were not eligible to complete the survey as they resided outside of the South Wales Police force area

The following results report the findings of completed responses:

NUMBER OF RESPONSES BY EACH COUNTY

The below map shows the number and percentage of respondents residing in each county. The highest number of responses came from Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, while the fewest were received from Cardiff.



CONFIDENCE INTERVALS



Confidence intervals are used to show that survey results are estimates rather than the exact figures. The precept survey received 548 completed online responses. Analysis shows that the results have a confidence interval of 4.13, meaning the true level of support may be up to 4.13 percentage points higher or lower than the reported figures. For example, if 42% of respondents supported an increase, the actual level of support could be between 38% and 46%.

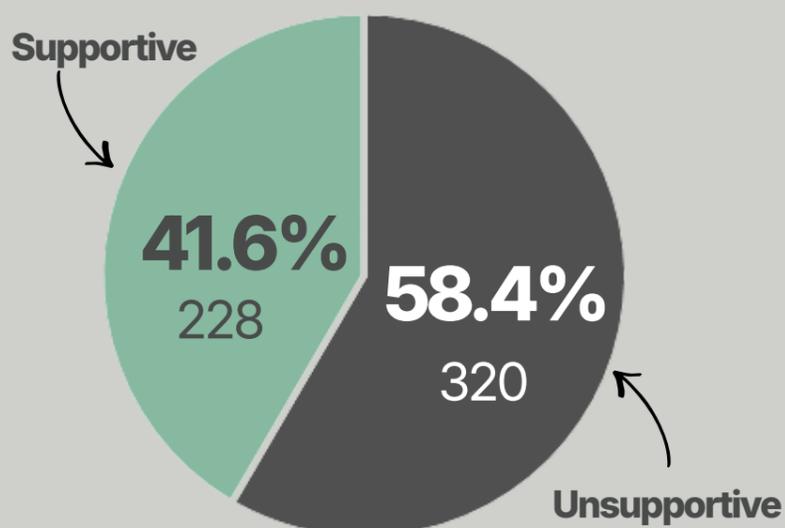
PROPOSED INCREASES TO POLICE PRECEPT

To ensure residents had sufficient time to review and consider the Commissioner's proposals before a decision was made, three proposed increases were developed based on different funding scenarios. Residents were asked to indicate whether they were supportive or not of each option being considered.

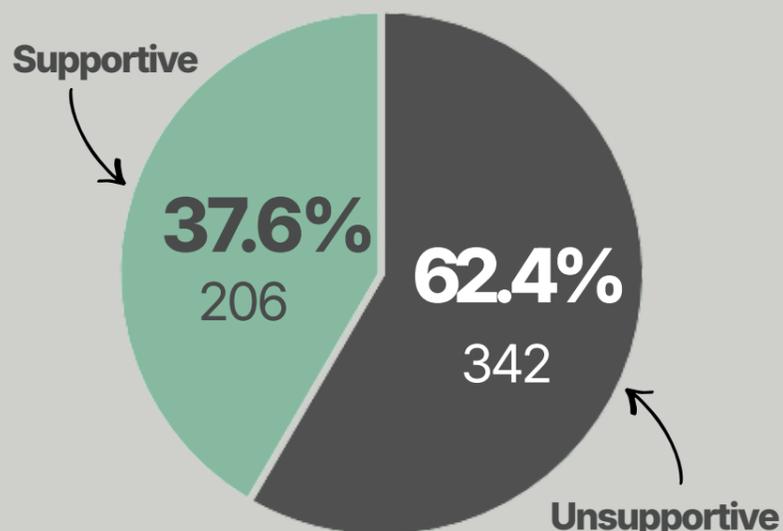
For each of the proposed increases, more than 50% of respondents indicated that they did not support the increase, with levels of support decreasing as the proposed amount increased.

