

Council Tax Consultation 2019/20

Introduction

Annually Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission undertake a consultation on the police element of the council tax. In addition from 1st January 2019 the Police and Crime Commissioner will be overseeing the governance for Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service. Therefore a consultation was held for 7 weeks from the 18th October- 7th December 2018, and included questions on both the policing and fire & rescue elements of the council tax. Opportunities were also taken at the same time to increase people's awareness of the Police and Crime Commissioner widening his role.

It should be noted that earlier in 2018 and whilst this consultation was undertaken Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) have been facing severe financial difficulties. Therefore some of the respondents have used this consultation to air their concerns over NCC and other council services, unitary authorities and/or how public services will be funded in the future, even though these are outside of the remit of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Methodology

The aim of the consultation was to ensure as many people from across the county took part as possible. The consultation was aimed at those aged 18 as they are eligible to vote and pay council tax.

An online survey was promoted externally through; Neighbourhood Alert, sent to all parish and town councils and via a press release. It was also promoted through local authority communication teams and other local partners highlighted the consultation in their external or internal media. Social media was utilised by the police, fire & rescue and OPCC to promote the consultation. Facebook adverts were purchased and sent out across Northamptonshire with the aim of obtaining a cross section of respondents and specifically of those in younger age groups which historically have been more difficult to engage.

Internal messages were also sent out to staff, officers and firefighters within Northamptonshire Police and Fire & Rescue Services asking them to take part.

In addition, two face to face shopping centre events took place during the consultation period, one in Morrison's Supermarket at Corby and the other in Northampton's Grosvenor Centre, where the council tax questions were asked as part of this engagement activity.

This approach to the consultation enabled the OPCC to have the highest response rate to the council tax consultation in the last 10 years. A total of 4,513 residents of Northamptonshire completed the online survey. Of those 93% (4,192) of the sample said that they paid council tax, 7% (313) said that they did not and <1% (8) did not say.

You will see in appendix 1 that the demographics of those who responded reflected very closely to the population within Northamptonshire. The Institute for Public Safety Crime and Justice undertook the statistical analysis on behalf of the OPCC. Weighting was used to adjust the results to bring them more in line with the population (e.g. if a sample contains 40% males and the population contains 49% males weighting can be used to correct the data to correct this discrepancy). However it was found that even when weighted this had minimal effect on the sample within this consultation.

Geographical maps of the amount respondents were prepared to pay by local authority area are also set out in Appendix 2.

Results

In relation to the police participants were given the statement *“The average household currently pays £4.25 a week towards policing. Police and Crime Commissioners have been given the power by Government to raise the policing part of your council tax by an extra £12 per year for 2019/20, which would give Northamptonshire police an extra £2.9 million towards making Northamptonshire safer”*. They were then asked in the light of this which option best represents your views:

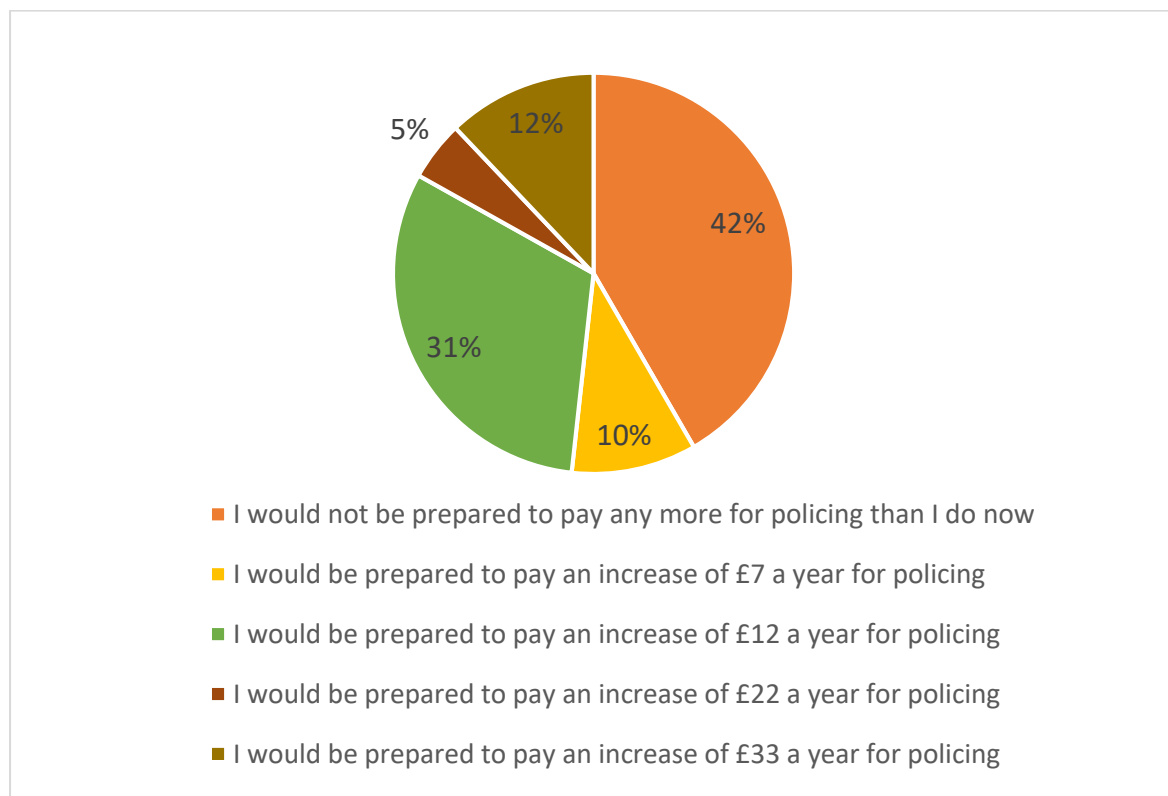
- I would not be prepared to pay any more for policing than I do now
- I would be prepared to pay an increase of £7 a year for policing
- I would be prepared to pay an increase of £12 a year for policing
- I would be prepared to pay an increase of £22 a year for policing
- I would be prepared to pay an increase of £33 a year for policing
- Don't know

For the £22 and £33 options the following caveat was in brackets ‘However due to government capping rules a public vote would need to take place costing an additional £1 million’.

11% (467) of respondents did not respond and 4% (156) said that they did not know whether they would be prepared to pay more council tax for policing or not. The chart below represents the responses of those that said whether they would be prepared to pay more and how much they would be prepared to pay (3,577 respondents).

