



# Precept Consultation Survey Report 2021-2022

## Precept Survey 2021-2022

The Precept Consultation Survey was open between 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. There were a total of 426 responses to the survey with 21 in Welsh and 405 in English. The total number is a 12% reduction to last year's responses of 486. The reduction in responses to the survey this year is believed to be the loss of the OWL scheme which was fundamental in reaching members of the public and encouraging them to respond.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also played a part in the reduction in responses due to the lack of face to face engagement. The Commissioner and his team would usually promote the survey at public engagement events or attend meetings with hard to reach communities, particularly the older generation. At these meetings paper copies of the survey were usually provided with prepaid envelopes for their return. Despite all correspondence providing individuals with the option to request a paper copy no requests were made. Similarly there were no responses received of the Easy Read version of the survey despite copies and links being shared by the North Wales Police Diversity Unit to all known stakeholders.

### Question 1 – Do you agree with my current priorities?

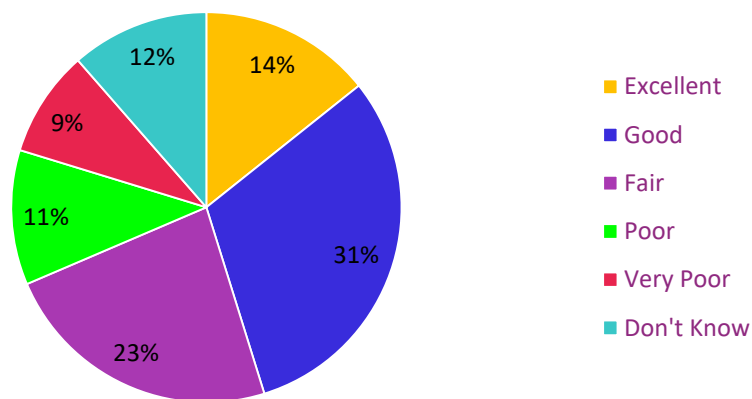
This question asked respondents whether they felt the current priorities continue to be relevant. The majority of the respondents felt that the priorities were relevant with all but Reducing Criminal Exploitation and Modern Slavery receiving over 90% agreement. The table below provides a breakdown of the responses. Modern Slavery received the most 'don't know' responses which suggests that additional awareness raising is needed to ensure that the public have a full understanding of Modern Slavery and how it affects the people of North Wales.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Reducing Criminal Exploitation	89%	7%	4%
Domestic Abuse	90%	5%	4%
Sexual Abuse	92%	4%	4%
Modern Slavery	74%	14%	12%
Organised Crime	95%	3%	2%
Delivering Safer Neighbourhoods	94%	4%	2%

## Question 2 – How good are the police in your area?

The second question of the survey asked respondents for their feedback of the police in their area. As demonstrated in the pie chart below 45% of respondents felt that the police in their area do an excellent or good job with a number providing examples of the positive impact that the force have on their local community. A fifth (20%) of respondents felt that the police in their area did a poor or very poor job due to personal experience or lack of visibility.

### How good are the police in your area?



The open text question allowed respondents to explain their reasons for the grading given with 55% requesting for an increase in police visibility and officers. I understand that visible policing can provide reassurance to our communities however, crime continues to change and a patrolling officer will not prevent the hidden crimes such as child sexual exploitation, modern slavery and domestic violence from occurring. The evolution of crime has forced police forces to adapt their policing methods to ensure that they continue to be efficient and effective. In relation to an increase in officers North Wales Police continues to recruit officers following the announcement by the UK Government of Operation Uplift in September 2019.

## Question 4- Are you happy with the way I am consulting with you?

The majority of the respondents to the survey were satisfied with the way that they were consulted. The table below shows a summary of the responses. Within the open text question a number of respondents raised their concerns surrounding the accessibility of an online survey. Attempts were made to ensure that all would be able to access the survey including paper copies and Easy Read surveys. Due to the current climate face to face consultation was unfortunately unavailable for this year's consultation.