The charts below present the number and percentage breakdown of responses for each proposed increase:

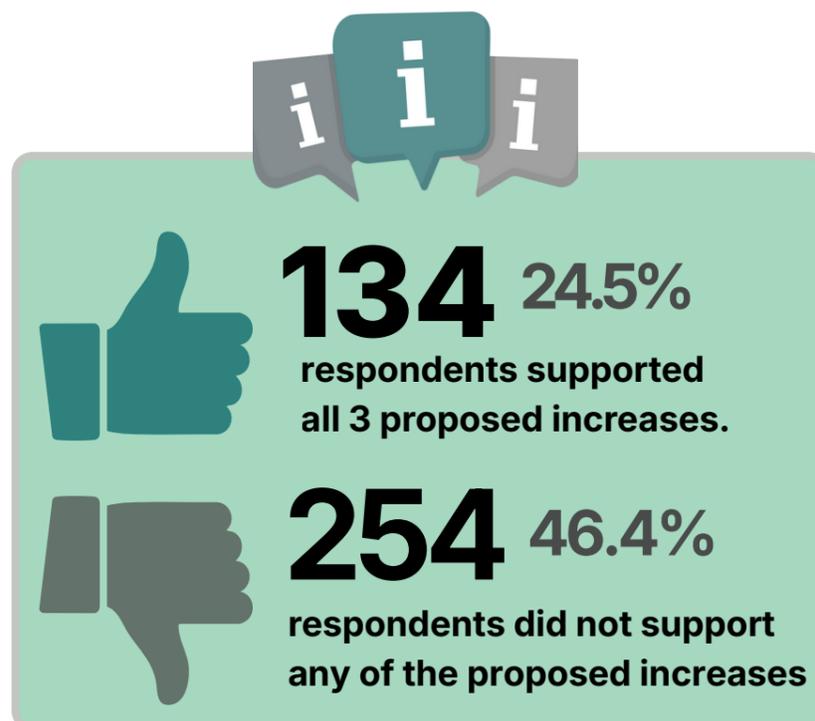
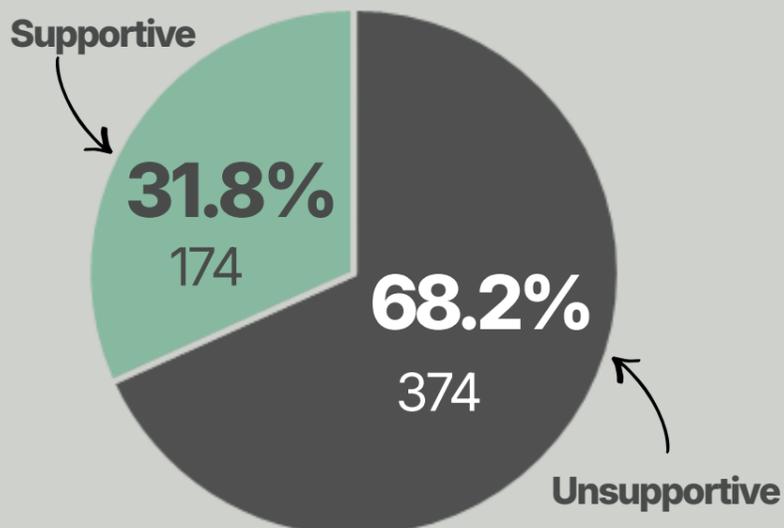
INCREASE OF £2.25 A MONTH