Of those that stated whether they would be prepared to pay more **58%** (2,087) said they would.

Chart 1: Proportion of the public that would be prepared to pay more council tax for policing and if so how much more they would be prepared to pay



Therefore 17% in total agreed to pay an increase of £22 a year or more. However at the time of the consultation the public thought that there would be a referendum if the council tax was increased to £22 or above, and this is reflected in the comments below, where respondents were keen to avoid a referendum taking place.

Respondents were given the option to comment on their answer and 1205 comments were categorised into themes.. The below table shows the themes identified in rank order;

Increased visible and frontline policing- people felt that a policing presence had decreased whilst crime was increasing, others would be prepared to pay more but only if an improved service was achieved. (519 comments)

“The Police need to ensure that the public is shown that the increase has visible effect. At the moment I feel that there is less policing taking place and crime is on the rise.”

“I would be prepared to pay for a better/improved police service, but not simply to maintain the existing inadequate and falling police quality levels”

“Extra money should be spend on community policing - i.e. local officers in local areas dealing with problems that affect communities (anti-social behaviour / knife crime etc”

“I would like to see any extra spending go towards more community police officers. They are the public face of policing and the point of contact for most people. They must be able to feed intelligence to fight crime due to the relationships they build and the time they spend in communities.”

“Policing needs to be greatly improved to justify any increase. Officers don't routinely attend reports of crime and you NEVER see a Police Officer on the streets/roads. This means that there is little or no public reassurance. I know that resources are stretched but we don't get the service that we should do!”

Happy to pay more, or will pay more as long as it does not lead to additional costs for a referendum (133 comments)

“An increase would help policing levels to help reduce crime and improve people's confidence.”

“Seems a small price to pay for a safer community”

“If there were no capping or need for a public vote, I'd pay at least £33pa more”

Concern they are paying too much, or will be in the future due to proposed increases in other public services, or that they cannot afford anymore at this time (131 comments)

“I have concerns about rises. Mainly because many different parts of Northamptonshire need an increase too. Such a question sounds fine in isolation. But if ALL 'departments' say "We just need £12 a year", then my council tax would have massive detrimental financial effects on my quality of life.”

“Policing is extremely important to us, however my worry is that we cannot afford anymore council tax hikes. It is already an expensive area council tax wise and with the worries around the economy and interest rates at the moment this plays heavy on our minds.”

For current budgets to spend more effectively (78 comments)

"I feel a better way to improve policing would be for a review of internal procedures/ policies to save money by streamlining processes"

"I respect the police but the misspending needs to be sorted before I would be happy contributing more."

"Is the present tax for policing administered efficiently & effectively"

Respondents took the opportunity to comment on Northamptonshire County Council's finances or the impact that this will have on their wider finances (72 Comments)

"Any increase must have the commissioner's full responsibility that it does go to the police and in no way will it just. Prop up Northamptons poorly run council services as I am sure most people see this as."

"I'd like to see a bigger proportion of our council tax go towards policing, but not via an increase. Council tax in Northants is criminally high - due to bad housekeeping and mismanagement by Northants Council - NOT its residents"

"Although prepared to pay more in this section then other authorities should claim less. I live in Irthlingborough and see little improvement paying tax to the councils. When unitary takes over our council tax should be reduced having less councillors who do little or nothing for the community"

Government should pay rather than local tax payer (70 comments)

"Increased funding should come from central government. Surely the Conservative PCC should be lobbying the home office and PM rather than the residents of Northants"

"It's clear that the issue with Policing and all emergency service funding in Northamptonshire has been let down by a lack of support and funding from the government and county council. For the emergency services to be relieved and supported better they should look to the government who let down Northamptonshire county council and not look to increase council tax which is already costly and un-affordable for most people living on benefits."

Wanted more information about what the additional money would pay for (62 comments)

"However I would like to know exactly what this extra money was being spent on. I would also like it in the main spent on frontline policing enabling increased arrests and deterring crime."

"Before committing to ANY increase, I would want to see how such an increase would be spent to improve crime solving rates and make Northamptonshire safer"

Concern about the role or impact of the Police and Crime Commissioner, or wanting finances spent directly on policing (42 comments)

"It appears to have been a policy for a number of years now, including under the current PCC, to attempt to provide policing on the cheap in the county. This has resulted in a loss of public confidence in their effectiveness. I welcome the change of direction indicated by this proposed policy"

"As long as no money goes into the PCC budget, it would all have to go to police on the street"

Ideas of how to spend or save money (34 comments)

"I would like to see more specially training officers engaging with the teenagers that are on the streets in Gangs. We need active policing not passive policies."

"I personally would be willing to pay the £33 a year. But it MUST be spent usefully on policing, and not gobbled up by management or expenses... PLUS different people can afford different amounts of money due to their own circumstances. Someone with less may only be able to afford £7 a month, others nothing extra. It should be based on Council Tax Bands, so those that can afford more pay more... Not an across the board "one size fits all" approach, that would hit the vulnerable and those with the least the most... And proportionally hit those with more much, much less"

Positive comments about the Police (22 comments)

"I would be prepared for more of my council tax payments to be aligned to policing rather than the council. Policing, fire and keeping our communities safe is more important to me than little services the council supply. Tangibly all I see is them taking our rubbish."

General comments about the Police (17 comments)

"I personally do not have a problem with policing: the main concern is the prioritisation of events, which prevent vulnerable people receiving help or assistance if needed."

25 comments could not be coded into themes and were about specific issues that were outside the remit of the consultation.

