

Cheshire Fire Authority 2023-24 Precept Consultation

Free text comments



Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service
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www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Introduction

Cheshire Fire Authority undertook a consultation on its proposed increase in its precept for the 2023/2024 financial year. The consultation took place between 22 December 2022 and 23 January 2023. As part of the consultation, respondents were asked to provide any additional comments that they may have.

A total of 339 comments were provided and are included within this document. Please note that comments such as N/A, “nothing further to add” or “no comments” have not been included within the report. In addition, no amendments have been made to correct any error in spelling or grammar within the original comments.

Free Text Comments

- Raising tax is fine, bit please be strategic in use and search for savings - especially for example those that have a combined benefit of savings and for the planet eg reducing energy, fuel and water consumption
- Although I strongly support the additional funding for fire service allowing them to maintain the service they now provide, I feel the government should increase their contribution towards the additional amount of funding required and not expect Council Tax payers to step up and pay any deficit in funding, looking at the economic climate and the way it is affecting most family's financially today.
- In full agreement
- I would prefer not to pay an increase but in these times, I want to make sure that everyone is safe
- Too many people in this country want great services but not pay for them. Totally agree the precept should increase.
- Go for it. We need a decent fire service.
- Does not seem too unreasonable in current economy
- No think the increase would ensure fair pay to all workers whilst maintaining high standards in terms of training, equipment and community support
- I am happy to pay more tax for public services
- somebody has to pay! Given current situation 6% does not seem excessive
- Cheshire Fire and Rescue have helped to control its budget over many years without making inflation busting increases passed on to local council taxpayers each year. So its acceptable increase of around 6% for Band D properties or an extra £5 per year. This Government have created the role of PCC for Cheshire Police. This new role and department is just another way of increasing ways of extracting more local appointed tax collector. The PCC powers of increasing massive increases each and every year beyond the ONS CPI inflation since this role was created. The CF&RS have been excellent in managing their budgets by good management. The same cannot be said by the Cheshire Police Crime Commissioners
- I would willingly pay the extra council tax, to support what I think is an underpaid job for someone who risks their life for the people.
- Everything must be paid for & provided everyone contributes something then I would agree with this
- The proposal is not unreasonable given the current fiscal situation.
- If you are asking for new money I would be happy to pay my share. But not if it comes from other services
- An important service you provide, we need to fund it properly!
- Seem a fair amount for fire cover.
- We are all facing energy cost challenges but safety is of paramount importance for those of us who run into difficulties. The safety and speed of response of our firefighters is vital, so my wife and I support this proposal
- Hopefully, there will be no further rises for a few years. But, fully understand present requirements.

- No I acknowledge the good work that you do and so there is need for enhanced funding.
- Its a no brainer !!
- Important service that needs funding
- all areas are struggling at the moment. i would prefer to pay an extra £5.00 a month myself in council tax (that would go directly to the fire service) than the fire service take it from other needy areas, for instance social care.
- In the current climate I don't think that limiting the increase to 2% is practical, and that is my reason for supporting the larger increase.
- £5 a year isn't going to set the world on fire - pardon the pun. If that is a realistic figure grand - i'd much rather see a value that would allow for a realistic, feasible 5 year plan than small yearly increments
- It seems like a steeper increase than, say, that proposed by police commissioning plans but I do think we need to maintain standards and staff in the fire service too
- Decent services need decent funding and I can afford it
- Rather Fire/Police had more - as long as it went to the force and not as pay for "top staff" or admin.
- I don't see that we can raise the money needed any other way.
- You require an increase in funding to ensure that vital services are maintained. However, this must be equally balanced with the mindset we are in a cost of living crisis, therefore the increase should reflect the demands upon struggling households. You are a vital and important service that we all have the comfort of knowing you are there in our hour of need. We just need to ensure a fair balance at this time. Difficult I know and I fully understand and respect that.
- I am happy to pay more tax for these essential services.
- Should be higher! (I pay band G)
- Hope I never need the service but I'm prepared to pay the increase to retain it
- I would strongly support the Fire Service raising its budget in line with increases in the cost of living, currently 10.7%
- Fully support this increase to keep the service running efficiently.
- It's a fair response to the situation. Thanks for the transparency.
- Everything is going up so it makes sense that your budget needs to
- very worthy increase, fully support
- We are having to make cuts to our standard of living living on a fixed income but still support you
- its a sensible solution to a difficult issue, a reduction in service would be unwise and would have knock on effects, presumably it would impact on the home assessments of the elderly at a time when they are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of increasing energy and other costs, I fully support this.
- I am in favour of paying for the service I may need one day BUT I also am in favour of having the discussion of letting people pay for when they need/use it and the charges would be very expensive.
- THIS IS A SERVICE ONE HOPES NEVER TO USE, A BIT LIKE INSURANCE. WHEN YOU DO IT IS GOOD TO KNOW HELP IS QUICKLY AT HAND AND THAT FEW EXTRA POUNDS COST IS WELL WORTH IT.

