

Precept Research Survey 2024

Prepared for: Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
10/12/2024
v1.0



Sample | Over 2,500 residents of Sussex aged 18+ participated in the survey in 2024

Dimension	ONS Population Estimate mid-2023	Estimated distribution of the Population of Sussex (From ONS data)	Volume of Actual Completes achieved so far	Confidence Interval Achieved	% of overall Actual Sample
County					
Sussex	1,394,235	100.00%	2,524	±1.95	
Age Band					
18-34	327,276	23%	595	±4.02	24%
35-49	317,830	23%	527	±4.27	21%
50-64	358,371	26%	665	±3.8	26%
65+	390,758	28%	737	±3.61	29%
Gender					
Male	666,059	48%	1,194	±2.84	47%
Female	728,176	52%	1,296	±2.72	51%
Local Authority and District					
Eastbourne	82,835	6%	225	±6.53	9%
Hastings	72,450	5%	194	±7.04	8%
Lewes	81,785	6%	162	±7.7	6%
Rother	78,505	6%	133	±8.5	5%
Wealden	132,404	9%	194	±7.04	8%
Adur and Worthing	142,373	10%	277	±5.89	11%
Arun	137,758	10%	222	±6.58	9%
Chichester	103,991	7%	179	±7.32	7%
Crawley	91,146	7%	183	±7.24	7%
Horsham	118,563	9%	216	±6.67	9%
Mid Sussex	121,314	9%	213	±6.71	8%
Brighton and Hove	238,400	17%	326	±5.43	13%
Social Grade Census 2021					
ABC1	773,883	56%	1,617	±2.56	65%
C2DES	620,352	44%	863	±3.52	34%

2,524 fully completed surveys were achieved, 372 more than in 2023; delivering an extremely robust total sample Confidence Interval of ±1.95. To put this in context, most nationwide surveys reported in the national media operate off wider Confidence Intervals of ±3.00 to ±4.00.

Confidence Interval & Confidence Level

A Confidence Interval of ±1.95 means that had we been able to survey **every** resident of Sussex, the answer to a given question would fall within ±1.95 percentage points of our actual research result (in either direction) on 95 occasions out of 100 (the Confidence Level).

The survey fieldwork was conducted online between Wednesday 13th November and Sunday 8th December 2024.

Precept question | How public opinion was gathered

HABIT5



Crime and Policing Survey 2024

Message from Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Dear Resident,

As Police and Crime Commissioner my role on your behalf, is to hold the Chief Constable of Sussex Police to account for the performance of her Force, effectively making the police answerable to the people they serve.

I am in the process of writing my new Police & Crime Plan which sets the strategic direction and priorities for Sussex Police across the next four years. This includes setting the police budget and local police precept – the amount you pay for policing in your council tax.

In order to make informed decisions, I need to understand the views, opinions and experiences of Sussex residents like yourself and this survey represents a key element of my programme of public consultation on crime and policing. The results from this survey will inform my recommendations on the local police precept for the financial year 2025/26.

The survey should take around five minutes to complete and will help to ensure that as a Sussex resident you benefit from the policing that you rightly expect and deserve.

Please click the 'Start' button below to begin completing the survey.

Thank you for your input and assistance with this research. I look forward to hearing your views and reviewing the results.

Yours sincerely

Katy Bourne OBE

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner



Crime and Policing Survey 2024

Questions marked with a * are required

* Sussex Police Funding 2025/26

In the next financial year Government funding is not expected to increase. This will leave a financial gap that we need to cover to balance the books and to maintain and improve our vital services. In addition, despite the increased number of police officers, crime continues to grow.

To effectively investigate more of these crimes and bring offenders to justice, we require more police officers and we need your continued support.

Therefore, would you support a modest increase in your council tax, to allow us to:

- Recruit more police officers so we can investigate more crimes and catch criminals
- Invest in technology - to improve operational efficiency and response times

Your feedback is crucial and will help us to shape the future of policing in Sussex.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the Precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26.