Fire precept

In relation to the fire, participants were given the statement *"The average household currently pays £1.13 a week towards policing. The government allowed up to a £2 increase last year, which works out as an extra £423,000 towards Fire & Rescue Services in Northamptonshire for 2019/20"*. They were then asked in the light of this which option best represents your views:

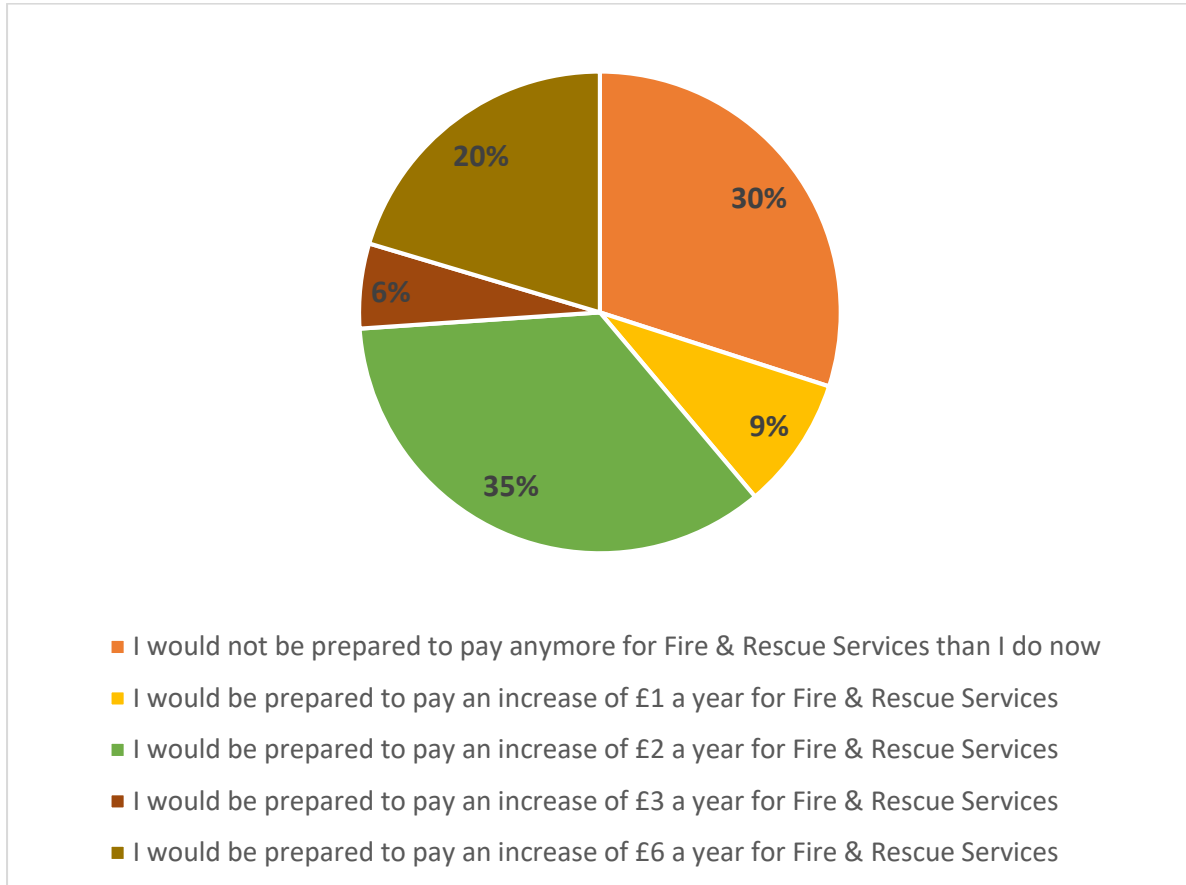
- I would not be prepared to pay any more for Fire & Rescue Services than I do now
- I would be prepared to pay an increase of £1 a year for Fire & Rescue Services
- I would be prepared to pay an increase of £2 a year for Fire & Rescue Services
- I would be prepared to pay an increase of £3 a year for Fire & Rescue Services
- I would be prepared to pay an increase of £6 a year for Fire & Rescue Services
- Don't know

For the £3 and £6 options the following caveat was in brackets 'However due to government capping rules a public vote would need to take place costing an additional £1 million'.

16% (687) of respondents did not respond and 3% (104) said that they did not know whether they would be prepared to pay more council tax for fire and rescue services or not. The chart below represents the responses of those that said whether they would be prepared to pay more and how much they would be prepared to pay (3,409 respondents).

Of those that stated whether they would be prepared to pay more, **70%** in total (2,387) said that they would.

Chart 2: Proportion of the public that would be prepared to pay more council tax for fire & rescue services and if so how much more they would be prepared to pay



Respondents were asked to comment on their answer and 589 comments were made. These were themed and the table below describes examples of their comments from highest to lowest;

There should be an increase to the Fire & Rescue budget, some stated this was on condition that no referendum takes place (152 comments)

“The Fire and Rescue Service has been massively underfunded by the County Council for years. The Fire Service is in dire need of increased funding”

“The Fire service is a public service that should never have had it's budget cut the way it has. They need money to maintain a working service to keep us all safe”

“would be happy to pay more but another vote that costs the voters is not the answer. Perhaps a £2 increase this year followed by another next year?”

Will pay more as long as the funding goes on frontline fire and rescue services (55 comments)

"This service is completely undervalued and has been decimated by the government and council cuts, any amount of increase would be acceptable again as long it goes to where is required I.e the frontline service"

"I don't have any issues with being charged more for Fire Rescue Services. As a consumer I consider it important that any increase is reflected in the response capability of the service."

Do not want to pay anymore council tax/or they cannot afford it (54 comments)

"Would be prepared to have more of my current contribution towards policing however I am not comfortable paying any more in tax than I do currently"

"I can't afford to pay any more as we live hand to mouth. I really struggle with the bills as it is"

Funding should come from the government rather than funded locally, the government should take away the council tax capping rules (49 comments)

"I am prepared to pay more if the PCC lobbies government for restoration of funding"

"I already pay enough tax. It is the responsibility of the government and councils to distribute this money efficiently between the various services."

"We should campaign against capping rules"

The need to manage budgets better and more efficiently (44 comments)

"There's too much money wasted in management"

"Not accountable enough for the monies being spent"

Negative about previous fire governance under NCC, concern that NCC are not providing services effectively/unsure what will happen with their overall council tax bill and if the cost of Fire & Rescue Services will be deducted (41 comments)

"The Fire and Rescue Service has been massively underfunded by the County Council for years. The Fire Service is in dire need of increased funding"

"NCC has chosen to waste it's precept in past years through mismanagement. NFRS has sufficient income to provide the services it currently does."

"As Northamptonshire County Council is no longer collecting for the Fire & Rescue Services, its precept should drop to compensate for not paying out for this service."

Questions about how the additional funding will be spent (37 comments)

"I'm happy to pay more for police and fire services, but only if it definitely goes to these two, and we the public see and know the difference our extra money has gone, and the better we are all for it. If the money disappears as it seems our council tax has done I wouldn't want to pay an increase."