- Should be increasing to cover shortfall, not increasing over and above what is required
- Any price increase is clearly value for money, particularly for those who need their direct and immediate help. Thank you for all you do to keep us safe and give us peace of mind. SK9
- I agree with an increase in council tax to support the fire service
- This is a modest increase to protect an important service. Personally I would like to see options as opposed to just a single proposal without any clear outcomes, but I do support what is proposed.
- If we want modern efficient services we have to pay higher taxes etc
- I think that rise is reasonable given the increasing costs faced by CFA. A vital service.
- I want to keep the fire service in my town of Alsager. A £5 rise a year is acceptable for this to continue
- I only support this increase to protect the firefighters jobs and support their pay rise.
- Extremely fair and affordable given current cost of living constraints.
- The service is struggling to maintain its availability of resources as it is, so I am happy to pay a bit more to try to ensure resources are fully available when needed.
- Fund the fire service properly and pay the Firefighters fairly.
- People need to accept that they need to pay a little bit more in tax if they want good public services. Don't moan about workers not being enough if you're not prepared to fund them.
- Support increased funding for Cheshire F&R. We are Band D and happy with the proposed increase.
- Would be happy to pay more, especially to avoid the potential of strikes
- Supported on the basis that no further service reductions occur
- Not enough for the job you do
- A difficult decision to take but one that is necessary to ensure a good level of service
- Small increase for a great service
- This relatively minor considering inflation levels
- Only a minimal increase of the Council Tax is required this year, this winter.
- £5 is a small price for a good service
- It would be a small increase in my Council Tax for the comfort of knowing the service was there if I ever needed it.
- Small increase for the amazing service they provide
- Small price to pay to keep the fire brigade upto scratch
- Not a big increase on an individual household basis
- I think they've done well to manage the priorities but as they haven't had funding since 2014 to invest in their equipment then we should consider a small increase to council tax
- Small annual increase fo fire
- Use money for training and equipment. Don't use it for silly rainbows and such.
- Spend less on diversity issues.
- Further investment is required in attendance standards in rural areas. I am concerned that any increase will not be invested in emergency response

- More concentration on fires and prevention. Less on running youth activities etc which are better dealt with the third sector and local authorities
- Requires more concentration on dealing with fires and protection and less on youth etc activities. Such services are better dealt with third sector and local authority initiatives.
- Because I don't believe it is being spent on what is needed, ie emergency cover.
- Do your core business IN Cheshire No abroad endeavours Cut back on telling public fire safety measures etc
- On call stations not available for cover
- tarporley is an under used station, close it & save money
- Due to wide range of interventions, fires are thankfully much rarer these days. I support the prevention side of your work as a priority.
- Thankfully due to a wide range of interventions, fires are much rarer these days. Maintaining the prevention side of your work is key.
- Thankfully due to a wide range of interventions, fires are much rarer these days. Maintaining the prevention side of your work is key.
- Could some of the money be spent on educating people to be more fire aware? I know this is already offered but maybe it needs to be offered in a more bespoke and individual way. I also think more emphasis is needed on supporting education establishments - more 'prevent' rather than sit in a fire engine and have your photo took?
- I would be in favour of an increase, but only if smaller areas such as Disley, where I live, have better coverage from the fire service. I would not want to pay more to have a worse service
- rather than undertaking the norm of increasing to cover give the managers in each of the departments the suggestion to reassess what is vital and what is a luxury. we understand what would be the ideal however in the instance that this is not available, what do they believe they can make work then anything that has been removed be placed in order of its greatest need or ability to change an operation for the better
- Why does CFRS need to spend money it doesn't have on flags outside its stations
- We need to have the latest equipment and trained professionals to keep us safe the increase is nothing .
- Clarity on exactly how this extra money is spent.
- An increase in council tax, with less and less being spent on frontline and more being spent on apparent box ticking and badge collecting
- My house has had no fire significant fire cover over Christmas due to insufficient staffing - appliances off the run
- If you can't keep fire appliances and special appliances on the run at the moment, can you guarantee availability with this proposed increase?
- As a cheshire resident i am concerned about the deficiencies in staffing, especially at the sharp end of the service...where it really matters, where life and property might be saved. It appears there was a failure to maintain staffing at certain fire stations during the Xmas 2022 period. So any increases in funding in Cheshire needs to be allocated to the front line of the service to ensure fire appliances remain available 24/7 throughout the county....to prioritise the safety of Cheshire residents!
- I have seen a real terms increase year on year, yet am astounded when I hear of fire stations being closed for a night or day shift!

- Too much effort undertaken on non traditional fire service activities that we should not be paying for when we don't want them
- Support dependent on the Authority's plan being able to provide an inflation equally pay rise for staff.
- Make sure the money goes into people's pockets
- The firefighters deserve a pay rise at least in line with inflation
- Increases will probably be used for pay rises which further increases inflation
- I am concerned as to whether it is sufficient given the level of inflation and the need to pay firefighters adequately.
- Use the money to improve fire fighter salaries instead of trying to fund amateurs to do the job when the professionals strike
- Pay support staff the same wage as operational.
- Fire fighters are underpaid for the job they do. We need to pay them for all the risks they take on a daily basis
- Give the staff an actual pay rise instead of an annual pay cut for once.
- Everything needs to be fully funded including wages.
- ALL front line services should be rightly rewarded for the work they do. I have been part of the blue light family for 14 years and we have been systematically overlooked and ignored
- I strongly oppose the increase as Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service must use finances better e.g. 1. Stop the Co-responder scheme that attends medical emergencies as The NHS Ambulance Service is paid for from National Insurance contributions, CF&RS is using the council Tax to pay for the Co-responder service which I consider as a misuse of council Tax and Public Funds. e.g. CF&RS has attended the Pride Event in Manchester wrapping fire engines and other vehicles and buying resources for the events. Manchester is not in Cheshire and the attendance of this event should not be paid for by Cheshire residents, again; a misuse of council Tax and Public Funds.
- precept should be kept to the lowest levels
- You just think we ratepayers are an open door for money gathering. Do like the rest of society has to do live within your income. Shove any increase
- I pay enough
- I think enough is spent on Fire Service
- This is not the time for increases
- I pay more than enough income tax to cover fire services and I wholeheartedly disapprove of these charges being added to my extortionate council tax charges
- I oppose it because we are all having to tighten our belts but it seems you, the council and the Police don't have to and that's not right, it puts more pressure on the unemployed, low income families and people like me who are pensioners, try deferring it for a couple of years until the country gets back on it's feet and stop being so damn greedy.
- We have to all take the strain
- Police and Fire Authority costs should not be going up each year, especially at this time.
- Already pay enough

