

### Budget Consultation 2017/18 Summary

#### Background

The Police and Crime Commissioner launched his precept consultation on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The consultation ended at midnight on Monday 23 January 2017. A precept proposal and a draft of the budget report were published as part of the consultation process, along with a short online survey to enable people to comment on the proposals being put forward.

#### Headline result

The majority of respondents 508 (71.7%) were in support of the precept proposal put forward by the Commissioner. 201 (28.3%) did not agree with the proposal.

#### Commissioner's response to the comments received

The majority of comments made by those objecting to the precept proposal centred around three themes of: objecting to the freeze; use of reserves; and increases / decreases in crime. Rather than annotating each individual comment with the Commissioner's response, a response to each of these three themes is shown below.

**Objecting to a freeze** – West Mercia Police have consistently under spent in recent years, which has resulted in a steady increase in reserves. Redeploying reserves for the purpose the money was originally given will not impact on service delivery as it will be smoothed through by the use of those reserves and for developing plans to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the police service.

**Use of reserves** – Reserves are made up from the under spending of taxpayers' money. It is entirely proper that it should be used to fund the service West Mercia residents have paid their taxes for. I will be cautious in their use though and ensure there is prudent financial planning and management.

**Crime increases / decreases** – The reform of West Mercia Police is essential if we are going to meet the changing nature of crime. The reform will enable resources to become available to focus on new priorities.

#### Summary

Outlined below is a summary of publicity undertaken, findings from the survey and a copy of the comments received.

#### Publicity and media coverage

A range of communication tools were used to promote the precept consultation to communities across West Mercia. These included:

- Posting full details, including the draft budget report on the Commissioner's website
- Media release - coverage in force area papers and interviews on local radio

- Social media - regular posts on Twitter and Facebook, including paid adverts that feature on Facebook and Instagram
- Commissioners newsletter
- Internal force communications
- Circulation to over 2000 recipients of the CMS (community messaging system)
- Direct emails to associations of local councils and other organisations.

### **The consultation survey**

An online survey was used to ascertain views on the Commissioner's precept proposals. In addition, the draft budget report was clearly signposted and available to read for anyone requiring more detailed information prior to completing the survey.

The online survey asked 6 questions, including one open question enabling respondents who did not agree with the precept proposal to comment on their reasons. The questions asked were:

1. Do you support the Commissioner's budget proposals – including an additional £4.5m in West Mercia's policing budget for 2017/18, a freeze in the police's share of council tax bills and continued investment in frontline, community policing?
2. Please explain your reasons (only to respondents who answered 'No' to Q1)
3. In which area do you pay council tax?
4. Gender?
5. Age?
6. Are you a business owner?

### **Consultation findings**

#### **Overall response**

- 944 respondents partially or fully completed the survey. Of these 709 respondents answered question one.

#### **Question 1**

- 508 (71.7%) respondents supported the Commissioner's proposals.
- 201 (28.3%) respondents were opposed to the Commissioner's proposals.

#### **Question 2**

187 respondents chose to comment on their reasons for their answer to question one (186 online plus one by email). A summary of all these comments is included with this report.

#### **Question 3**

A breakdown of respondents by council tax area is shown below (for those that answered this question)

428 (60.5%) Worcestershire  
143 (20.2%) Shropshire  
78 (11.0%) Herefordshire  
58 (8.2%) Telford and Wrekin

### **Question 4**

The response by gender of people who chose to answer this question was:

432 (61.5%) male and 270 (38.5%) female

### **Question 5**

The age profile of those taking part in the online survey and choosing to answer this question shows that:

- The majority of respondents, 212 (29.8%) were aged 45-54.

### **Question 6**

51 (7.2%) of respondents stated that they were business owners.

### **Email / postal comments**

One individual / organisation chose to send an email or written comment directly to the Commissioner's office in response to the precept consultation. Those comments are included in the summary of responses below.

All social media platforms are monitored and where appropriate comments on the precept have been responded to, however the 'instant' nature of this media means it is not practical to include them in this report.