"I would need to see exactly the increase to the Fire budget would assist in doing, and why this is necessary for the increase"

Negative about the PCC taking on the responsibility of the Fire & Rescue Service (31 comments)

"This position is NOT NEEDED both police and fire were and are doing a better job. There is no need for someone "holding them to account"

"Keep them separate from the Police. It will not work for them to be under one leader."

Respondents made specific suggestions of how the Fire & Rescue service could improve its services, or work with other emergency services- such as the Ambulance Service (31 comments)

"I would pay the maximum aloud! But I would want to see the fire brigade take on some more responsibility's to help the other two emergency services be that recruiting some paramedics and helping more with police jobs such as mental health or safeguarding and transportation"

"Fire service are undervalued however many fire fighter I know also have second jobs so I would query what is best placed for this funding. Equipment, recruitment and pensions should all be a top priority for the fire service. Employing the best, having the best gear and the best pension.. putting your life at risk and being asked to work until 65 just is not an option. The fire service in Northamptonshire should have a greater presence and be more active within its community much like the police. This will only be possible with more funding SPENT IN THE RIGHT WAY"

"I don't like the thought of whole towns not having Fire/Rescue cover however I would like to see more information and accountability of what firefighters do in downtime."

Suggestions on how to save on resources/funding (29 comments)

"The Fire service is NOT stretched, - people don't fry their chips any more or smoke in bed. As a consequence, the Fire service faces lower demand now than in the past. If anything, it should be cut, to fund more police and paramedics. Also, with the latent capacity that exists in Fire, the service should change from being Fire & Rescue, to Fire, Search and Rescue, and take responsibility from police for most search functions."

"I've seen fire trucks come out too often for small deliberate fires in the woods, I feel the extra funding would prevent serious and genuinely dangerous fires from suffering in these cases, perhaps more recruitment to ensure there are ensure staff available, funding could also help educate younger people in the seriousness of cases of deliberate fires."

Respondents disagreed that any additional funding is needed (26 comments)

"The fire service do not do enough call outs to justify an increase. Especially when they massively over resource jobs."

"Whilst I may not be fully informed my perception is the fire service have plenty of capacity. How their time is used should be subject to a review. They already have good resources which could be better shared. Deployments at times can be over the top using excess kit, over egging incidents which do not require that scale of response"

Other (39 comments) Comments that could not be themed or did not relate to Fire and Rescue Services.

Facebook comments

An additional 488 comments were made directly on facebook in response to advertising the survey. Comments made were regarding police and fire services. The themes were fairly reflective of those within the survey, and are listed from highest to lowest:

- Concern that people already pay too much (122 comments made)

"my wage last year rose by 1.5%. That was my first pay rise in 3 years. Last year council tax rose by 5%. Unfortunately ordinary working people simply can't afford to pay more even if we wanted to."

Every company have to look at ways to provide the same service within the given budget, why should the police be exempt from this? We don't have bottomless pockets for throw money around, most struggle to pay bills every month

- Not happy with the current level of policing (106 comments)

"from personal experience...the police and council have lost public support, too many times when needed police are non-responsive, and when they do they are more concerned with the treatment of the perpetrators of crime than the victim."

"I'm actually prepared to pay LESS than I do currently considering the shoddy services in this county. What am I paying for exactly?"

- Unhappy with how finances are spent across public services and particularly by NCC (81 comments)

"I think you'll find we already pay for the services through our council tax...whilst I totally support our emergency services, I'm just a little sick of our councils taking our money, wasting it and expecting us to pay again, sorry."

"It's not about how much we are prepared to pay! It's about how much of this money is actually getting to our vital services which have been cut cut cut to the bone while our County council has squandered our money and bankrupt our County!"

- Managing budgets more effectively (45 comments)

"Cut the bureaucracy, stop wasting money on politicising the police, stop prioritising hate crime over burglary/ assault etc . Hows about being a visible presence."

"I already pay £200 a month, if you can't fund good quality services from that then somethings gone badly wrong."

- Believing that the government should pay rather than funding locally (42 comments)

"Maybe the Government can stop cutting their budget instead of us paying more for less services??"

"These services shouldn't be paid from council taxes. The government should have a separate fund for the police, ambulance, fire brigade and armed forces. We don't really get what we pay for so let them do it. After all it was them who cut these services in the first place."

- Willing to pay extra/positive about the police or fire (28 comments)

"I'm willing to pay for police and fire brigade, they do too much for not enough"

"Have a look at your council tax bill and see how much go towards the police , then wonder how they can do so much with the very little they have , putting themselves in harms way every day , they are the ones you call when you need them I applaud them all."

- Other individual comments that could not be themed (23 comments)
- Unsure what the additional money would pay for (15 comments)

"Personally I would like to see how the services are going to use the extra money."

"Don't ask us how much we think should be paid to them unless you give us a choice on all the other wasteful expenditures"

- Respondents wanted the additional money spent on more frontline services (15 comments)

"Scrap the phone system and get someone who knows the local area, Get rid of the management and get back on the beat... you might get the respect back and then we'll fight your cause for extra funding!!!"

- Negative about the role of the Police & Crime Commissioner (11 comments)

"I don't see a need for police and fire crime commissioner. To me that's a made up job and a lot of wasted resources. We pay enough on council tax and I'm sure it will be going up in the new financial year, regardless of whether we agree on the questions in the survey or not!"

Summary

Of those who responded to the survey a total of **58%** said that they would be prepared to pay more for policing.

Respondents wanted any additional increase in the policing element of their council tax to pay for increased visible and frontline policing. Respondents felt services needed improvement and were concerned that there was a decrease in police presence, whilst they believed crime was increasing.

A total of **70%** of respondents said that they would be prepared to pay more for fire and rescue services.

The majority of respondents commented that the fire & rescue service should receive an increase in council tax, as long as the increase did not involve a referendum and again similarly to police, the additional money should be spent on frontline services.

It should also be noted that when the data was weighted (set out in appendix 1) the results did not noticeably change as a result.

Appendix 1

Results when ensuring the sample is representative of Districts in Northamptonshire

In table 1 below the proportion of residents that came from each District in Northamptonshire is compared to the proportion each district constitutes of the population. The table below demonstrates that the sample breakdown of Districts was similar to the population breakdown, although Daventry (+5%) and Kettering (+2%) were slightly over represented residents from East Northants (-2%), Northampton (-2%) and Wellingborough (-4%) were slightly under represented, However, it is important to note that 30% (1,072) of the sample did not provide a postcode and therefore their District could not be determined.

