

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL BUDGET REPORT

PUBLIC CONSULTATION 2020

Once again I am pleased to be able to report that the consultation carried out with residents of Lincolnshire has been both thorough and extensive.

Panel members may remember that in 2018 I created one of the most comprehensive consultations ever undertaken by a PCC – creating a process that met a professionally accepted level of engagement.

Every year our research sets out to actively engage with the people of Lincolnshire in a statistically robust and truly representative manner.

The results of the research have always played a significant role in guiding decisions made about policing priorities across the county and has helped me form my proposal on a council tax rise this year.

The research takes the form of an online survey and this year received fully completed responses from more than 3,300 people – 147 fewer than last year but with eight fewer days in the field as a result of the restrictions of a General Election.

The number of respondents in each district were:

- Boston – 262
- East Lindsey – 703
- Lincoln – 392
- North Kesteven – 593
- South Holland – 410
- South Kesteven – 451
- West Lindsey – 575

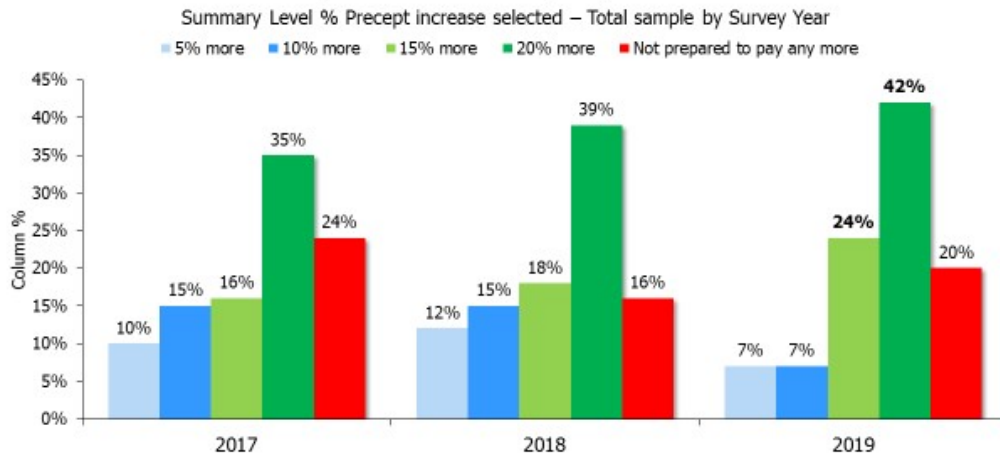
In terms of age bands the survey was completed by 399 in the 16-34 range, 680 in 35-49, 1129 in the 50-64 and 1078 in the 65+ - which follows closely the estimated population of Lincolnshire according to ONS data.

The overall results were weighted slightly towards female residents with the male population making up 48% of the responses and females 52% - reflecting the 49/51 split reported by ONS.

This year the support from the public for increased funding from council tax to support policing was overwhelming – in fact the proportion of participants supporting a 15% or 20% increase in council tax has actually INCREASED from last year.

The % of participants selecting the 20% or 15% weekly increases in Precept, have both risen again year-on-year by +3% points and +6% points respectively.