Budget consultation 2017 – summary of comments received

Comments submitted via email and post

No	Comment	PCC response
1	I read with interest your budget proposal that stated an proposed increase of £1.3m for the most vulnerable in society.  Please could you define the most vulnerable in society?	In response to your query West Mercia Police have adopted the following definition of vulnerability:  <i>A person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances they are unable to take care of, or protect themselves or others, from harm or exploitation.</i>

Comments submitted as part of the online survey

The Police and Crime Commissioner's response was one or more of the responses set out on Page 1.

No	Comment
2	4.5 million is far to much
3	A council tax freeze is actually a cut in funding in real terms. Funding should be increased not decreased.
4	A failure to raise precept even by a modest amount is a mistake - will be in a position of having to play catch up. Commisiioner is quite right to robustly challenge levels of reserves but should look at a 0.5% precept increase - modest but maintains some growth in a world about to see signiificant inflation for the first time in many years - keep the finances ticking over!
5	A freeze in ct is a cut in funding in real terms and will impact on the service in future years. Council tax freeze is a false economy when wages and inflation have to be paid for.
6	A freeze in the police precept is ridiculous at a time when the police are failing to provide a service in so many areas.
7	A freeze is in effect a cut, and on top of Government changes to tax and NI for example, the total becomes a very big cut. A 1.99% increase will at least offset some of the cuts.
8	A freeze would create a loss in the police budget which could impact upon the numbers of officers and staff.
9	A freeze would just mean the police having to use money from elsewhere to fund the futre plans. The police force has had to deal with huge, sweeping efficacy saving measures that have caused significant problems to officers.
10	A samll increase would be in the benefit of everyone. Unlike many in our policing area I get no additional benefits despite the amount of tax I pay, and if i am paying then i would like it to go to something worth whiles, such as policing.
11	A small increase is expected by people
12	As a council tax payer I feel responsible for speaking out where well intentioned people try to justify their existence by making a point. Policing is not something to be toyed with and the implications of financial tinkering may be felt for years if we got it wrong. We are seeing a constant threat from terrorist groups and it is a matter of time before we are subject to such an incident on our force area. In order to be in a position to deal with such a threat we need to maintain our ability to cope with such an incident. This means an ability to train for it and have the up to date kit required for management of terrorist threats in whatever form they may manifest. This is not a

## Appendix to Budget Report

	time for cut backs, it is a time for investment!
13	As other services fail the demand on police increases; we need more officers and better equipment and this should come from council tax in addition to other funds
14	Barely anyone voted in your appointment - you have no mandate to do anything as no one actually cares. Just another Tory puppet.
15	Because local taxation is the only way we are going to be able to improve the quality and quantity of policing in our area
16	Believe resources are already stretched and see no evidence of waste that has been explained that justifies greater austerity
17	Believe the police require an increase in the council tax share to enhance reactive policing in the west mercia area.
18	Crime is not reducing as often stated on news reports etc - the public are just not reporting it as they have little faith that anything will be done, i can partly understand this as working for West Mercia, I can see how strapped resources are, officers are short and sometimes genuine victims do not get the support and service that they deserve, through nobodys fault - just sheer lack of resources due to lack of money.
19	Criminality is increasing and teh police ability to figt crime is decreasing as the number of staff is continually dcreasing.
20	Despite much talk of how well forces are doing and how efficient they are becoming, there is still an issue on frontline policing. There are plenty of laws out there to protect the public but hardly anyone left to enforce them (look at the use of mobile phones while driving farce. I see drivers doing it on a daily basis and the recent campaign has done nothing to stop it!). You should get real officers on the streets again and if that means having to pay more then I am willing to do so.
21	Endorse further investment in Frontline policing but not community policing. I support and increase in police share of the council tax. Policing cost money and the country/government and PCC seem to be under the illusion it can be done cheaply.
22	For the sake of a few pence a week I would rather we had more police, felt safer and saved money by reduced insurance premiums etc. If you are going to make them more efficient then how much safer would we be if an inflation level rise was introduced to keep pace?!
23	For the sake of what? Why would increase the front line services when other areas need money and the police is working well
24	Freezing the council is a cut in reality when inflation is taken into account. Tory ideology has no place in the public sector.
25	Front line policing is non existant in rural areas. Shameful.
26	Given the change in funding from National to Local you should be seeking to safeguard investment, therefore you should seek to increase the precept in line with inflation
27	How can the budget stay the same but invest an additional £4.5m?
28	How does continued investment in frontline and community policing sit with no financial increase proposals. Cyber crime needs huge investment. The PCC cannot jkeep using such words as improving services by better performance and working more efficient when it does not invest in frontline policing. The police are taking as usual more responsibilities from other services such as Mental health, etc
29	How on earth do you expect the police to improve their services without giving them money to do so - they are already functioning on a shoestring i take it your wages will not be subject to cost cutting perhaps you could take a pay cut and donate your overinflated wages along with your staff !! - amazing how this job was done by a volunteer panel prior to the PCC so as far as I'm concerned if you and your staff were "deleted" like the essential front line staff within the forces perhaps this would enable more "useful" staff and contributions to the "technology" you say is required.
30	I agree on more spending because we need cops on the streets but I can't work out where the money is coming from?

