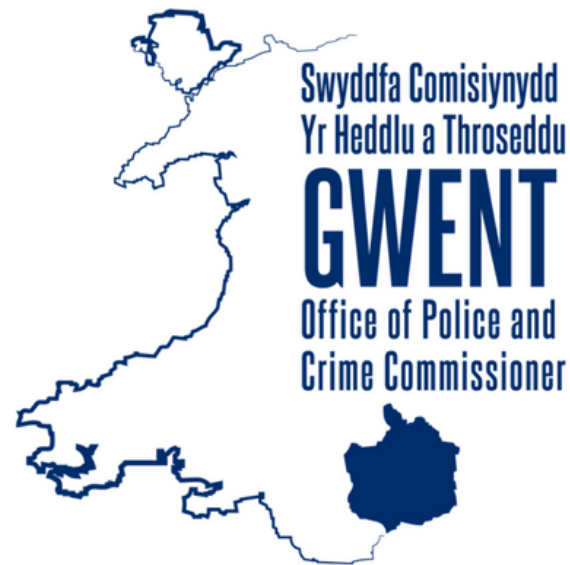


# Precept Consultation Report 2018/19



January 2018

The current Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent was elected on 5th May 2016 and has a statutory duty under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to consult with ratepayers on budget and precept proposals.

The precept is the part of the council tax which is allocated to the PCC. It is the responsibility of every local PCC to set the level of the precept for their area annually.

The OPCC launched an consultation on 29th November 2017 running for a total of five weeks and four days, closing on the 7th January 2018. During this time, the residents of Gwent were asked for their views on the proposed level of increase for the precept (2018/19). The three proposed precept increase levels were:

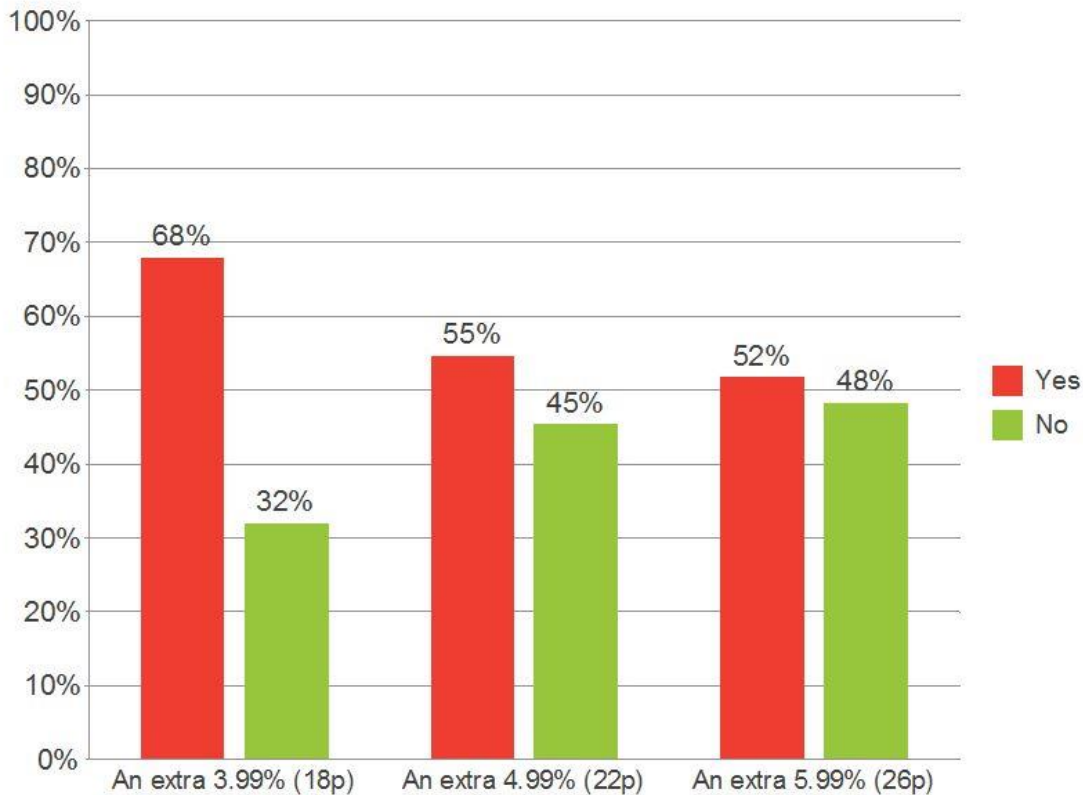
- **An extra 3.99% (18p)**
- **An extra 4.99% (22p)**
- **An extra 5.99% (26p)**

The consultation was conducted bilingually in both electronic and paper format, asking a total of three questions (all of which were open ended in order to gather more detailed responses). A demographics question was also included at the end of the survey.

The e-consultation was proactively publicised via paid promotion on social media, Gwent Now, local press and the PCC's website, as well as being shared with community groups, partner organisations, the third sector and local authorities. Paper copies were also completed at a local community event as well as being available in easy read versions (on request) from the OPCC.

