

Dear Councillor,

As Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, I am responsible for setting the annual precept, which is the amount residents pay towards policing through their council tax.

Gwent Police has seen a 40 per cent real term cut in government funding since 2010 and has made nearly £50 million in savings across the force since 2008. In order to maintain investment in priority areas including serious organised crime, cybercrime, violent crime and supporting vulnerable people, I am having to propose to local tax payers, an increase of £1 a month in council tax (per band D household). This would allow Gwent Police to maintain the 1,290 police officers it currently has until at least 2020/21.

Without the increase, Gwent Police will have to make further cuts of about £5.3 million across the force.

We have already made nearly £50 million in savings across Gwent Police since 2008. At the same time we have seen an increase in demand in areas such as child sexual exploitation, modern day slavery and cybercrime which are stretching our officers and staff like never before.

I understand that nobody wants to pay more on their council tax, but unfortunately with the government grant for policing at standstill levels at best, there are no easy savings left for us to make. If the precept is not increased then this will undoubtedly have a significant impact on policing in Gwent.

I am confident that a rise in the council tax precept of £1 a month, which is about 25p per week for the average property, will allow us to continue to provide a high level of service.

I truly want to hear what the people of Gwent have to say and so would appreciate if you could encourage your communities to complete the below survey.

bit.ly/GwentPrecept19-20

The consultation closes on Sunday, 13th January 2019. If you are aware of any groups which would welcome a member of my team coming out to complete the consultation with them face to face, please contact my office. You can also request other formats of the survey by emailing commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk or calling 01633 642200.

Kind regards,
Jeff Cuthbert
Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent