

REPORT FOR THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL - PUBLIC CONSULTATION 2023

Listening and responding to the voice of the people of Lincolnshire remains one of the most important priorities for the PCC.

As in previous years the OPCC has carried out a thorough and extensive survey of local residents – with another strong response of nearly 3,500 completed questionnaires despite a shorter survey time period than last year.

Once again the survey explored in depth and detail, the views and opinions of Lincolnshire residents regarding fear of crime, experience of crime, perceptions of problems locally and potential increases in the police precept.

In 2023, the overall Sample Size of 3,434 included, for the first time, more than 1,000 respondents between the ages of 16-34 ensuring the level of participation amongst the younger generation was higher than ever before.

Thanks to the dedicated work of the Safer Together Team, invitations through Lincs Alert and Next Door and coverage through local news and social media the survey exceeded its target sample size in every age group, socio economic group and district.

This year the survey process included a printed questionnaire which differed slightly in the method used to pose questions around the precept.

The number of respondents in each district were:

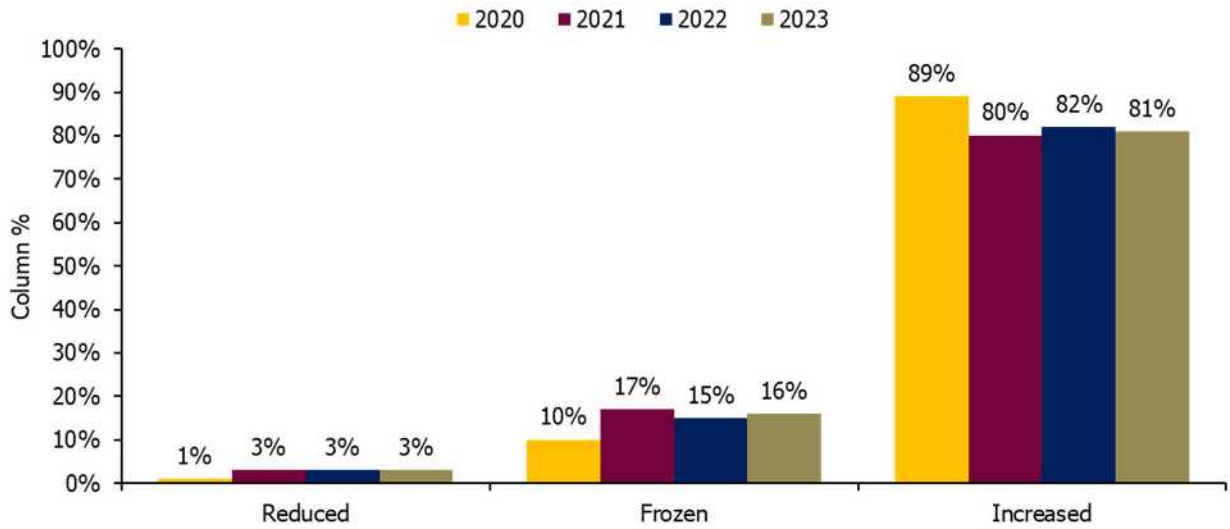
- Boston – 498
- East Lindsey – 683
- Lincoln – 506
- North Kesteven – 529
- South Holland – 410
- South Kesteven – 396
- West Lindsey – 412

This year the number of younger people responding increased considerably to 1,005 in the 16-34 band. In the other age ranges there were 688 people in the 35-49 range, 812 in the 50-64 and 929 in the 65+.

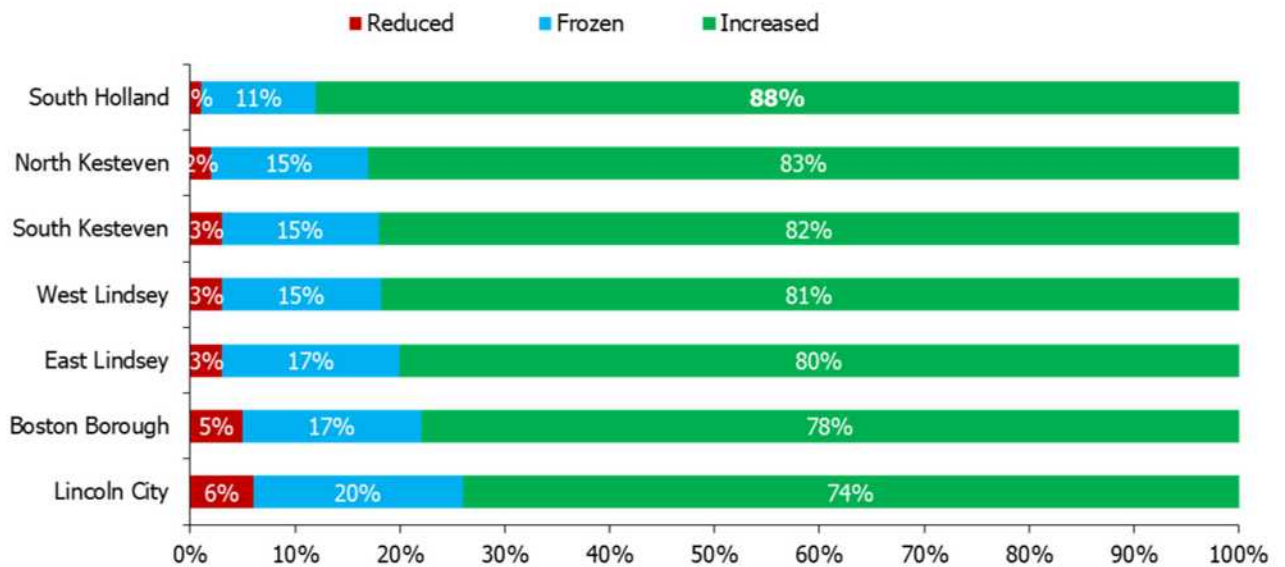
The PCC has always been clear that the results of the annual survey will not only play a crucial role in decisions about policing and investment priorities but would also guide him in determining the proposed precept.