- Ordinarily I might support this proposal. But unfortunately, the Police will also be trying to get a larger precept and the council will undoubtedly be pushing for the maximum they can get as well. All at a time when my income isn't increasing and the every day cost of living is spiralling out of control. So on this occasion, I'm afraid I can't support this
- 6% increase is far too high
- If the Service is managing to continue to invest in staff and modernise stations etc. without government support since 2014, I can't understand how an increase in taxation is fully justified.
- No increases should be made at present.
- Happier if you don't increase our payments as we all have more to pay.
- It's an excessive rise.
- Already too high and a rip off.
- Stop ripping off long suffering residents. Slash services and staff to keep within budget
- There needs to be staff cuts to balance the books and live within existing budget. Residents are not cash cows to be fleeced by a greedy and poorly managed service.
- We're in a cost of living crisis , so please please please don't increase the council tax
- We all need to suffer any cut backs together
- Cost if living, finding it difficult to pay bills as it is. Make do of what you have.
- Not justified
- We are already paying through the nose for council tax and getting less and less services from them. I object to paying yet more to the fire service, either find a way to save money or get more off central government. Councils can't even empty bins, grit roads or maintain them, they shouldn't fund you too, same as the police they shouldn't get anything from the pot.
- Why should we pay more when you are closing fire stations due to low staff levels.
- No. If you need money to maintain services then fair enough!
- Looking at the assets Cheshire Fire Authority have across the county, can you not be more creative and utilise these better for income generation thereby preventing the need to increase the precept.
- Firstly I'm not sure we're going new appliances. Also the fire service are buying houses local for firefighters. Money can't be that tight?
- To help save money would be to reduce the amount paid to upper management.
- There is possibility for saving within the service that need to be considered firstly
- Council tax is already too expensive, the fire service needs to look at efficiency and making savings that way.
- More money for less fire cover, CFRS needs to cut management wages not increase council tax
- The fire brigade appears to run a very efficient service. However increases in precept should come from the council tax that is already paid not an increase in tax. Pressure should be put on Cheshire East council to stop wasting money so that it can afford to provide a public service.
- Cheshire fire authority has spent millions building new stations across the county and now you want us to pay for it

- The service must be provided as efficiently as possible, most residents are receiving below inflation pay rises and the overall increase to council tax (which is already very expensive) is considerable
- Ask the overpaid chiefs / senior management staff to take pay cuts first, then taxpayer's may be more agreeable
- Cost savings should be made first
- Public Sector costs are increasing beyond what is acceptable or value for money particularly with the cost of living crisis affecting everyone.
- Pay the upper management less and the firefighters more.
- Everyone is trying to budget and maybe the local authority and services should not keep asking for more and more, where do you think pensioners will get it from? We cannot afford to heat our houses yet you lot and the police just take more and more without a thought on how residents are having cope paying all these increases. I suppose I'll have just going to have to cut back on food and heating just to finance you lot then it's disgraceful!
- We are all facing hard times and financial cut backs, the fire brigade should not be any different
- The fire service wastes a fortune. Why don't you stop giving local councillors a buffet every time they come for a meeting?
- The money taken from residents needs to be spent much more wisely and less spent on non core management.
- Yes you should be asking government for more funding and also you should be looking at more ways to cut your own costs. You have gone over budget in recent years with things like maintenance on your fire stations etc
- Have all cost saving opportunities been explored to a point of decision
- The capital expenditure over the last years since 2014 in spite of having no Capital grant calls into question the need for further funds
- Stop wasting money and be more efficient. The council could afford this if they weren't so inefficient
- There is a cost of living crisis, the fire brigade will need to find savings internal
- If the chief fire officer of Cheshire was not paid £168000 there would be more to share for resources and poorly paid fire men who are forced to work 2 jobs to make ends meet
- Yes, there is a cost of living crisis, look for savings and not to add extra costs onto an overwhelmed public
- Agree the employees deserve a pay rise but you need to look at efficiency elsewhere to cover cost or delay some expenditure
- Focus on core fire-fighting activities not woke political issues.
- You need to have better look to see if there are vehicle wraps that aren't needed and removing non-jobs, we all have to cut our cloth match our costs.
- Households are already struggling trying to make ends meet - it definitely time for all agencies to make savings and recognise the ratepayer issues
- I am regularly frustrated to see the regular recruitment of E & D advisors on significant wages and the constant marketing and expenditure for so called pride & BAME PR events! The majority of us that are paying for this do not agree to this pathetic attempt at so called inclusion, it drives inequality when forced on the general public! Before agreeing to this I'd propose a public review into the costings and

expenditure of the E&D PR events and see what the rest of the general public have to say to it! I have recently left the military and whilst serving we had a regular commissioned officers in these positions that were already being paid for serving, wasting funding on this drives me and the majority crazy!

