

# Precept Consultation 2016-17



I am inviting comments from members of the public and interested organisations on my precept for 2016-17.

For further information please visit my website  
[www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk)

**Bill Longmore,**  
**Police & Crime Commissioner**

## A message from your Police & Crime Commissioner

There are difficult decisions to be made as I contemplate this year's precept.

The government recently announced that police funding would be protected in 'real terms' during the next four years but, as always with these things, the devil is in the detail.

The government's announcement is not as generous as it might have first appeared. There will still be cuts to policing budgets from Government, either directly or indirectly. Financial pressures are still very real, and we have got to continue to manage everything responsibly.

The government's calculation for 'sustaining' the policing budget, included a presumption that Police & Crime Commissioners nationwide would increase the precept by 2% each year until 2020. Therefore, we know we need to find some more money to sustain budgets. There are options on that, including the precept.

I am therefore asking people across West Mercia whether they are willing to pay any more towards policing in their council tax in 2016-17, ahead of the local budget being early in 2016. There are no right or wrong opinions. I am expecting a wide range of thoughts, nothing is a foregone conclusion and I will be using your opinions to inform my decision.

As I will be stepping down as PCC in May, I feel it's my responsibility to leave everything in the best, most stable and most sustainable shape I possibly can for the next Commissioner, and most importantly for the people of West Mercia. So I would invite everyone to get in touch and let me know what they think about the idea of paying more towards policing.

## How to comment

Email: [opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Online: Fill out the survey at [www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk)

Write: Office of the PCC, PO BOX 487, Shrewsbury, SY2 6WB.

**Please send your comments to me by noon on January 18, 2016**