## Appendix to Budget Report

31	I agree with the additional spending, but would be happy for a small increase to council tax so a greater increase could be made to spending.
32	I agree with the developments but not the council tax freeze as this means developments are not viable
33	I am prepared to pay more for my policing.
34	I believe a small increase of say 1% is needed in order not to deplete capital reserves for what is mainly revenue purposes, although I accept some of the proposals revolve around capital expenditure
35	I believe he should put resources into tackling response to incidents , active patrolling and enforcement
36	I believe our existing Police Force are in need of more money to provide a better service for the public; consequently I would like to see a rise in the Policing budget to achieve this.
37	I believe that for too long the budget has been squeezed and that now requires more investment and spending
38	I believe that investment from more efficient use of resources should be re-invested in improving or extending services and not to support increases in inflation. The increase in under reported crime such as child abuse plus the increase in cyber crime need to be invested in.
39	I believe that more funding is needed and that a 0% ct increase in the short term will result in long term damage and underinvestment. A ct freeze is essentially a cut with inflation and wages increasing the costs.
40	I believe that the Council Tax element should have a small rise, in line with inflation, to allow additional funding for neighbourhood policing.
41	I believe that to freeze the precept will not be the correct way forward as the strain on police budgets is increasing due to the ever increasing areas of policing that require major investment i.e cyber crime and protection of children and the vulnerable. The reserves that have been built up over a number of years have meant that investment in police services was not funded appropriately and therefore the reserves should be used to ensure that modernisation can be achieved in a more timely manner. The fact that there are reserves does not negate the need for a precept from the people of Worcs. No one negotiates from zero that does not make economic sense.....
42	I cannot believe that in such a short time in office you can come up with the efficiency saving that will cover no increase in the police's share of the Council Tax Bills. It would seem prudent to at least cover those inevitable costs whilst looking for more and better policing at minimal increased cost.
43	I disagree with the increase in budget of 4.5m as this could be more. Greater funding by incorporating the police's share of council tax should with effective PCC input improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the police. Limiting the revenue streams shows lack of foresight and an unwillingness to embrace change in the police. The unwillingness to increase council tax demonstrates that rather than trying to give the constituents the best police force, the underlying reason for not increase in council tax is for reelection. The loss of revenue on this occasion cannot be clawed back in future years, an opportunity missed.
44	I do not agree that our reserves should be used for this purpose.
45	I do not agree with a freeze in the Police's share of council tax bills
46	I do not agree with your proposal to utilise a substantial proportion of the reserves that have been built up over many years in order to obtain the short-term headline-grabbing proposal to freeze council tax. Surely it would be better to accept a modest increase in council tax to preserve contingency funding for future eventualities, perhaps as yet unknown? I am convinced that in the current climate, council tax payers would accept a small increase, given that the daily news reminds us of the importance of law enforcement in our communities, locally, nationally and indeed internationally.

