

Dear All

I have sent this alert to all those on either the TWRA or Neighbourhood Watch distribution lists. The purpose is to give you an opportunity to respond to a survey being conducted by Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner into residents' opinions about an increase in Council Tax to fund Surrey Police. The survey closes on January 16th.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the New Year.

Mike Fox for Community Support

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Have your say: Commissioner's council tax survey 2023/24

Police and Crime Commissioner Lisa Townsend is asking Surrey residents what they would be prepared to pay to support policing teams in their communities over the coming year.

If you live in Surrey, you can share your views right now at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/counciltax2023/>

The survey is open until Monday, 16 January. In it, we're asking which of the following options residents would be willing to pay to support Surrey Police from the spring:

- An extra £15 a year on an average council tax bill would help Surrey Police maintain its current position and look to improve services;
- Between £10 and £15 a year extra which would allow the Force to keep their heads above water;
- Less than £10 a year would likely mean a reduction in the service to communities.

The Commissioner said it is an extremely difficult decision to make this year with household budgets being squeezed by the cost of living crisis: "I am under no illusion that the cost of living crisis we are all facing is putting a huge squeeze on household budgets and asking the public for more money at this time is incredibly difficult.

"But the reality is that policing is being seriously impacted too. There is huge pressure on pay, energy and fuel costs and the stark rise in inflation means the Surrey Police budget is under considerable strain.

"Last year, the majority of those who took part in our poll voted for a council tax increase to support our policing teams and I really want to know whether you would be willing to continue that support again in what is a challenging time for us all.

"Surrey Police are making progress in those areas I know are important to people where they live. The number of burglaries being solved is on the increase, a huge focus has been put into making our communities safer for women and girls and Surrey Police received an outstanding rating from our inspectors on preventing crime.

"I am really keen to ensure we don't take a backward step in the service we provide or risk undoing the hard work that has gone into increasing police numbers in recent years.

"That is why I am asking the Surrey public for their continued support during what is a challenging time for us all.

"But I really want to know what the people of Surrey think that increase should be so I would ask everyone to take a minute to fill out our brief survey and give me their views."

Have your say using the [survey link](#) or find out more at <https://surrey-pcc.gov.uk/council-tax-2023>

Thank you

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey

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