**Please indicate below how much more you would be prepared to pay per week...
(Please select one option)**

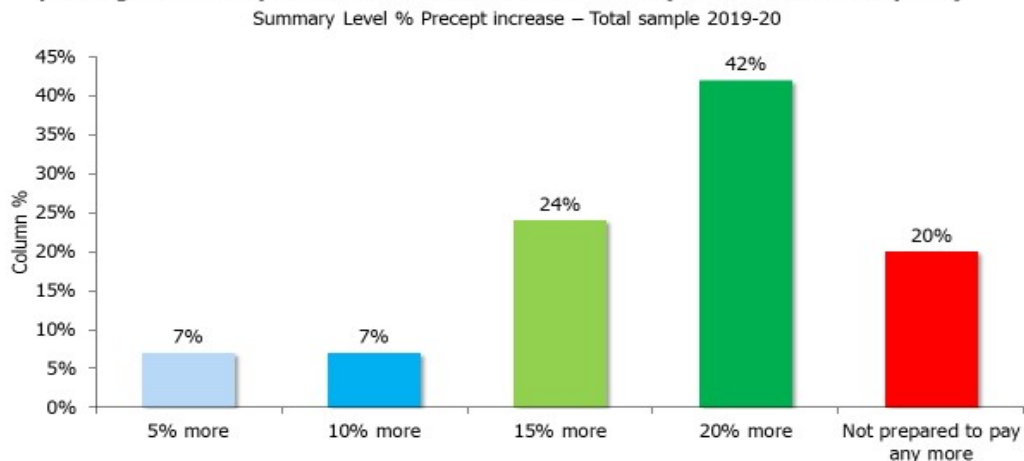


Base: 2017 (n=2,805), 2018 (n=3,342), 2019 (n=3,205), Sample Size = 9,352

In total the percentage of the residents surveyed who backed a percentage rise of AT LEAST five per cent was a staggering 80%. In fact two thirds of participants chose increases of 15% or 20% - which is more than THREE times the proposed increase of 4.1%.

An increase of 20% is the mode amount selected by 42% of the total sample, as the extra amount per week that participants would be prepared to pay to fund policing and crime prevention.

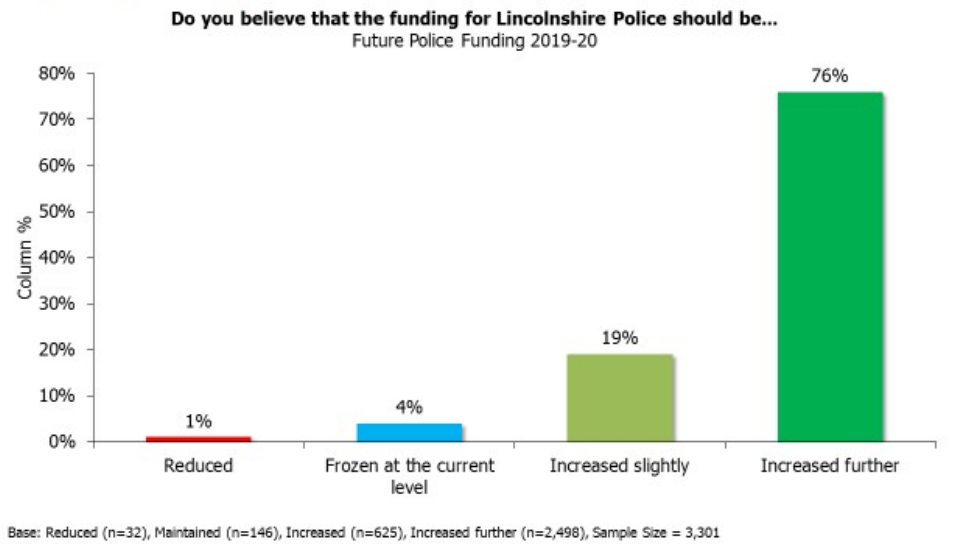
Please indicate below how much more you would be prepared to pay per week, to fund policing and crime prevention across LINCOLNSHIRE. (Please select one option)



Base: 5% more (n=218), 10% more (n=236), 15% more (n=768), 20% more (n=1,350), Not prepared to pay any more (n=633), Sample Size = 3,205

When asked “Do you believe that the funding for Lincolnshire Police should be increased further – in order to improve policing across the county” 95% agreed.