## Appendix to Budget Report

47	I do not believe there should be a freeze - there should be a rise in the police's share to enable more effective work by the force as how do you expect to modernise without increasing the budget
48	I do not support ANY increase as I too think that there are areas that we need to address that will save money.
49	I do not support a freeze in the council tax given the current challenges in policing
50	I don't think using reserves is a good idea
51	I fail to see how proposing a freeze in the policing element of council tax spending can equate to an increase of £4.5m in budget compared to this financial year, other than to assume that further policing services will have to be cut in another round of "efficiency savings". There is no opportunity for "continued investment" if there is no new money, surely?
52	I feel that a small increase in council tax would be in order, allowing for reserves to be maintained for at present levels. I also feel that the question is misleading as it does not state where the £4.5M will come from.
53	I feel that police services are spread too thinly and that increasing revenue from council tax is essential to maintain current policing levels
54	I feel the police need more money to be fit for purpose
55	I perceive the Police Service to have become a more self-serving than public-serving bloated organisation and I would rather see you cut £4.5m out of it.
56	I support an increase in the rate of council tax, if I see the rate reflects a) an increase in police presence b) an increase in police services and support for their role c) in the bigger picture a maintenance of local services such as refuse collection and safe street lighting and finally an improvement of standards with regards to adult social care, in particular the care of our elderly, infirm and truly vulnerable members of our society.
57	I think that an increase in the police funding is a small price to pay and will help us provide a better service to the tax payers and help protect people from harm
58	I think that communities can cope with a small percentage increase on the basis that you are investing heavily in the future. I know West Mercia have cut back all central services and joined an alliance and used reserves for current projects but at all costs the front line must now be protected if we are to deal with emerging crime and the spike in burglaries that we are currently seeing around Shropshire.
59	I think that the police face high demands on their resources, partners can no longer support them so police pick up more pieces, there are a lot of services that need to be protected such as support for offenders, I can't imagine there is enough money to transform all the areas of policing like back office functions if there was a freeze in the precept
60	I think the Police need more money in order to carry out the reforms required
61	I think the police are struggling financially, there have been too many cutbacks leaving fewer people to do the same work so it is done far less efficiently.
62	I think we should preserve any reserves we have.
63	I welcome increased budgets for police & investment in frontline community policing but I am concerned that the use of reserves to deliver this is not a wise use of those funds. I do not believe that there should be a freeze on the police's share of council tax bills
64	I would prefer an increase in the the policing element to enable further investment in essential community services.
65	I would prefer that there should be an increase in the amount that West Mercia get from council tax bills in order to not use all the reserves that the force has built up.
66	I would prefer to pay more money to obtain a better service
67	I would rather see a small increase and extra officers and a better service
68	I would willingly pay more council tax if it meant more police officers on the streets, protecting our communities from harm.

## Appendix to Budget Report

69	I'm happy to increase my council tax contributions to allow for improved resilience in policing.
70	If i am able to pay a little more it may improve the service i receive
71	If it means further cutbacks to staff and resources, then I do not support the budget proposal. I assume the extra 4.5 million, will be funded internally, which will be to the detriment of the force.
72	If we are investing in police services why are we freezing the council tax as this is really a cut in income
73	If you need money to get it right, then increase council tax to take care of it
74	Increase in council tax to assist
75	Increase the police precept and invest in more constables.
76	Increasing costs mean more revenue needs to be raised to provide the service the public wants.
77	It is a ridiculous and contradictory statement that you propose to invest in the police and yet freeze frontline officers pay! Despite acknowledging the increasing challenges our police face in these troubled times.
78	It's clear that our Police Force has been cut by far too big a level and needs investment, if that means an increase in council tax then so be it.
79	Its a disgrace that this force has been sat on reserves of money and there are underspends after all of the cost savings, redundancies and post cuts that officers and staff have been put through. How can you justify this? How has the force been able to SAVE money? Staff have clearly been lied to. And you also tell the public that we are under resourced when we can't perform our duties effectively when there is clearly money in the bank!
80	Last year we received an increase due to cuts in the Budget. Now West Mercia Police have been given more money why cant we have our Council Tax reduced.
81	More beat police needed to cope with demand.
82	More contribution should be sought from council tax.
83	More money from Council Tax would give more money to the force and possibly its employees
84	More money is needed to tackle local issues, more police on the streets.
85	More needs to be spent on Policing
86	Need an increase in police budget to help protect our population. How can the police do their job properly with no increase in funds? They need the best tools for the job - can't do this on the limited funds available.
87	Need to see more visible policing
88	No extra money needed, too much waste.
89	O would support a rise
90	Police are being cut too much.
91	Police are short on resources and any freeze will have an adverse effect.
92	Police are struggling to cope in my humble opinion
93	Police budgets are already squeezed to breaking point. Further investment is needed. Spending a forces reserved for short term gain will hurt their ability to keep people safe in the long run
94	Police funding need to increase for the service to remain effective
95	Police need an increase in funding to remain effective.
96	Police need more funding.
97	Police need more money for more officers and better pay for officers that are already in the force
98	Policing does needs the extra funding . it could be spent on increasing officer numbers it is not just all about IT
99	Policing is key to public safety. I acknowledge that continued efficiencies in policing are needed but I believe some growth is necessary to support the increase in cyber