- I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month (€21 extra per year for an average Band D property)
- I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month (€15 extra per year for an average Band D property)
- I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month (€10 extra per year for an average Band D property)
- I do NOT support any increase in council tax
- I am exempt from paying council tax

Next

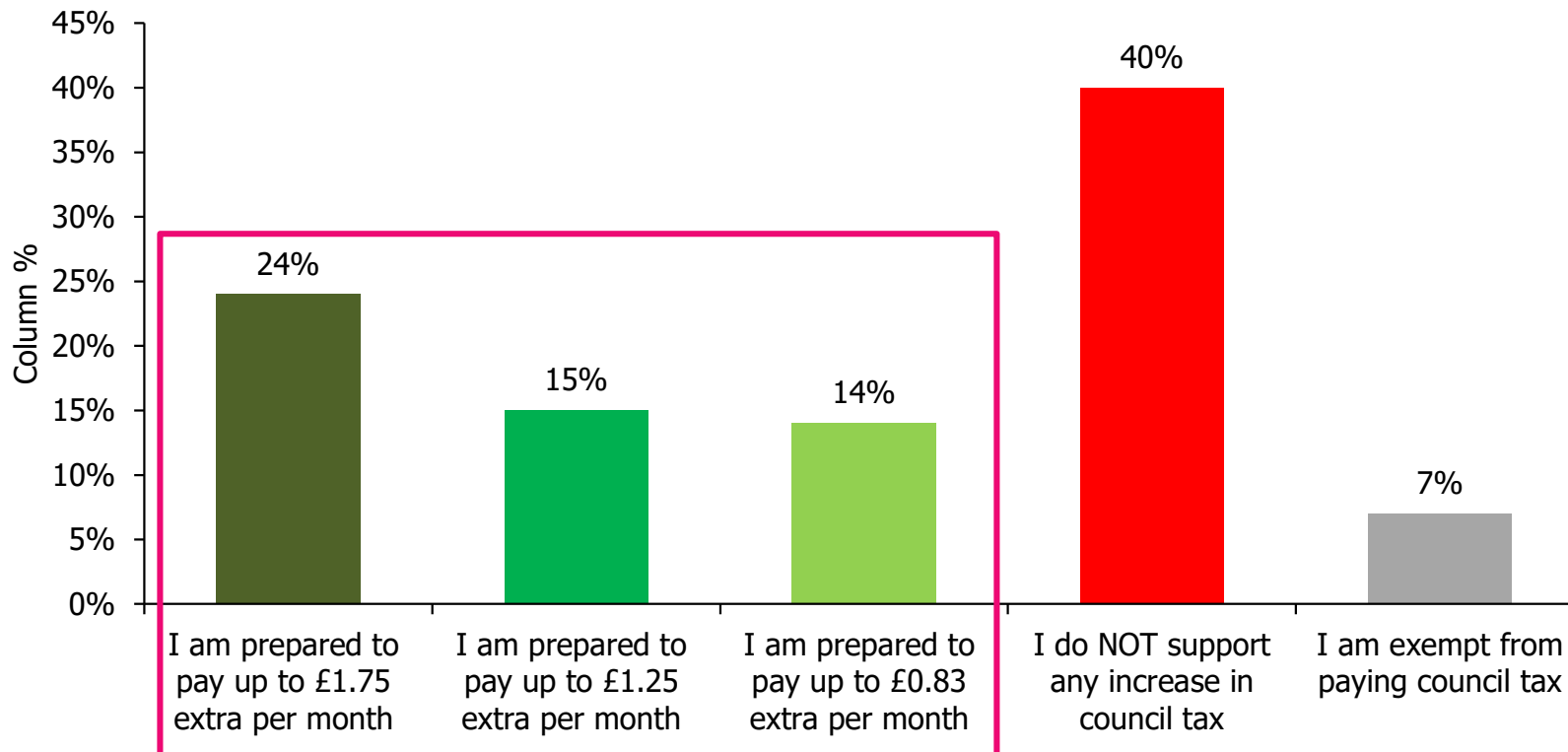
The survey was entitled 'Crime and Policing Survey 2024' and was assigned to the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, whilst being independently conducted by Habit5.

The Precept question was contextualised and worded as represented in the righthand image on this slide.

OUTSTANDING
UNDERSTANDING™

Precept question | 53% of all residents participating in the survey support some level of increase, with 40% opposing any increase and 7% exempt from paying council tax.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the Precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | Exempt included