Table 1: Proportion each District constituted of the sample as compared to the actual population of Northamptonshire

	Sample population ¹	Northamptonshire population ²
Corby	9%	9%
Daventry	16%	11%
East Northamptonshire	11%	13%
Kettering	16%	14%
Northampton	29%	31%
South Northamptonshire	12%	12%
Wellingborough	7%	11%

30% (1072) participants did not give their postcode so their District could not be identified, these were excluded.

In order to control for the difference each District constituted of the sample population as opposed to the actual population each District within the sample was weighted appropriately¹. The table below compares the results for the police precept question when the sample is not weighted and when it is weighted by District. When the sample is weighted by District the proportion of participants that are prepared to pay more council tax increases from 58% to 64%, however this affect may be as a result of the exclusion of those that have not provided their postcode as this group were more likely to say that they would not be prepared to pay any more. Therefore, the third column shows the result if those with no District are included², using this method the results are more in line with results if the sample is not weighted at all. However, this is not ideal method as it means the weighting of cases by District is diluted as about a third of the sample are not weighted.

¹ Those that are under-represented in the sample with a weighting greater than 1 and those that are over represented will have a weighting less than one.

² Taken from 2011 Census

Table 2: Police Precept data when sample is weighted by District

	Non-weighted sample	Weighted sample (those with no District excluded)*	Weighted sample those with no District weighted as one)
I would not be prepared to pay any more for policing than I do now	42%	36%	41%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £7 a year of policing	10%	10%	10%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £12 a year of policing	31%	35%	31%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £22 a year of policing	5%	6%	5%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £33 a year of policing	12%	14%	12%

The below table shows the same information for the Fire and Rescue Services when the results of weighted.

Table 3: Fire Precept data when sample is weighted by District

	Non-weighted sample	Weighted sample (those with no District excluded)*	Weighted sample those with no District weighted as one)
I would not be prepared to pay any more for policing than I do now	30%	26%	30%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £1 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	9%	8%	9%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £2 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	35%	38%	35%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £3 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	6%	6%	6%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £6 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	20%	22%	21%

Results when ensuring the sample is representative of age groups in Northamptonshire

In table 2 below the proportion of residents that came from each age group in Northamptonshire is compared to the proportion each age group constitutes of the population of Northamptonshire. It shows the sample is reasonably representative in terms of age, especially for those 45 and over, however, those aged 16-24 are under-represented and those aged 25-44 are over represented.

Table 4: Proportion each age group constituted of the sample as compared to the actual population of Northamptonshire

Age	Sample population ¹	Northamptonshire Population Per cent ²
16-24	7%	13%
25-44	41%	35%
45-64	34%	33%
65 and above	18%	19%

¹ 491 (14%) respondents did not give their age or said that they would prefer not to say

² Taken from 2011 Census

In order to control for this the age groups within the sample were weighted to ensure that each group is represented as it would be if the entire population of Northamptonshire was surveyed. The tables below show the result for the police or fire precept do not change notably when the sample is weighted by age.

Table 5: Police Precept data when sample is weighted by Age

	Non-weighted sample	Weighted sample (those with age missing excluded)*	Weighted sample those with age missing weighted as one)
I would not be prepared to pay any more for policing than I do now	42%	39%	42%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £7 a year of policing	10%	10%	10%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £12 a year of policing	31%	33%	31%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £22 a year of policing	5%	5%	5%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £33 a year of policing	12%	13%	12%

Table 6: Fire Precept data when sample is weighted by Age

	Non-weighted sample	Weighted sample (those age missing excluded)*	Weighted sample those with age missing weighted as one)
I would not be prepared to pay any more for policing than I do now	30%	28%	30%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £1 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	9%	9%	9%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £2 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	35%	36%	35%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £3 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	6%	6%	6%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £6 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	20%	21%	20%

Results when ensuring the sample is representative of ethnic groups in Northamptonshire

In table 7 below shows the proportion of residents that came from each ethnic group in Northamptonshire as compared to the proportion each ethnic group constitutes of the population of Northamptonshire. It demonstrates that residents from a Black/black British, Asian/ Asian British and mixed background are under-represented in the sample. Interestingly there is an over representation in Other ethnic group.

Table 7: Proportion each ethnic group constituted of the sample as compared to the actual population of Northamptonshire

Ethnicity	Sample population	Northamptonshire Population Per cent*
Asian/ Asian British	1.9%	3.7%
Black/ black British	0.5%	2.4%
Mixed ethnic background	1.2%	2.0%
White	92.8%	91.5%
Other ethnic group	3.5%	0.4%

*Taken from 2011 Census

In order to control for this the ethnic groups within the sample were weighted to ensure that each group is represented as it would be if the entire population of Northamptonshire was surveyed. The table below shows the results do not change notably when the sample is weighted, although there is a slight decrease in the proportion that would not be prepared to pay any more than I do now if those that did not state their ethnicity are excluded.

Table 8: Police Precept data when sample is weighted by Ethnicity

	Non-weighted sample	Weighted sample (those with ethnicity missing excluded)*	Weighted sample those with ethnicity missing weighted as one)
I would not be prepared to pay any more for policing than I do now	42%	37%	41%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £7 a year of policing	10%	11%	11%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £12 a year of policing	31%	34%	31%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £22 a year of policing	5%	5%	5%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £33 a year of policing	12%	13%	12%

Table 9: Fire Precept data when sample is weighted by Ethnicity

	Non-weighted sample	Weighted sample (those ethnicity missing excluded)*	Weighted sample those with ethnicity missing weighted as one)
I would not be prepared to pay any more for policing than I do now	30%	27%	30%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £1 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	9%	9%	9%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £2 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	35%	36%	35%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £3 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	6%	6%	6%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £6 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	20%	21%	20%

Results when ensuring the sample is representative of gender in Northamptonshire

In table 2 below the proportion of males and females in the sample as compared to the population of Northamptonshire. It shows that males were slightly over represented and females were slightly under represented.

Table 10: Proportion each gender constituted of the sample as compared to the actual population of Northamptonshire

Gender	Sample population ¹	Northamptonshire Population Per cent ²
Male	51%	49%
Female	49%	51%

¹ 14% (516) of participants did not state their gender

² Taken from 2011 Census

The table below shows the results do not change notably when the sample is weighted, although there is a slight decrease in the proportion that would not be prepared to pay any more than they do now if those that did not state their gender are excluded.