INCREASE OF £2.50 A MONTH

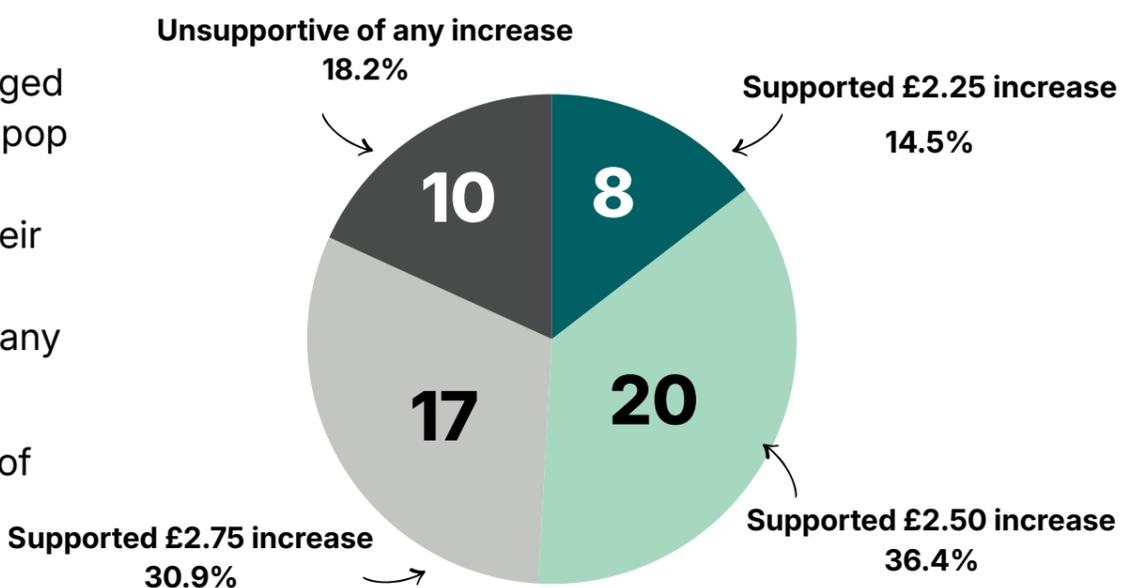


INCREASE OF £2.75 A MONTH



As an alternative to the survey, members of the public who engaged with the Commissioner's team at pop up stall events were invited to provide feedback by voting on their preferred increase amount, or indicating if they did not support any increase.

The chart shows the distribution of votes regarding the proposed increases.



To help us understand the reasons why people were either 'supportive' or 'unsupportive' of the proposed increases, respondents had the opportunity to share their feedback with us via free text.

Respondents who supported an increase:



Support for the £2.25 increase was conditional on the funds being spent on **visible policing**, a **clear understanding of how funds would be allocated** and **confidence that waste was being addressed**. Cross-cutting feedback highlighted a desire for **more "officers on the the beat"**, **concerns about inefficiency in spending** and calls for **greater transparency, audits and demonstrable outcomes**. **Affordability** was also a concern for some respondents, particularly in the context of **rising living costs**.

The below feedback illustrates some of these points further:

- “ I understand that we have to contribute towards the policing of South Wales. However I feel that more could be done to save money with the police force itself. ”
- “ There is no explanation or breakdown of how the existing budget is spent and whether this is audited with best value for money considerations. ”
- “ I know we need funding for police but the less it goes up the better, and if it is to go higher I would like to see a police presence in town more ”
- “ Everything is increasing, council tax has already increased, food shopping has increased, the only thing that hasn't in real terms is pay. ”



Respondents who supported the £2.50 increase indicated a greater willingness to pay if funding was **prioritised towards frontline services** and there was increased **transparency around efficient use of resources**. However, some respondents highlighted **concerns about affordability**, noting the **cumulative impact of rising costs** and **financial pressures on families**.

The below feedback illustrates some of these points further:

- “ With the cost of living crisis already at an all time peak it is a struggle to pay bills as it is. The highest our budget would allow in our household would be the £2.50 a month. The increases of bills is a constant strain on families with low incomes. ”
- “ Any increase must be proportionate and therefore I think it is important that increase only goes to support frontline services. Capital expenditure should come from the funding from central government ”
- “ Neighbourhood policing in my area appears to be non existent. I would think this may be the same generally across South Wales. I believe money should be made available to increase this, helping to deter crime, improve communication, give some confidence to population, etc. ”



Respondents who supported a £2.75 increase acknowledged the financial pressures facing public services and recognised that police resources were overstretched. While a modest increase was accepted, there was a strong emphasis on ensuring funding delivered **measurable outcomes, prioritised frontline investment** and resulted in a **visible impact**. There was also strong support to **prioritising prevention and early intervention approaches, and focused activity on tackling anti-social behaviour, retail theft and rural crime**.