## Appendix to Budget Report

	crimes, protecting people from harm. Investigating and detective crime and preventing crime are complex and require different skills and technologies. Investment should be made even if 0.5% to allow continued development and for West Mercia to stay at the cutting edge of Policing.
100	Policing is the front line between anarchy and order. To keep order requires finance and there are not enough police at the moment, therefore freezing the budget will only add to this issue.
101	Policing needs an overall increased budget due to limited numbers of officers and increasingly varied demands requiring specialist departments... which inevitably takes officers from the frontline roles such as Response.
102	Policing needs investment, and Govt are not putting money into it
103	Policing is already subject of significant cuts impacting on frontline and support services within the organisation. A non-political, realistic, and objective assessment of the impact of financial constraints on day to day service would highlight the reasons!
104	Policing still requires investment
105	Protect police reserves and stop being political and putting your own ambitions / views ahead of the public
106	Public sector have suffered greatly by government proposals by having pay freezes. In line with inflation the public sector have had in effect pay cuts. This has increased sickness within the workforce due to people not being able to make ends meet, more responsibilities within their role causing greater anxiety thus leading to sickness. Money needs to be invested in the police to ensure the police can deliver to the public's expectations.
107	Quite simply, I'd rather pay a small increase in my council tax bill and have services better funded.
108	Rather than cutting the budget so you can keep council tax bills the same thereby risking the force taking kneejerk reactions in saving money by inevitably cutting staff you should be increasing the tax share by at least inflation
109	Rather than waste reserves have a small increase in council tax. This could then enable even further advancements in technology etc using the reserves. I believe that the 0% has more to do with politics more than anything else. To reiterate don't waste the reserves, instead use them more effectively.
110	Retain the reserves and increase council tax - paying for policing is good value for money and save the silver to sell in emergency - sorry I think your decisions are based on national politics only not representing local needs
111	Should increase the police share to support the investment in technology
112	Strongly disagree with freeze in the police's share of council tax bills. Money is required to maintain existing levels of policing not just frontline.
113	The police requires more funding to ensure we protect the public, not a freeze. The savings made means cutting other vital services.
114	The police service has already experienced significant cuts to its budget. We are investing in IT to work more efficiently / effectively but demand is constantly increasing as well. Any further cuts as a result of a reduction to the precept will inevitably impact somewhere.
115	The PCC's office needs to invest in the future and as local Councils and Parish councils are seeing a rise in the precept due to housing developments, the PCC's office should do the same.
116	The Police Budgets have been cut so much recently there are not enough police officers on the beat. They are too stretched and do not have any time to carry out their enquiries timely and efficiently. extra money is required
117	The Police Service has suffered severe cuts in the past few years which has meant no wage rises for Police or very poor ones. Admin staff have been reduced to a minimum meaning that Police Officers are now performing these roles in addition to