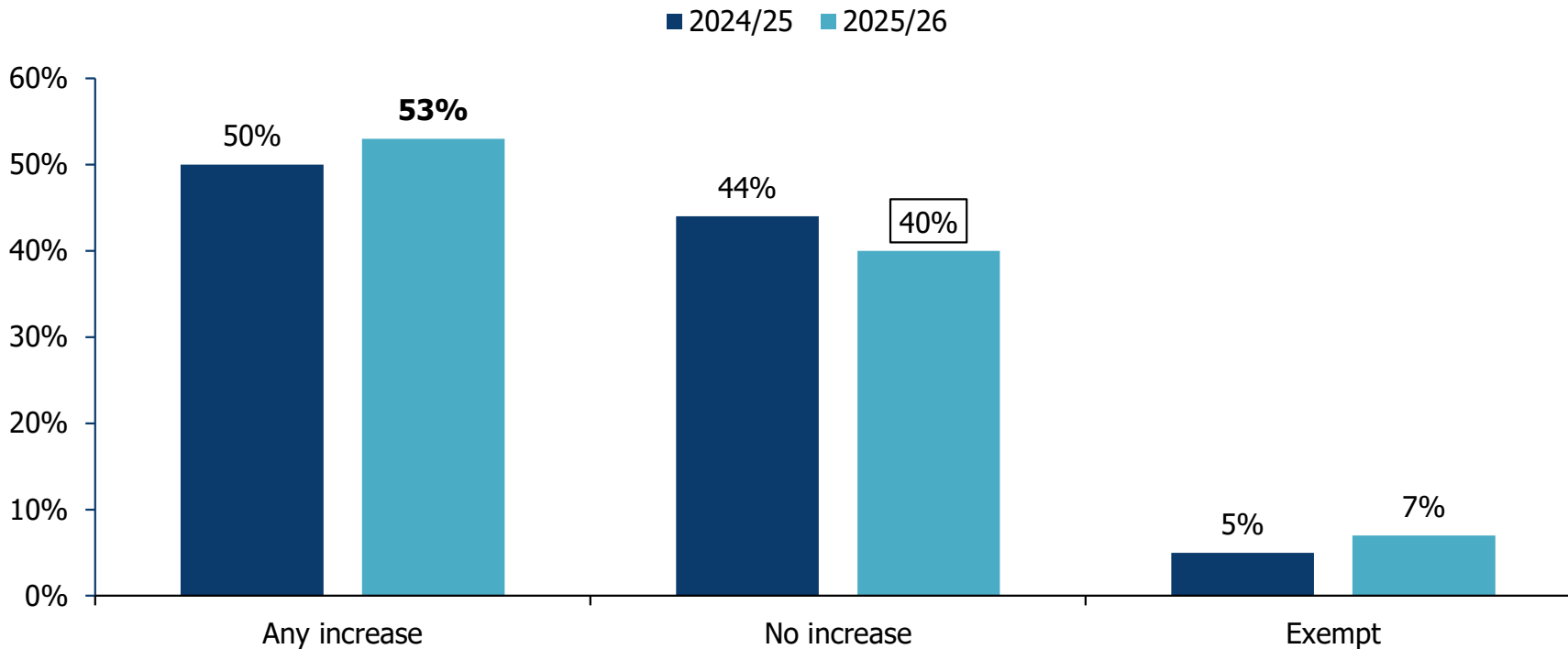


Just under a quarter (24%) of the residents participating in the survey, indicated a preparedness to pay the highest level of proposed increase – up to £1.75 extra per month.

Base: I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month (n=601), I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month (n=380), I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month (n=355), I do NOT support any increase in council tax (n=1,015), I am exempt from paying council tax (n=173), Sample Size = 2,524