Respondents made it overwhelmingly clear they support increased funding for Lincolnshire Police – with 81% saying they supported the increase and only 3% preferring a reduction.

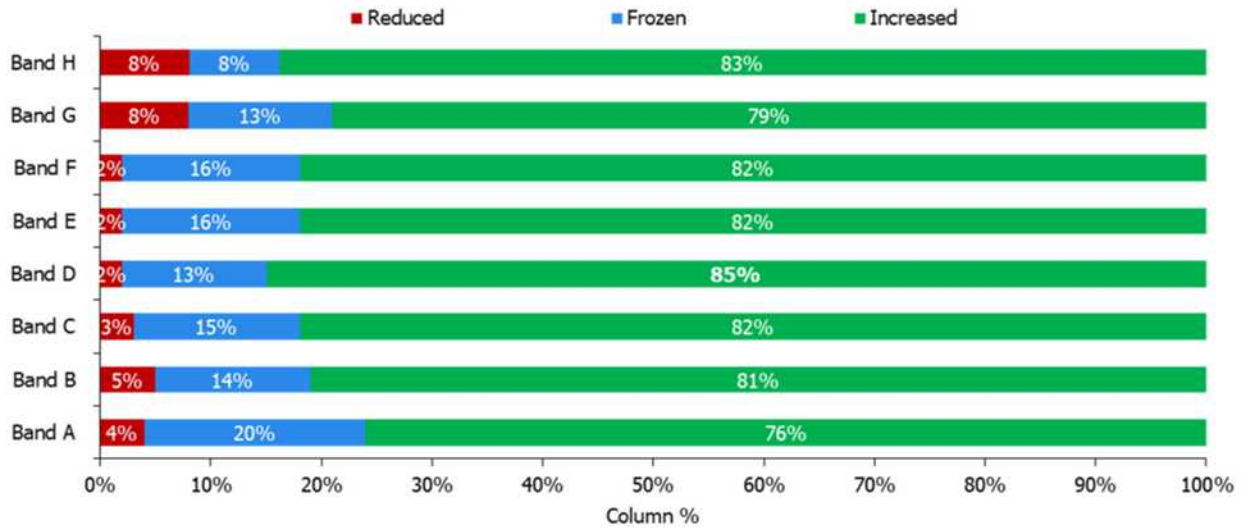
These results show little variation on previous years demonstrating a long-standing belief across the county that Lincolnshire Police is underfunded.



The number supporting an increase peaked at 88% in South Holland and even at its lowest (Lincoln City 74%) represented an overwhelming majority. In five of the seven districts support for increased funding reached 80% or above.



Endorsement of an increase peaks among residents in Council Tax Band D at 85% (+2% v 2022), and though lower among residents of Band A properties it still reached 76%.