This report analyses the results of the consultation and reports the findings.

## Precept Increase Options



As you can see from the above graph, **68.0%** were in favour of a 3.99% precept increase, **54.6%** were in favour of a 4.99% precept increase and **51.8%** were in favour of a 5.99% precept increase.

If a respondent answered 'No' to one of the questions, they were given the opportunity to provide an explanation as to why. A round-up of the reasons provided are below:

- 45% - The level of service currently experienced is poor/lack of value
- 37% - Government cuts/Austerity/High Living Costs
- 15% - Reduce Senior Officer numbers/Remove the PCC role and supporting office/Reduce Councillor Salaries
- 7% - Make further efficiencies
- 4% - Use Gwent Police reserves
- 1% - Money being wasted on new Police Headquarters
- 1% - Reduce the overall number of police forces in the UK.
- (4% - Other)

Alongside the comments made via the electronic/paper surveys, feedback was also received via the OPCC social media accounts. Of the 19 comments received on Facebook, a high proportion related to either 'poor service/lack of value' or a belief that participating in the consultation would have no impact on the final decision made. The latter observation is a common risk identified in consultation and should be offset by the completion of this report and a public statement announcing the PCC's intentions with the feedback he received.

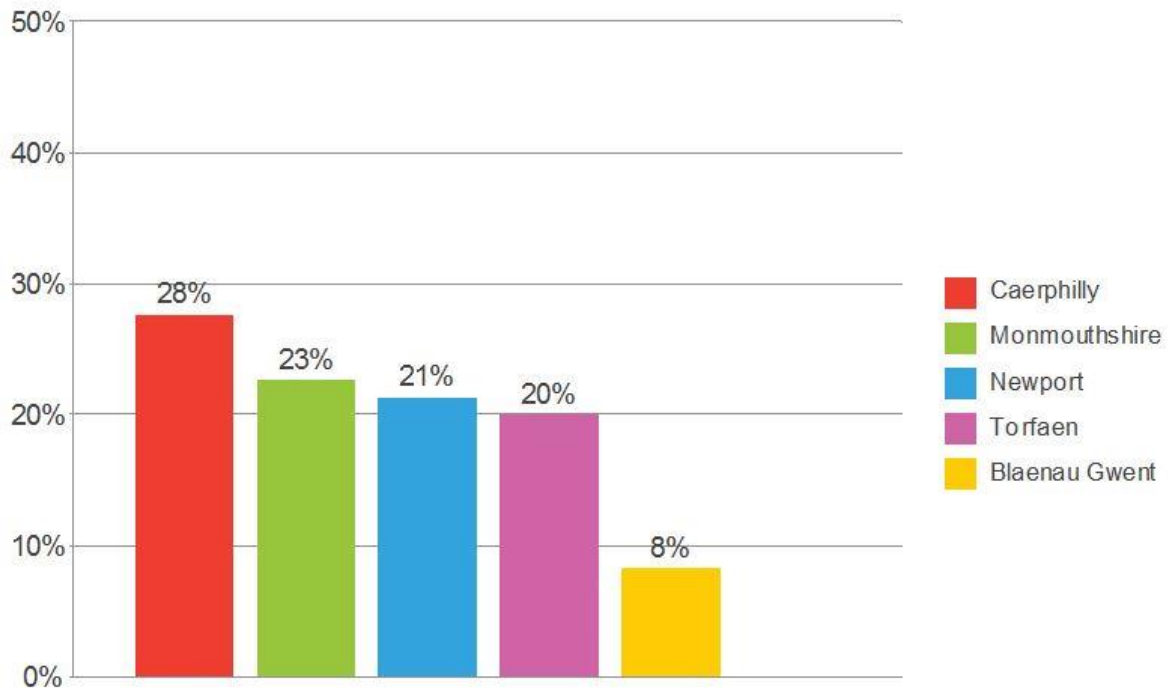
The overwhelmingly high response relating to Gwent Police's perceived 'poor service/lack of value', along with it having the lowest national public confidence levels in its Most Similar Force Group (MSG) at just 67%, demonstrates a lack of awareness by the public as to the work being undertaken on a daily basis.

A focus therefore needs to be put on direct appropriate messaging and improved engagement with the residents of Gwent to inform them of the activities being undertaken by their police service and in turn, demonstrate its value.

Each respondent was also asked to select in which Gwent Local Authority they lived. This has allowed us to dissect the findings and ascertain whether a fair representation of each area was collected.

As you can see from the below chart, **Blaenau Gwent** was the most under represented Local Authority with only **8.3%** of the total respondents residing from that area. This area has previously been acknowledged as 'seldom heard' and so it is recommended that for future consultations, specific engagement activities be conducted in the area in order to achieve a more representative response.

### Which Local Authority area in Gwent do you live?



This report will not only be used by the PCC to inform the 2018/19 precept level (the final announcement on which will be made at the public Police and Crime Panel meeting on Friday, 26th January, 2018), but also to initiate discussions with Gwent Police as to how we offset the comments and perceptions of residents in Gwent and in turn, raise public confidence in the Gwent police service.