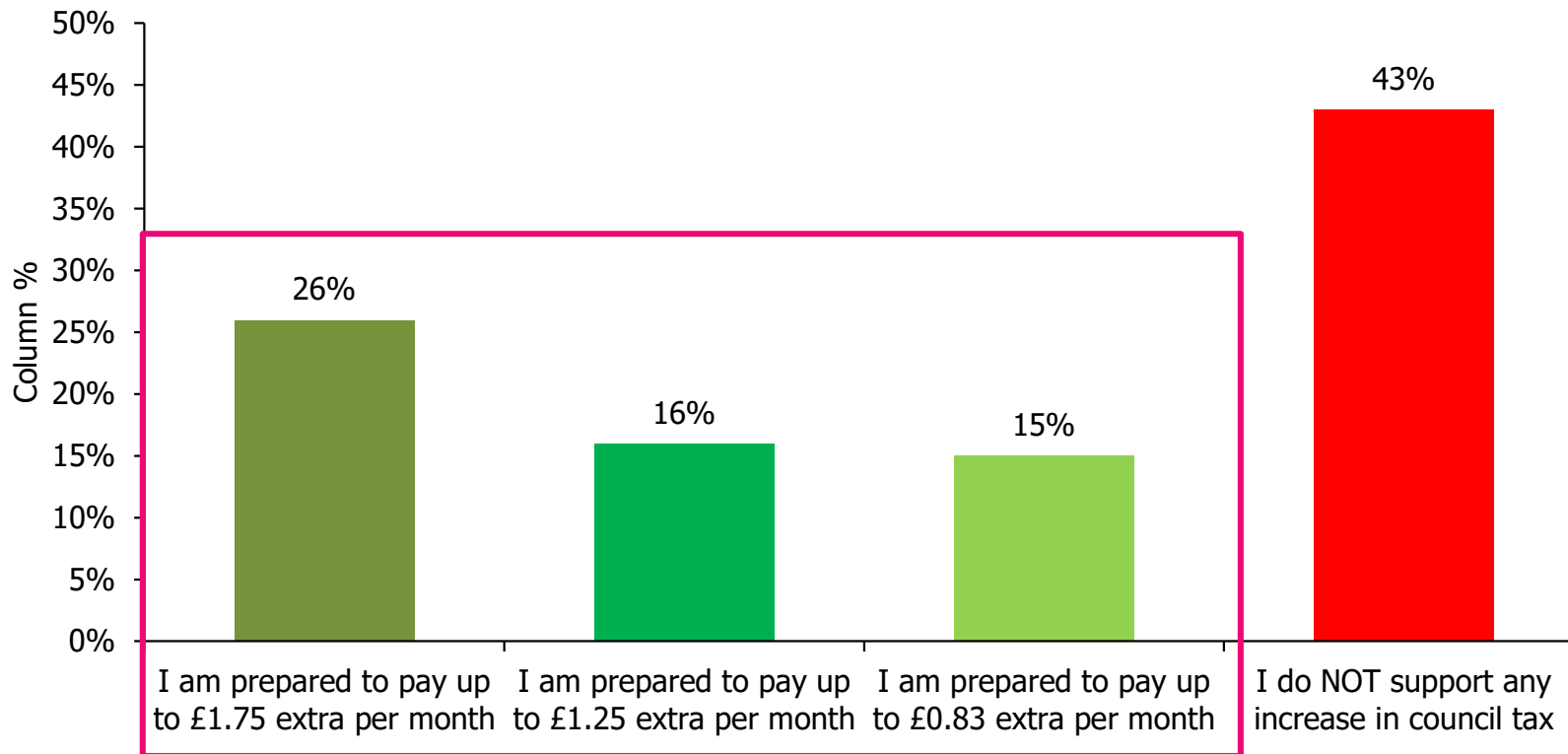
Precept question | The proportion of residents indicating a preparedness to pay an increased amount, has risen by +3% year-on-year, from 50% last year to 53% this year.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the Precept in the forthcoming financial year 202X/202Y | By Survey Year – Exempt included



Precept question | 57% of council taxpayers (e.g. Exempt excluded) support an increase, with 43% opposing such a move.

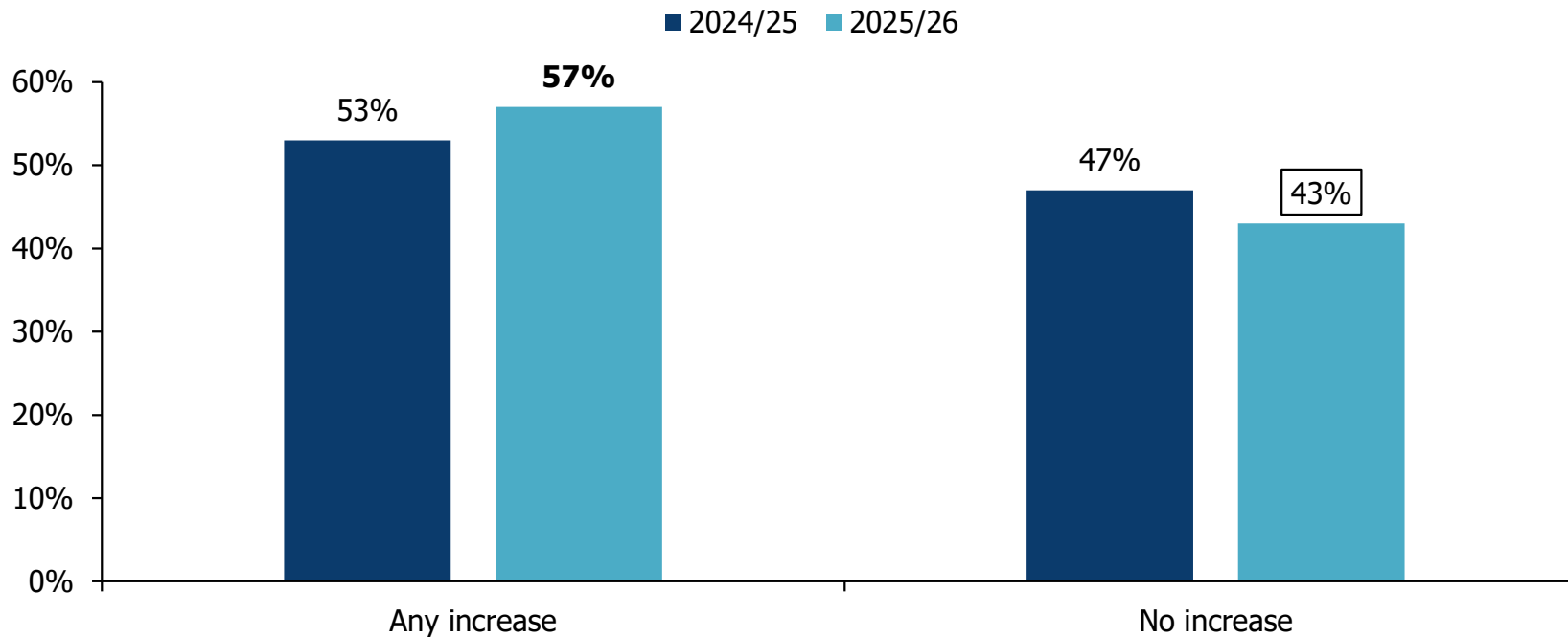
Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the Precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | Exempt excluded