- Might save some money if you turned the lights off in unstaffed fire stations.
- Too many top ranking brass
- Stop wasting money and redirect existing funds into firefighters
- Cheshire is a small county yet has the 6th highest paid Chief Officer in the country? How can this be right as the additional funding seems to be fattening the wallets of the Senior Officers and not the rank and file, stop wasting money on small fire appliances and failed projects like Blue Light Collaboration
- Yet more local taxation that should be funded by central government
- The government should step up and cover the increase. They should also cover the police.
- The government should be lobbied to fund the fire service properly as its our money they spend So more pressure put in government, instead of putting more pressure on the public.
- Great service when we need it and shame on the rotten government for not paying you all properly and funding the service fairly, I support this small increase but can't stand this government anymore
- I'd like to know what other funding is or could be made available ie. Where people pay for the services they use directly
- Government should put more in to make sure we can run our emergency services
- Government should provide but if they won't then we have to.
- The government and their minions must pay you guys properly and fairly for the amazing job you do
- Central govt should be funding shortfall.
- Guarantee it goes to Fire service. And government funding matches the increase too
- none other than tory government should contribute more
- The public can't keep bailing out out national services such as this. Central government have a lot to answer for. You do an amazing job
- I don't feel our council tax should really increase for this reason , as I think the Government should pay for a decent fire service instead of providing luxury hotel accommodation for illegal immigrants. However , I may need the fire service one day so I'm happy to pay a bit extra to help.
- Will we be paying more and getting more from the service, or is this to off set budget cuts from the government...?
- The government should be ashamed of themselves. Unfortunately they want to run public services to the ground in order to have leverage in privatisation
- The government needs to put more funding into the fire service
- While the Govt should be fairly financing public services it isn't and if it's a choice of a little more and protecting key life and death related services, this proposal is better than more cuts.
- Supporting the Fire Authority is a must, whatever the cost. It cannot cut corners where people safety is at risk.
- They are an invaluable service

- Maintaining the existing capabilities of the fire service is essential and continually looking into ways to improve. The lives of the public & the fire service matter.
- It's an essential emergency service
- It's an essential emergency service
- The fire & rescue service are a vitally important part of keeping us safe.
- Vital service
- It's essential we have excellent public services
- This is very difficult to afford but the service is vital and I hope that future increases can be much more limited
- We need these people, they save lives..
- 6% is a significant rise.
- Services already reduced , council tax has massively increased without adding this on
- Given that local tax payers are meeting two-thirds of the cost of the service the Government should not be dictating the maximum amount the authority can seek from its CT payers.
- You should be honest and make it clear this is a 6% increase on Band D - higher than the council will be allowed. It is not long since you returned to a situation of having 3 senior officers paid £100K plus (as well as a vehicle), and the Chief Fire Officer receives more than the CEO of the local council - despite that organisation being many times bigger.
- I am not opposed to an increase, but an increase to 5% for a band D is a little high
- why does the budget have to be one year- if could be better phased over two, hoping inflation reduces over time in particular
- Why weren't you up front in saying that the increase is 6% instead of 2% in previous years? Saying an increase of £5 for Band D is not being up front about the true increase that has been applied across the board.
- Should increase higher bands and reduce lower
- Why is council tax band used as a measure of how often services are utilised and how much residents have to pay? A flat rate would be a fairer method.
- The figures are not clear. I recognise this May be me! Is the £5 per year for Gp. D on top of or instead of the 2% increase. Given the commendable work done on fire prevention have real term savings been achieved over say the last 5 years. I would like to see a report on the results of this consultation & outline of CI work over last 5 years
- They all do a great job in Cheshire
- Keep up the good work
- A service that deserves everybody's support.
- The fire service need a decent budget
- The Fire Service offer an invaluable service and must be supported
- The crews are highly skilled but are only as good as their equipment... We owe it to them to save lives with the best technology available
- Thank you, Cheshire Fire Authority for your continuous fine work.
- We need to ensure that our fire service staff feel they are valued and that they are continuing to provide a first class service.
- I value our fire fighters