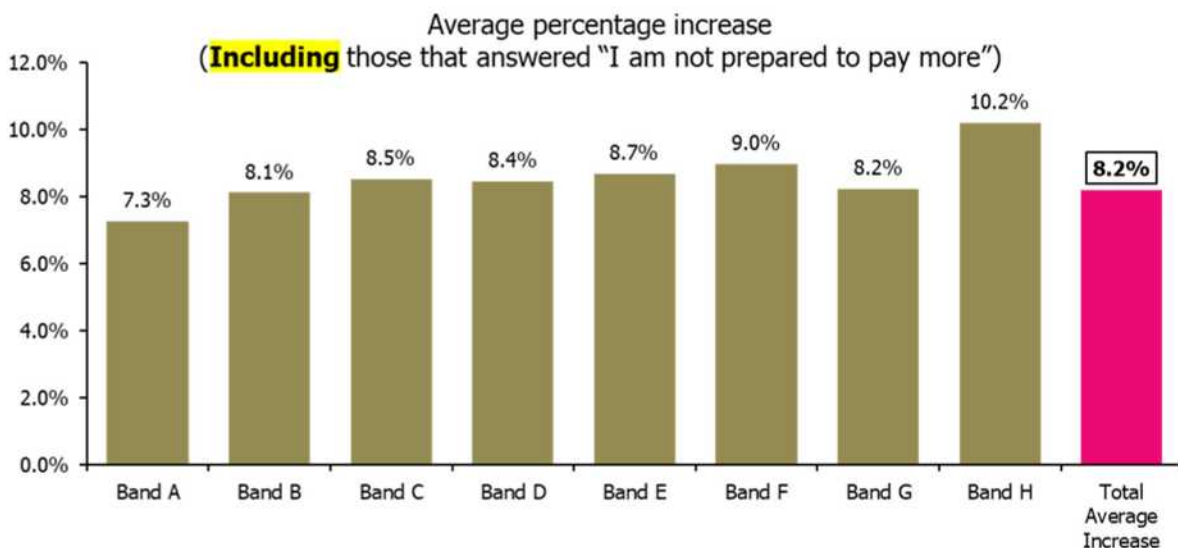


The response showed the majority (54%) supported an increase of at least 5% - which is greater than the proposed precept for 2024/25 with a further 6% supporting a rise of 3.4% - only slightly below.

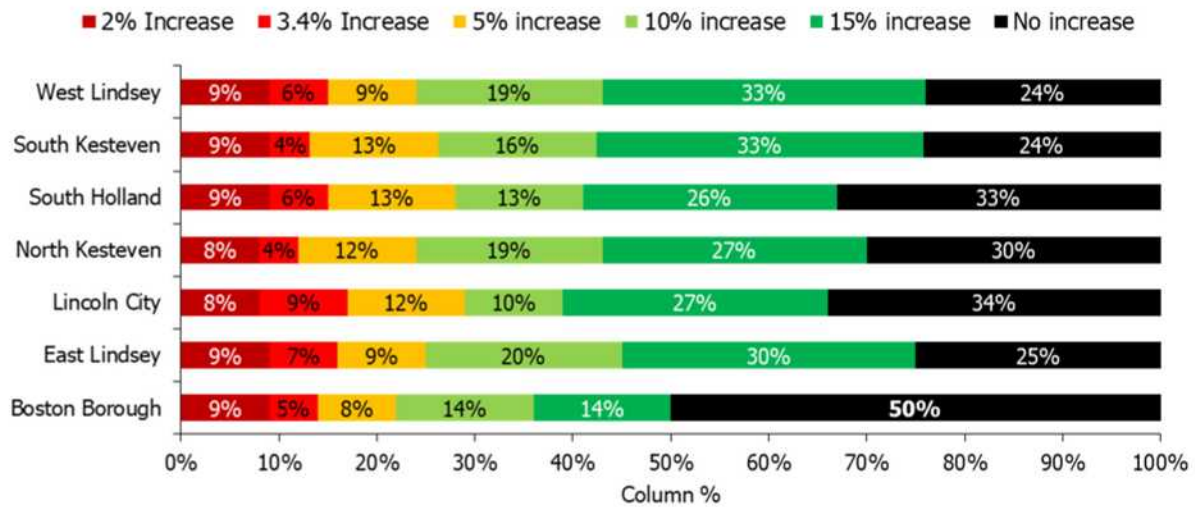
This figure (3.4%) was used in the survey as, at the time, it was the proposed Government imposed pre-referendum limit but this figure changed slightly in the following weeks.

The average preferred percentage increases in police precept across the different tax bands ranged from 7.3 % to 10.2% - both well in excess of the proposal.

The average increase supported across all council tax bands was 8.2% only slightly lower than last year's 8.4%.



A precept rise of at least 5% was the overwhelming majority view in most districts – with only two districts (Lincoln 49% and Boston 36%) falling below the 50% mark



The professional market research company that has carried out the survey works on the basis of delivering results that meet industry standards in Confidence Level & Confidence Interval to ensure the statistical significance of the result.

It means that, had we surveyed everyone in Lincolnshire, the answer to a given question would fall within 1.67 percentage points of our research result (in either direction) on 95 occasions out of 100.

The PCC is confident that these results reflect support amongst Lincolnshire residents for an increase in the police precept to help provide the Chief Constable the funding needed to keep Lincolnshire residents safe.

The PCC has taken into account the overall results, the context of the economic climate at the time of the survey and the potential damage to the service provided by Lincolnshire Police of a lower Council Tax increase. He has determined that a proposed increase of 4.5% which equates to a monetary increase of 17p per week for a Band A, 25p for a Band D and up to 50p per week for a Band H is the appropriate one.