Base: I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month (n=601), I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month (n=380), I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month (n=355), I do NOT support any increase in council tax (n=1,015), Sample Size = 2,351

Precept question | The proportion of council taxpayers supporting some level of increase has risen by +4% year-on-year, with those opposing such an increase falling by the same amount.

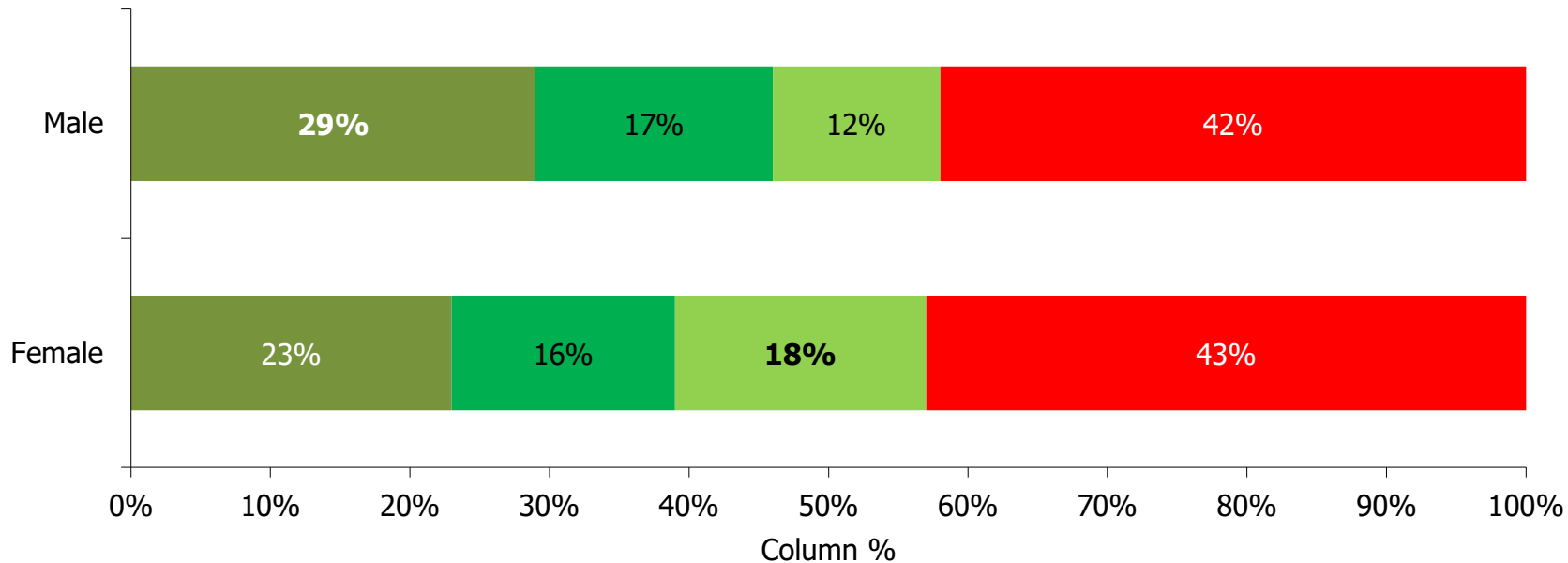
Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the Precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | Exempt excluded



Precept question | As was the case last year, a markedly higher proportion of males (+6%) select the largest increase presented, with comparatively more of the female participants selecting the lowest level of increase presented (+6%).