- Good luck and thanks for looking after us
- Costs go up, you save lives, you need more money...simple.
- Fire service give a very good service to the community
- Cheshire FRS is an excellent institution - and it needs to remain so.
- A first rate service needs to keep its standards updated
- Lives matter, this includes firefighters
- Our local Parish Council wouldn't increase the precept much over the tough years of lockdown and multiple government induced crises, but eventually it needs to rise so when it rises in relation to inflation it looks even worse... good luck!
- How many more stations will close down?
- I understand the challenges facing public services in general at this time. For transparency purposes I would appreciate a one page summary which breaks down the budget so we have a sense of what the money is required for and the tangible deliverables.
- For Congleton to only have one fire engine and you want to increase prices the town has had thousands of new homes built in last five years or less
- No one owns a chip pan anymore, most fire fighters have second jobs....
- Should be the same amount for each band.
- I think the Fire Service should consider following the American system of amalgamating the Fire and Ambulance Services which would at the very least save on Administrative costs and may even provide a more efficient total service for the public
- It may be too difficult or not allowed to charge more to those on higher bands and therefore lower to those on lower bands.
- A maximum increase of 5% over all bands
- Crewe Town council has put up its tax by 3.45 percent for 2023.
- No fires in my area in living memory
- To All working second jobs and not paying tax
- This could be taken from the Cheshire police and crime commissioner and given to the Cheshire fire authority without an increase in council tax bill for people
- Lack of work generally on a daily basis, make more fire people part time and reduce the top brass wages and hours, they are mere figureheads and a drain on resources.
- Would need to know whether there is any other proposed increase for other services
- We need the fire and rescue service to be able to respond to the needs of Cheshire East's population
- I think the mayoral and Liverpool city region mayoral precepts should be scrapped and given to police and fire
- Yet again there is no specific commitment to improve services in north Cheshire, particularly around the growing Wilmslow, handforth and Alderney Edge conurbations. Most capital investment appears to have gone to Crewe and Chester.
- No, it appears the Authority has made very shrewd financial decisions in recent years to balance savings and investments
- Cost versus benefit. In terms of comparable NHS or flooding cost benefit test it would probably fail.
- We pay extra for the police and the service just gets worse and worse
- Are you avoiding difficult decisions and instead just passing it on to residents?

- I cant afford it I am living on disability money
- I think the proposal probably need to consider the impact this will have on household who are already struggling with cost of living, it may look like a small increase but for some it could mean less for food and heating
- Council tax is the largest bill already and given the current financial situation increases will place an extra burden
- We are all struggling with our finances. I have to think carefully about what to spend my hard earned pension on and I don't receive benefits. Please think sensibly about what the public's money is spent on.
- Whilst I might accept the increase normally for police and fire service the cost of living crisis has highlighted just how little value for money the Council is for its public services
- Every element of council tax seems to be increasing dramtically. Households are already struggling.
- Already struggling with the cost of living without the cost of additional payments for council tax increases
- Once tax etc is taken from pension and there is nothing left then soup kitchens beckon.
- We do need to increase and support as you say but when my income increased I got 1.2% for the year so I am much worse off than others who got greater increases therefore my budget is further stretched with no way of me getting greater pay increases.
- All different authorities 'only increasing its precepts by £5 per year' mount up to a significant increase in council tax overall when many households are already struggling to pay for fuel and food
- Additional increases are coming from every direction on top of compulsory increases in addition to price rises over and above inflation levels !!!!!
- people are having problem paying bill now
- Might as well take more money we haven't got... probably need more fire service as we all gather round angles to keep warm !
- The public are already facing a massively increased tax burden and the government are just seeking to pass any additional funding for the Fire Service (and the Police) by way of increased taxation. The public are not a bottomless pit and the Fire Service should be seeking to make efficiency savings and cut costs, rather than just pass on the funding increase by stealth in a council tax rise.
- You ignore that householders are experiencing a significant impact on their finances. Show you don't care.
- Struggle to pay bills at the moment , so would really struggle to pay this
- All costs of living increases there's only so much we can keep up with! Without us getting pay increase how are we expected to cover these?
- The cost of living, everything is going up and not by a few pence
- Can't keep paying rises for pensioners
- We all have to live in these extremely difficult times and it is difficult enough to pay council tax as it is. My belief all parties should sit down with government and accept a strategy that should be told the community for acceptance. At the moment the community does not have any real say and how they cope is their problem not ours
- No money.