Table 11: Police Precept data when sample is weighted by Gender

	Non-weighted sample	Weighted sample (those with age missing excluded)*	Weighted sample those with age missing weighted as one)
I would not be prepared to pay any more for policing than I do now	42%	39%	42%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £7 a year of policing	10%	10%	10%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £12 a year of policing	31%	34%	32%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £22 a year of policing	5%	5%	5%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £33 a year of policing	12%	13%	12%

Table 12: Fire Precept data when sample is weighted by Gender

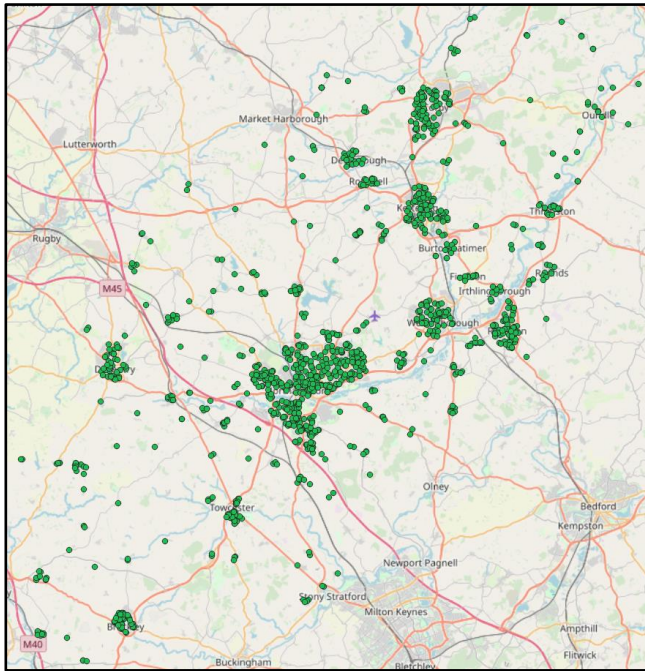
	Non-weighted sample	Weighted sample (those age missing excluded)*	Weighted sample those with age missing weighted as one)
I would not be prepared to pay any more for policing than I do now	30%	28%	30%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £1 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	9%	9%	9%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £2 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	35%	36%	35%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £3 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	6%	6%	6%
I would be prepared to pay an increase of £6 a year of Fire & Rescue Services	20%	21%	20%

Appendix 2

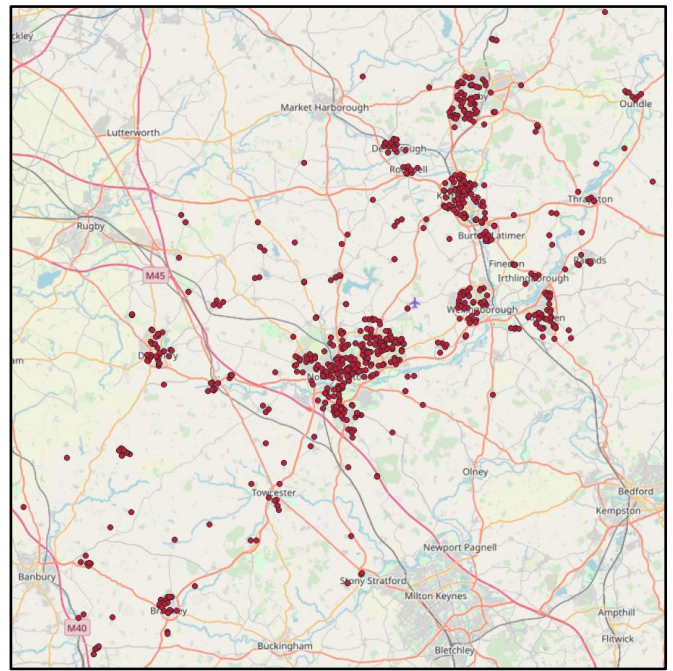
Public Opinions on Increased Funding for Police & Fire Services- Mapped Responses

Maps have been generated for Police & Fire funding responses, an overview of no increase versus some increase is presented first. This is followed by a breakdown of individuals willing to pay each incremental amount. Due to the high concentration in certain geographical areas, separate maps for each response are presented as opposed to combining results into a single map for clarity.