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | By sex excluding exempt

- I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month
- I do NOT support any increase in council tax



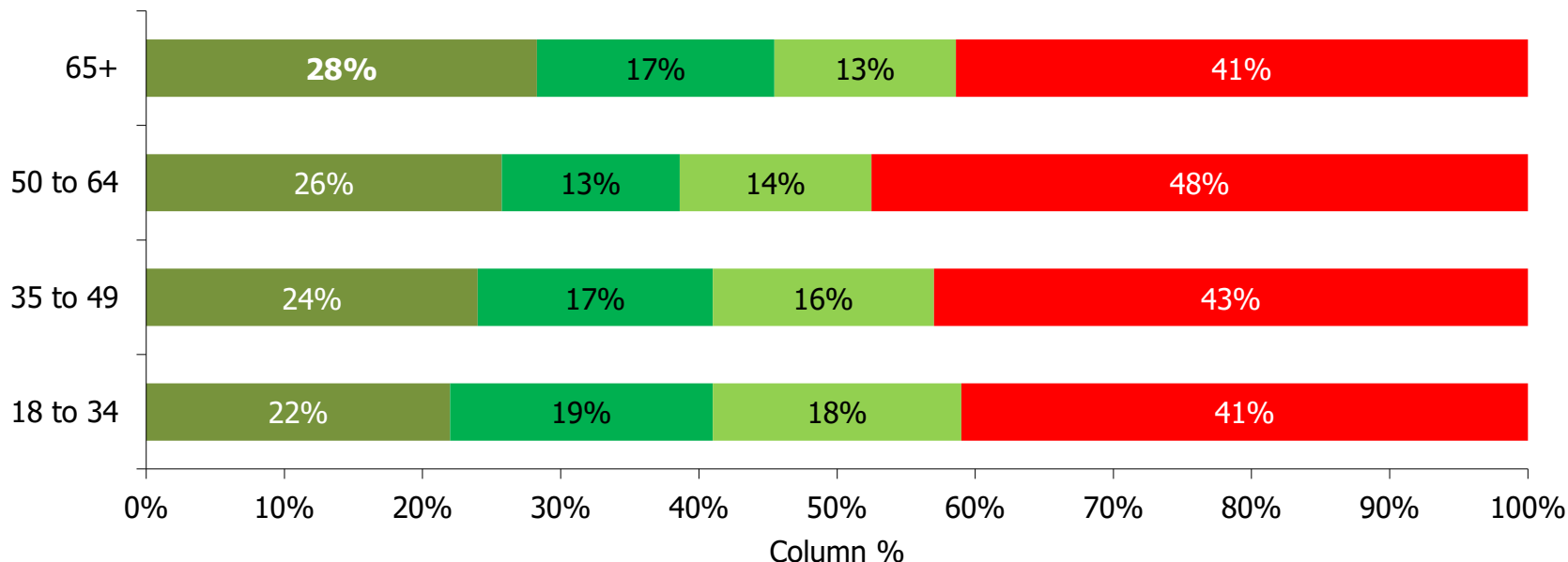
Base: Female (n=1,189), Male (n=1,131), Non binary / third gender (n=8), Prefer not to say (n=23), Prefer to self describe (n=NaN), Sample Size = 2,351

NB We only chart results for participant segments greater than 40 individuals, to avoid statistical instability.

Precept question | As was the case last year, propensity to pay the highest incremental amount, increases with the age of participant, peaking at 28% among the 65+ cohort.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | **By age band** excluding exempt

- I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month
- I do NOT support any increase in council tax