- Some of us are on finite means. We cannot just magic money out of thin air for price increases.
- affordability for council tax payers on top of other increases
- I could not guarantee my support for another increase next year and I'm mindful of the struggle pensioners and young people are facing under current rates. How Congleton rate payers face higher charges than any other part of Cheshire East is a disgrace given the poor state of the town centre.
- Council tax is on the verge of becoming unaffordable. You have to take all the other rises (police, council, parish council, etc) into account, how can anybody afford these tax rates? If all these rises go ahead the fire service staff will get a pay rise in exchange for our ability to survive decreasing.
- too expensive
- The service has been reduced, we are constantly paying more for less.
- everyone needs to stop striking and realise where we are as a nation. we need to make cuts. we can't afford it
- Despite a 10% increase in pensions I will be considerably out of pocket, before considering council tax let alone the add on extras of the police, fire services etc. Everyone is going to have to tighten their belts.
- Every one is under extreme pressure financially.
- Wake up and look around. Households do not have an endless pot of money.
- Cost of living crisis. Police have also requested an increased budget. As elderly pensioners its very difficult to keep approving rising rates charges.
- The public can't afford the increase, I'm not getting a pay increase to fund all of these increases in everything
- In the present economic climate it's hard to justify the increase
- Cost of living is already too high. The Cheshire East have already raised the council tax therefore they should be giving extra to the fire service NOT the general public.
- Cost of living squeeze is hitting us all. Along with police trying to up their precept we have this as well, not acceptable
- Council tax bill already not affordable and poor value for money.
- In isolation the increase may be palatable, however with a significant increase in other areas of council tax highly likely, it is not appropriate or the right time to increase this specific element.
- Families are already struggling to make ends meet, another increase would put detriment to their overall health.
- Council tax is going to rise so why should we pay even more on top
- why is the chief officer on 168k and the service has 20 million in reserves yet is asking for more money from hard up local residents during a cost of living crisis
- Cost of living, all other agencies want to increase their share also i.e police, council,
- Where do you propose people will get this extra money from?
- I can understand they need more money but I can't afford to pay more money
- Tax rise after Tax rise after tax rise. Call it what you want but for those of us on limited incomes with no increases this is just another disaster. No increases in wages for years and because you cannot work within your own budgets you just want to pick our pockets.

- We cannot continue to be taxed more and more and yet receive no greater service for it. Did the fire station in Crewe really need replacing right now given the current financial situation? At a time when construction costs are at the highest level ever?
- Every area which receives council funding is being severely impacted, if this goes ahead it sets a precedent for other areas to do so too meaning even higher taxes for already struggling households and fails to recognise the bigger picture
- We can't afford paying more tax, this would result in struggling even more to pay bills, mortgage and food
- We think this needs resolving internally as the general public can't afford any more increases
- My wages are not increasing with all the additional costs of the Council, Police & Fire.
- With the current cost of living crisis we can't afford any more increase in bills. Most of us are struggling already ... we can't afford it
- Enough is enough of rises every single year when frontline delivery is still unsustainable retained delivery
- I'm struggling to afford my bills as they are, so I really really can't afford any increase at all
- People have no money. Lobby central government instead of always expecting normal families to plug the gap
- How many more things do the public need to pay more for. It's beyond a joke