Some Increase vs No Increase - Police Service Funding

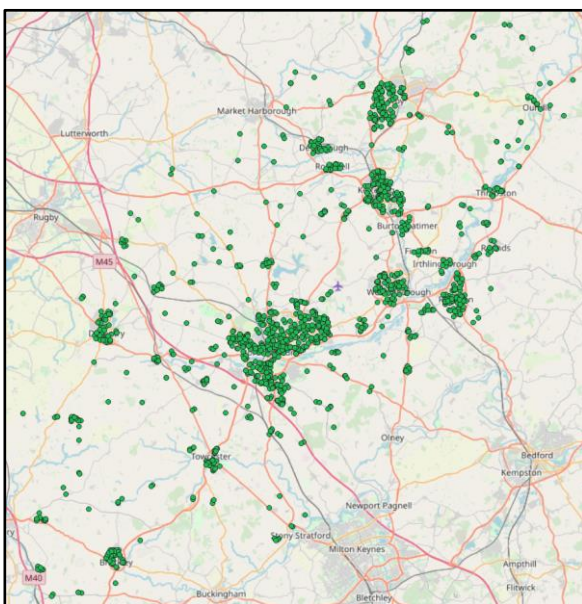


Some Increase

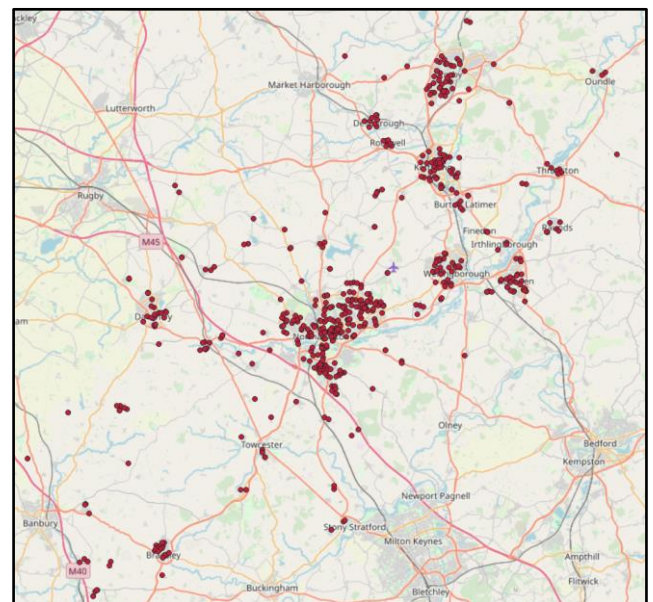


No Increase

Some Increase vs No Increase - Fire Service Funding



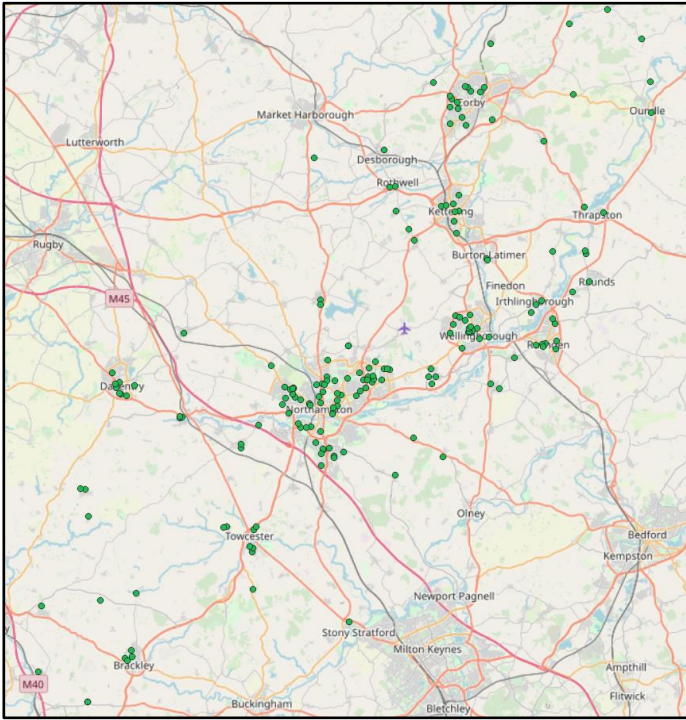
Some Increase



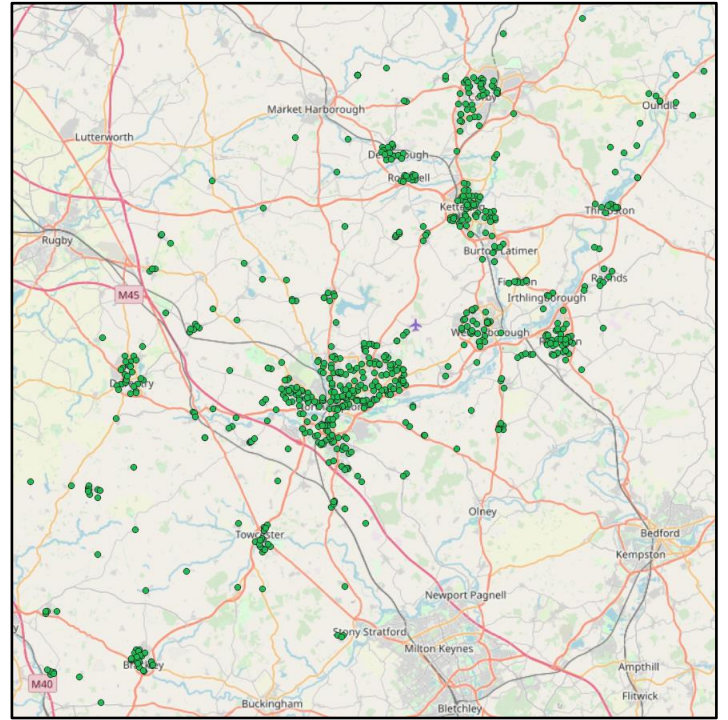
No increase

Police Payment Increase by Location

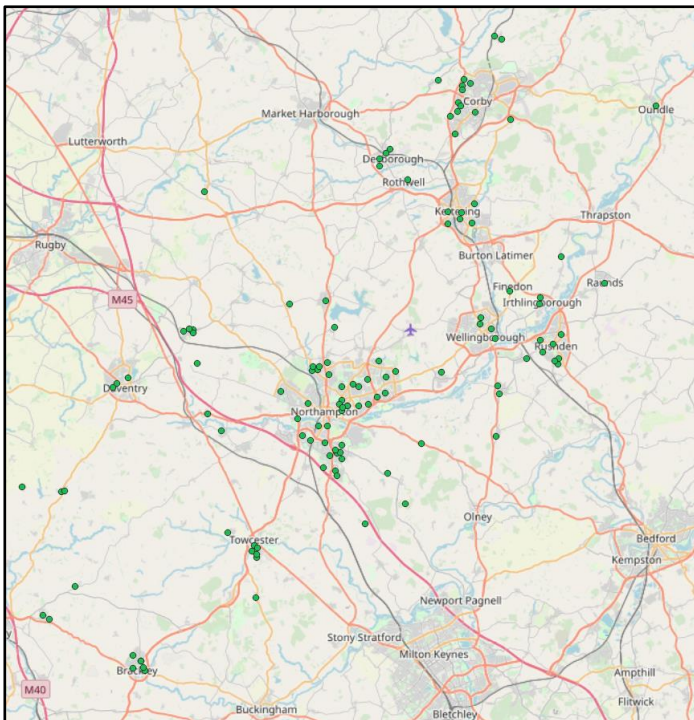
The provided maps outline the locations at which individuals are willing to pay an £X increase in Police Funding.