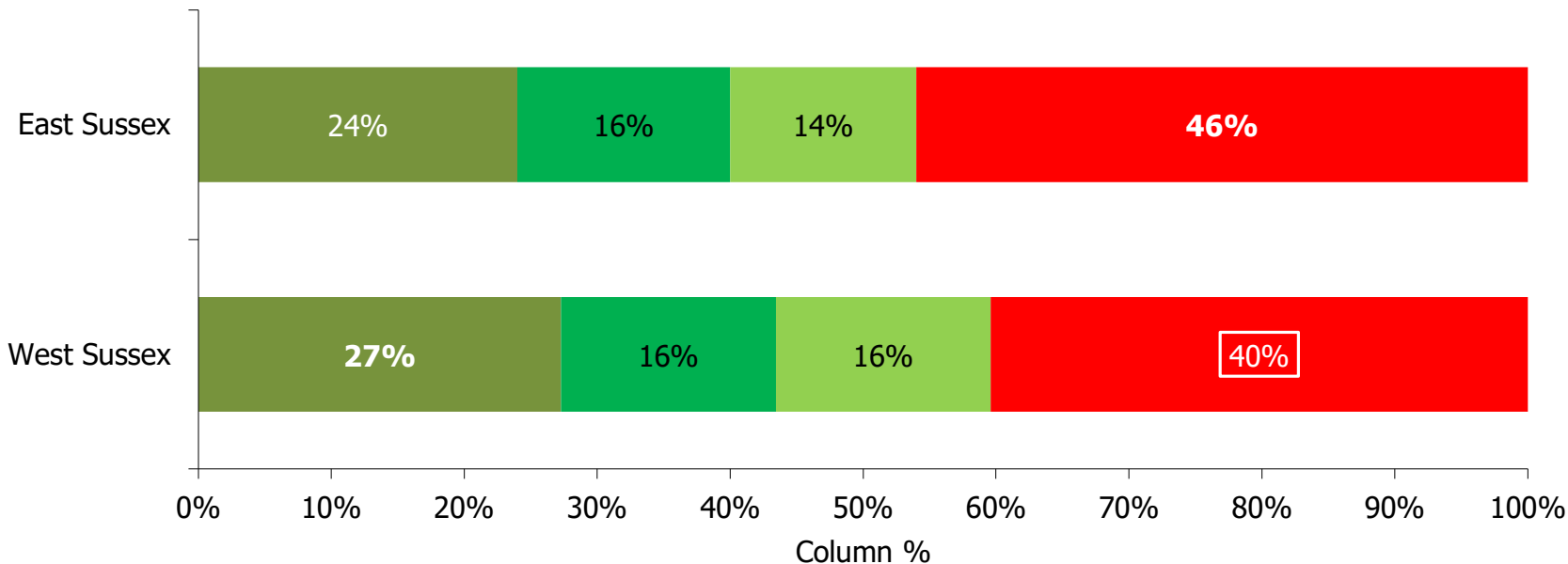
Opposition to supporting any increase would appear to have fallen year-on-year by -7% to 43% among 35-49 year-olds, and by -9% to 41% among 18-34 year-olds, whilst being largely unchanged amongst residents aged 50+.

Base: 18 to 34 (n=522), 35 to 49 (n=495), 50 to 64 (n=631), 65+ (n=703), Sample Size = 2,351

Precept question | As last year, residents of West Sussex continue to be more widely prepared to pay extra (+6%) and also more likely to choose the highest increase (+3%), than are their peers in East Sussex.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | By geography excluding exempt

- I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month



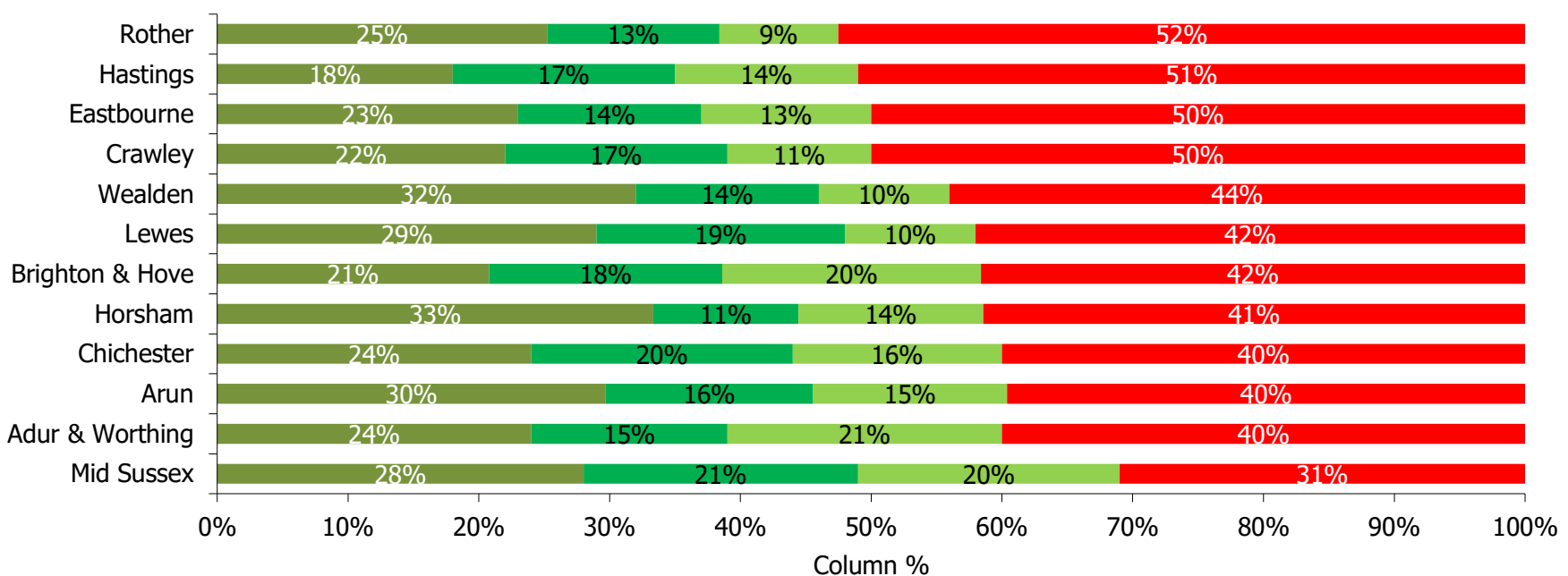
NB **Bold** text for data is used to denote a significantly higher level than for other segments and/or an increase year-on-year. A box around data is used to denote a significantly lower level than for other segments and/or a decrease year-on-year.