The below feedback illustrates some of these points further:

- “ The underfunding has meant there is a lot to do to get the police force fit for purpose again. I would support an increase in tax to make this happen. BUT I would like to see this being ring fenced for this purpose and see regular monitoring data as to how it is spent. My fear is taxes are raised but money is wasted and we don't see the change we have been promised. ”
- “ Anything which enhances the capability to provide better safety and security and enhance future proofing initiatives in my opinion is well worth funding. So greater visibility of police, more and better initiatives to alleviate youth offending and tackle crime and violence and support rural areas which suffer theft, lamping etc is worth the additional budgeting ”
- “ Effective policing and meaningful community actions are under resourced and require better funding, but it is crucial that funding is transparently used where it matters most to most residents. I would happily pay a little more for a safer city , but confidence is quickly lost if money is misspent on issues that have no relevance to my life ”

Respondents who were **unsupportive of any increase**:

Respondents who did not support any of the proposed increases expressed **strong frustration with perceived poor service quality** and **minimal presence in their local areas**. **Financial pressures**, combined with **lack of trust**, led to a view that **service improvements should precede any request for additional funding**. Feedback highlighted deep **scepticism about police effectiveness**, with **concerns about crimes not being investigated** and **delayed responses**. There was also a **strong belief that police funding should be the responsibility of central government** rather than local council tax, alongside **perceptions of wasteful spending on the role of the Police & Crime Commissioner**.

The below feedback illustrates some of these points further:

DISSATISFACTION WITH SERVICE RECEIVED FROM SOUTH WALES POLICE



“ In my experience there is lack of response in neighbourhood matters. No updates on crimes reported and no presence on our streets. The biggest complaint you hear is from people saying “what’s the point of reporting as nothing will get done”. The antisocial behaviour from youths is getting out of control. ”

“ The police do not help victims of disability hate crimes and trivialise any harassment as not hate crimes. We have had experience of local police not taking serious action towards disabled hate crime harassment targeted towards us. We do not trust the police any longer and we are reluctant to report anything. ”

“ The present service is at best poor, more money to do what. It is presently very difficult to report anything and to actually get anything done appears to me to be an inconvenience to some. ”

BETTER MANAGEMENT OF SPEND



“ I’m more than happy to pay more. However funds are consistently mis managed and wasted which is frustrating to see. If evidence of a direct link between additional funds and better outputs were able to be created, then I think everyone would support higher spends in council tax. ”

“ We pay enough council tax and taxes at the moment there needs a review on what exactly where the funds are going before asking for more money from the public ”

“ I do not believe that I should pay more council tax to pay for policing. The money they already have should be spent better by putting more officers on the ground to deal with crime and anti social behaviour and not spent on further administration costs, estates or new technology or system updates. ”

AFFORDABILITY



“ People have no more to give. Incomes are being hit from every angle with increases and pay is not going up to match. People are having to do more with less as it is and any additional increases are just not achievable for people. ”

“ With the cost of living constantly rising any increase in money being paid is greatly felt. ”

“ We pay enough Council Tax as it is, with the cost of living raising, there cannot be an expectation to supplement the police force through the precept. ”

ROLE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER



“ I am not supportive of any increase to the Commissioner's expenditure as, instead of being usefully spent on basic operational policing that protects communities and keeps us safe, finances are diverted to wasteful projects that satisfy influential minority groups' priorities. ”

“ Council tax is high enough don't want to waste more money. Crime Commissioner is and always been a waste of money ”

“ The Police and Crime Commissioner's office is now being closed down as it's been a total waste of tax payers money and millions of pounds have been wasted on this job in Wales and across the UK. ”

DEMOGRAPHICS

Diversity data collection help us to understand the communities we are reaching and the diversity of responses. The demographic breakdown of respondents who shared this information with us is outlined below