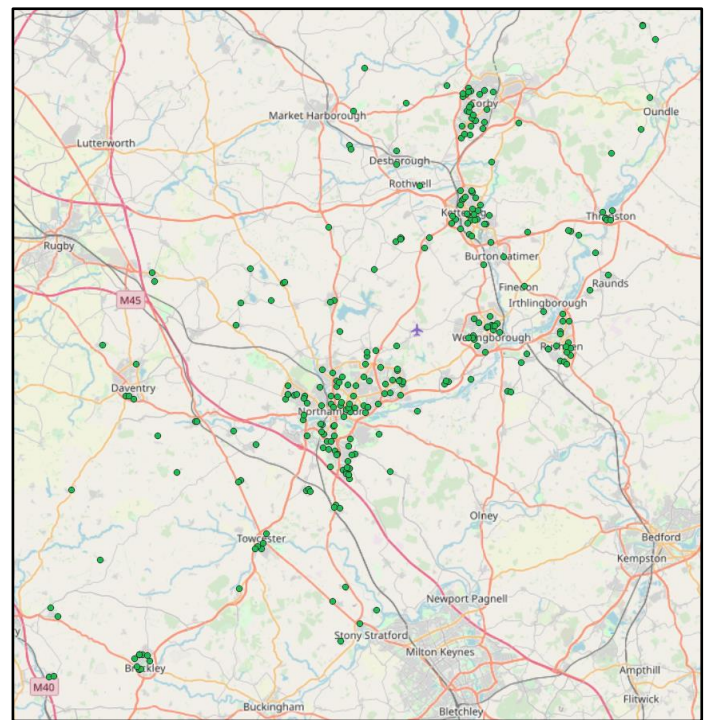
£7 Increase



£12 Increase

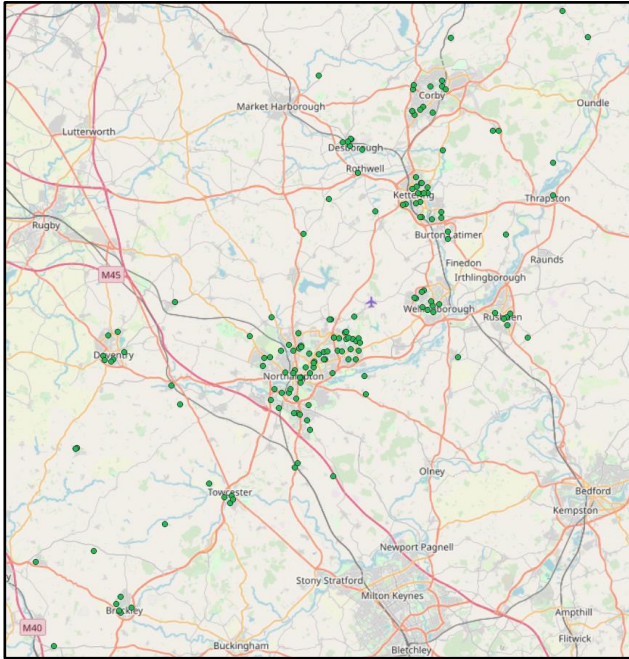


£22 Increase

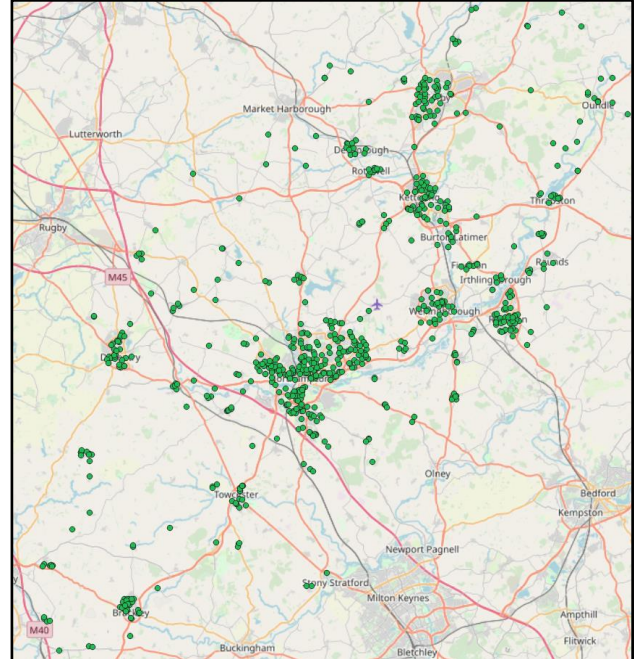


£33 Increase

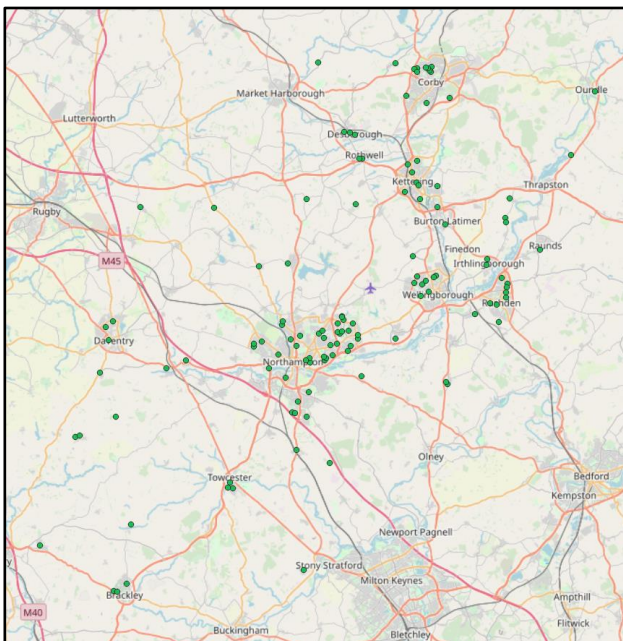
Fire Service Payment Increase by Location



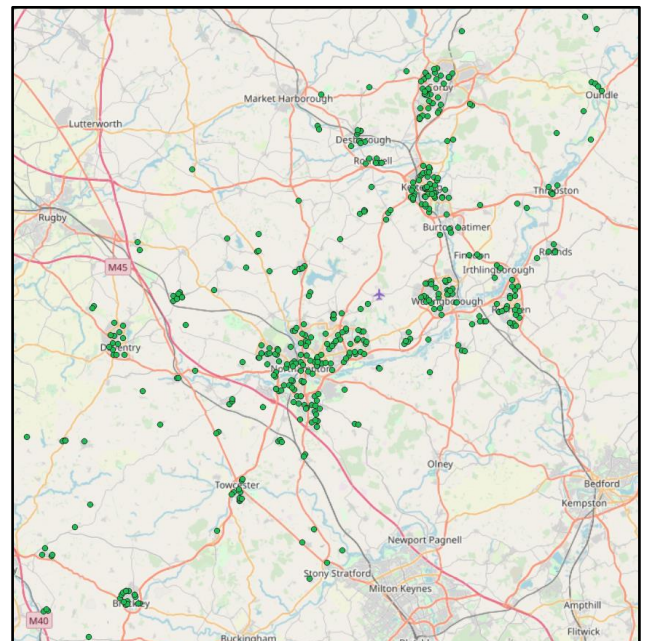
£1 Increase



£2 Increase



£3 Increase



£6 Increase