	Total
Yes	279 (73%)
No	57 (15%)
Don't Know	48 (12%)

### Question 5- Do you pay Council Tax or Business Rates?

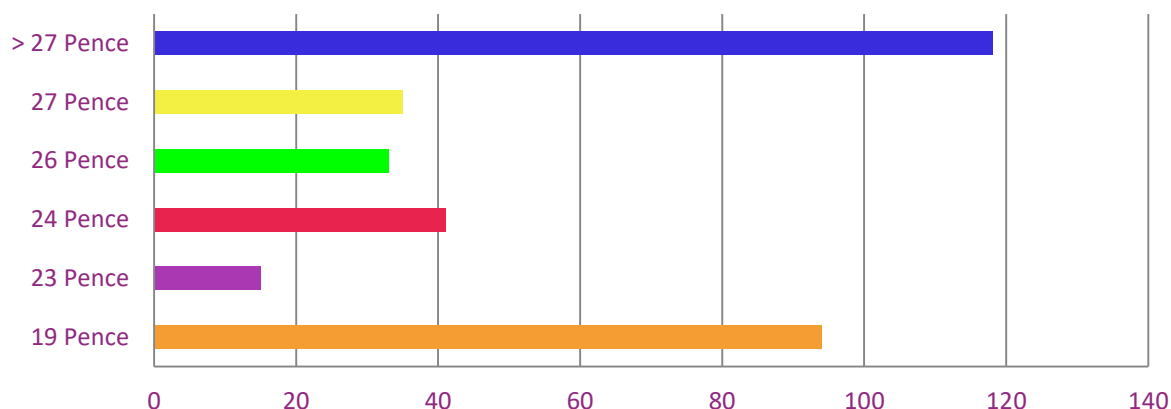
This question was included to identify the number of both Council Tax and Business Rate payers answering the survey. As demonstrated in the table below over 92% of respondents were Council Tax payers compared to only 3% of Business Rate payers.

	%
Council Tax	92
Business Rates	5
None of the Above	3

### Question 6 - How much additional Council Tax would you be willing to pay per week?

The sixth question asked respondents how much additional Council Tax they would be willing to pay per week and the impact that each choice would have on the service. As demonstrated in the graph below over 35% chose the option to increase the precept by more than 27 pence per week. Overall 55% of the respondents would be willing to pay 26 pence per week more in Council Tax.

**How much additional Council Tax would you be willing to pay per week?**



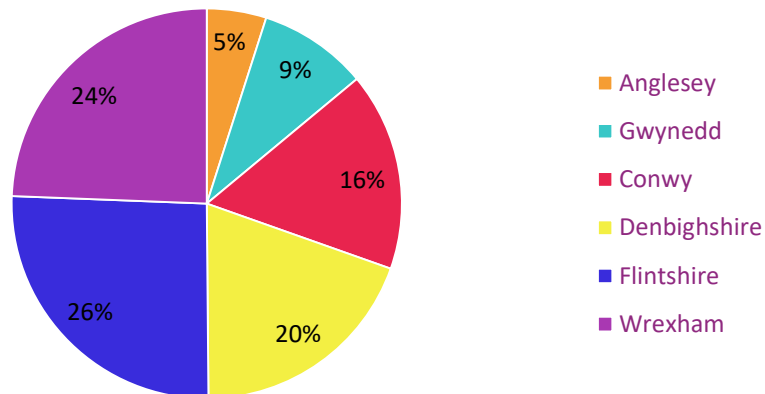
### Question 7 – If I was to raise the Council Tax by more than 27 pence per week what should I spend this money on?

The respondents were given thirteen options which included a variety of policing areas such as roads policing, domestic violence and neighbourhood policing. The most popular answers to this question were Safer Neighbourhoods (37%), Organised Crime (15%) and Rural Crime (11%).

### Question 8 – What County do you live in?

The pie chart below shows that the majority of the respondents to the survey resided in Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire. This is in on par with responses from previous years where the number of respondents from Anglesey and Gwynedd were considerably lower than other areas.

What county do you live in?



### Question 9 – Where did you hear about the survey?

The final question asked respondents how they heard about the survey with 45% being made aware of the survey via email. The survey was sent to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s contact’s database with a request to forward the email to the recipients contacts list, regular social media post were sent and a news story about the precept survey also featured in a number of the local newspapers across North Wales.

How did you hear about the survey?