## Appendix to Budget Report

	their own. Reserves are for emergencies. The council tax paying individuals would be more than willing to pay an increase in council tax which can only be to a maximum of 1.99% for an efficient Police force.
118	The Police appears to be on its knees, more money is required.
119	The Police are not sufficiently funded now and we do not get the service that we used to. I would rather pay a little more and receive a superior service. You state that "I believe there are greater efficiencies that must be achieved" but do not provide any evidence or further detail for this.
120	The Police force has been cut to the bone already. Any more cuts will damage service provision- this is political nonsense- spending out of reserves so you can fool the electorate into thinking you've made things more efficient. It fools no-one with a brain.
121	The Police need more money in their budget in order to fight crime and anti social behaviour
122	The Police service is already stretched and to expect more from them without additional support seems counter intuitive.
123	The Police service is not fit for purpose due to the cuts already imposed.
124	The additional funding is not real. It is being taken from reserves. this is a further cut to policing
125	The budget contains significant saving proposals which can only affect front line policing. It is a mistake not to levy even a small precept to improve community policing, which features very little in these proposals.
126	The community deserves a Force that is properly funded and adequately staffed.
127	The element of the council tax relating to the police should be increased.
128	The extra cash to be used in recruiting more officers
129	The funds held came from extensive austerity measures that affected employees and their families extensively. If the chance to increase the precept from the public it should be done. Why spend money if we don't need to? rather than use it to finance the next set of cuts.
130	The increase is minimal and we need to invest in police services
131	The increase would have to come from financial reserves, which is an unsustainable source. A small increase in the council precept would not harshly affect my council tax bill and would enable sustainable investment in policing services.
132	The most important thing to me is to feel safe and in real terms you are talking about a reduction in policing which I don't agree with. I would support budget cuts in other services but not the Police for reason I stated earlier. Feeling safe should be the most fundamental right!
133	The police are severely underfunded and underresourced.
134	The police budget over the past few years in real terms has been cut. Even when it is spun with terms like 'better efficiency' and 'better use of resources', everybody knows they are CUTS!! These cannot be sustained by the police service. If the public want a police service they can rely on, it has to be paid for.
135	The police force is showing signs of strain with cuts of recent years, inflation will only make the matter worse. I think the freeze proposal is a political one. At least match inflation as costs will no doubt rise with brexit.
136	The police have already cut back enough and need a higher budget to provide a proper service to the public. Budget should be increased
137	The police should be properly funded. Your conservative bosses have cut them to deeply. You should not use reserves, they are for emergencies or future investment. Don't politicise policing, listen to your chief Constables, they
138	The service needs to be funded properly and a slight increase would be acceptable.
139	The the POlice service needs more investment over and above the allocation. Fine to use money wisely but the Commissioner needs to offer additional services to the public.

## Appendix to Budget Report

140	There is no explanation as to what the money will be used for. I see words like 'visible' 'investing' and 'customer service'. I have no idea what the money is needed for. Exactly how does the commissioner propose to make the service 'more visible'?
141	There needs to be an increase in the police budget to ensure the services provided meet the needs of the community to increase policing numbers and allow for investment, development and remuneration for employees.
142	They need more money to police effectively
143	This appears to be a politically motivated decision by the Commissioner to curry favour with the local population. If the public want services they should pay for them and we should not be dipping into reserves just so that the Commissioner can say, "look what I've saved".
144	Too many cut backs
145	Too many reasons, i simply do not agree with his actions. Its all well and good have up to the minute technology (if it works!) but we need a lot more police officers visible on the streets.
146	Using the financial reserves will reduce the security of the police force. Therefore risking staff/office jobs, those same staff who have recieved virtually zero pay rises for 5 years.
147	WWhere is all this money gonna come from this
148	We have a Crime Commissioner who the majority of the public didn't vote for & obviously don't want. His salray is a complete waste of tax payers money. He is affiliated to a political party whose aim is clearly to undermine & desatroy the police service of this country & this is clearly another opportunity to chip away at its very foundations.
149	We need more Police as a visible presence
150	We need more money
151	We should be spending a more, not freezing the budget
152	West Mercia have been very prudent over the years and are not in the disasterous situation that other forces, such as Derbyshire find themselves in. Because of this good financial management, by everyone in the force, we should not be penalised in this way. The 1.99% increase in the Police budget element of council tax is a very small amount and something that the general public would be happy to continue paying. I feel that by not applying for the full amount the PCC is not representing the best interests the people of the West Mercia area. Surely it is responsible to try and obtain the maximum amount available. You cannot do more with less. The more resources we have the better we can protect people from harm and the most vulnerable. It is irresponsible and negligent to accept less than what is potentially available.
153	West Mercia have closed my local Police station, Newport, Shropshire, due to budget cuts, moved all the officers to Telford, half an hour away and as a result we see little Police attendance in our town. This, we are told is because the demand for service is higher in Telford. But I still pay my taxes and they have not dropped since the station was closed and we recieve a poorer service. If an increase in tax will provide a better service, I support an increase. But if it will simply support more Police in an area which I do not live, then I continue to object to this and would oppose any increase
154	West Mercia officers are regularly required to deplop to incidents with substandard equipment which has been forces upon them as a result of cost cutting. Despite comments and reports being made by those in a position to influence decisions, their veiws are constantly ignored. This is in part because there is insufficient money. At the moment there is a drive to provide officers with personal issue laptopd and mobile phones. These items whilst expensive and helpful have never stopped an officers gettign injured. As part of the alliance process, West Mercia and Warwickshire have made various concessions that mean the police's ability to protect the public has been serious impaired.

