**YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE CONSULTATION VIA THE LINK AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT**

**Philip Seccombe TD**

Police and Crime Commissioner

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This week I have begun consulting the public on the Police Precept, as I begin the process

of setting the 2019/20 budget for Warwickshire Police. In my proposals I set out the case for

increasing the number of police officers, community support officers and police staff

investigators in the county by up to 100, in order to meet rising levels of demand and to

provide a better service to local communities.

This will build on the Police Precept I set last year, which has allowed for the investment in

50 frontline police officer posts in Warwickshire. These are now in the active stages of

recruitment and will be ready to police our streets over the course of the coming months.

The Precept consultation follows the Government’s annual funding settlement

announcement for policing on 13th December, which has given PCs flexibility to raise their

precept by up to £2 per month on a Band D property for 2019/20.

The Government has also provided some welcome additional funding for policing this year,

but this alone will not deliver enough resources to be able to make the substantial increase

in officer numbers that I believe is required here in Warwickshire, nor would it fully allow for

the investments in IT, equipment and estates that are badly needed in order to improve the

quality of service given the public.

Doing nothing to change this situation is not an option that in my view is either sustainable or

desirable, which is why I am consulting on increasing the Police Precept for 2019/20.

At the maximum permitted level, this would deliver improved capacity for urban and rural

policing, through the funding of 85 new police officer posts, five new police community

support officers and an additional 10 police staff investigators.

Options for smaller increases of £1.50 per month and £1 per month (at Band D) are also

being consulted upon, but these would see fewer new officers posts created and no new

PCSOs or police investigators appointed.

I understand that any proposals to raise Council Tax cause concern, so I am very keen to

get the public’s views on which of these options is the most preferable.

I want to get as wide a feedback as possible and am therefore writing to you

to invite you to both complete the online survey and also to seek your support in helping to publicise it within your local ward.

**The opinions gathered by the consultation survey will help influence my final decision on next year’s budget, which will be set in early February.**

**You can give your feedback online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WarksPrecept19-20. The consultation will be open until Tuesday, January 24, 2019.**

I look forward to receiving your responses.

Kind regards,

**Philip Seccombe TD**