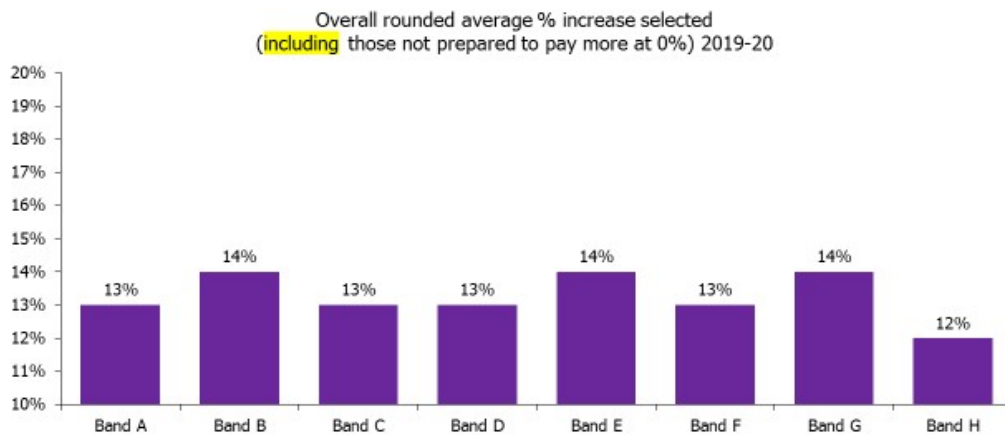
Over three-quarters of participants (76%) believe that the funding for Lincolnshire Police should be ‘Increased further – in order to improve policing across the county’.



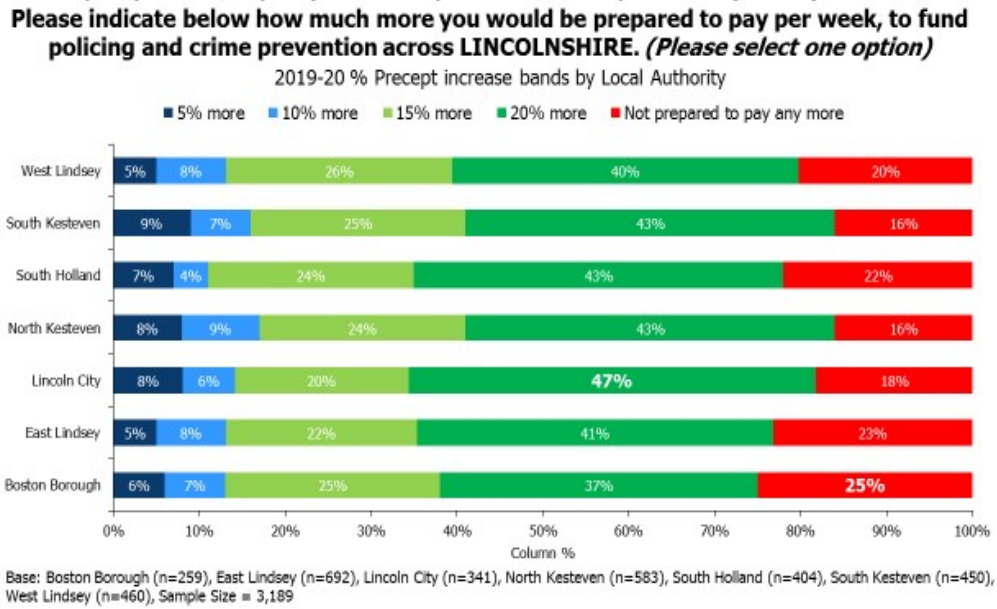
The overall results were largely reflected across the range of Council Tax bands – even when those not prepared to pay any more are included in the calculation, the overall average % increase selected is 12% or over.

When those not prepared to pay any more are included in the calculation, the overall average % increase selected is 12% or over, in each of the Council Tax bands.

Please indicate below how much more you would be prepared to pay per week, to fund policing and crime prevention across LINCOLNSHIRE. (Please select one option)



The same is also true of the different districts – where there were obvious variances in results but those prepared to pay AT least 5% or more made up the vast majority - ranging from 84% in North Kesteven to 75% in Boston.



These results reflect the overwhelming support amongst Lincolnshire residents for an increase in the police precept to help me fund the Chief Constable in his efforts to keep Lincolnshire residents safe.