## Appendix to Budget Report

155	Whilst I support continued investment, I feel this would be better served by incorporating a modest increase in the precept
156	Why draw from the reserves when an increase in council tax would be accepted by most people
157	Why exhaust the reserves?
158	Why freeze budgets when crime is increasing??? Strange decision!
159	With significant resources needed to investigate both current and historic matters combined with the increase in demand around sexual offences and offences within the family I believe an increase in precept is justifiable.
160	With the Police Service already struggling to cope and resources stretched to capacity plus no wage increases for some time, I feel that any additional funding that can be obtained should be obtained. Once all the reserves have been used what then?
161	Would be nice not to have a rise but aware more money is needed to get more officers out in the community
162	You cannot maintain services by using reserves alone as once gone that is it.
163	You still charge over £60 more than West Midlands Police do for the precept
164	You are a Tory and I don't trust you
165	You are a waste of public money
166	budget is too low. cuts have been too deep already and further cuts will lead to loss of life.
167	disagree with freeze in police share, you should be trying to secure more funding rather than seeking a political win here
168	due to police budgets already being extremely stretched and lack of support for police the police service in general
169	i don't believe you are investing in frontline and community policing
170	i don't feel there is enough resource on the streets
171	i feel that there should not be a freeze on the council tax. i agree that investment needs to be made and should be made especially in Redditch. this town seems to be the forgotten town, the police station is not maintained as it should be, custody has been taken away taking our response officers away from the ground leaving the public and the officers left at Redditch very vulnerable should a major incident arise. Redditch is a busy town and should have its own custody block.
172	i read nothing of extra officers and staff being provided in order to protect the community could an increase in council tax allow for this.
173	i think there should be an increase in the police share of council tax.
174	i would agree but i have not seen any increase over the years in investment in the rural areas. for years now we have been given assurances that rural would be better served. results police stations are closed police officers have been taken away from the rural area. there is still blind spots for radio transmissions. so more empty promises and spin. wrong in saying "CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN FRONT LINE COMMUNITY POLICING" THAT HAS SEEN A DECREASE AS STATED
175	loss of financial reserves for exceptional circumstances and unforeseen events
176	more police presence needed especially locally
177	only that I am quite happy for my council tax to increase to add further funds to the policing of my area, I appreciate that you are trying to reduce the financial impact on us, but i for one would rather we all contributed a little more to make a LOT more for our policing
178	ridiculous
179	selling off even more property and job reductions is not sustainable to meet these targets.
180	should be increased by at least 1%
181	small increase is needed to maintain services

## Appendix to Budget Report

182	the police are under resourced and the public want to see money spent on more visable uniformed officers on the street.
183	the police force is under funded and under pressure, no increase is infact a cut,
184	the police reserves money should not be spent just because it's there. it's a reserve and should just be that
185	too much work
186	unrealistic to freeze police budgets when everyday living is increasing
187	west mercia police will receive less money and this cost will have to be bourne somewhere - probably taken off any pay rises for hard working officers and staff which woud be grossly unfari on hard working people.