Base: West Sussex (n=1,213), East Sussex (n=1,138), Sample Size = 2,351

Precept question | 50%+ of council taxpayers participating in the survey who are resident in: Rother (52%), Hastings (51%), Eastbourne (50%) and Crawley (50%), do **not** support any increase in council tax.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | **By local authority** excluding exempt

- I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month
- I do NOT support any increase in council tax



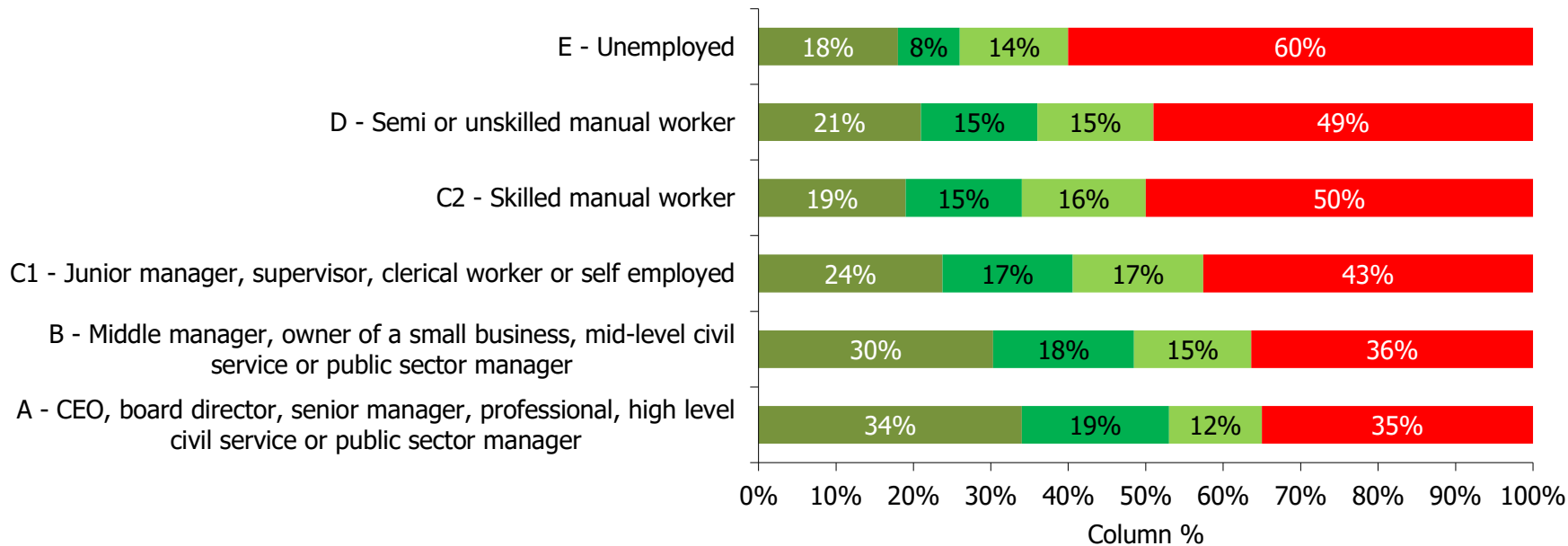
Conversely, 69% of the residents of Mid Sussex are prepared to pay more, with 49% of them willing to pay £1.25 extra per month or more.

Base: Adur & Worthing (n=257), Arun (n=205), Brighton & Hove (n=294), Chichester (n=168), Crawley (n=175), Eastbourne (n=214), Hastings (n=169), Horsham (n=201), Lewes (n=150), Mid Sussex (n=207), Rother (n=128), Wealden (n=183), Sample Size = 2,351

Precept question | Opposition to paying anything extra per month has increased very slightly in 2024, among the Unemployed segment (+2% to 60%).

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | By Socio Economic Group (SEG) excluding exempt

- I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month
- I do NOT support any increase in council tax



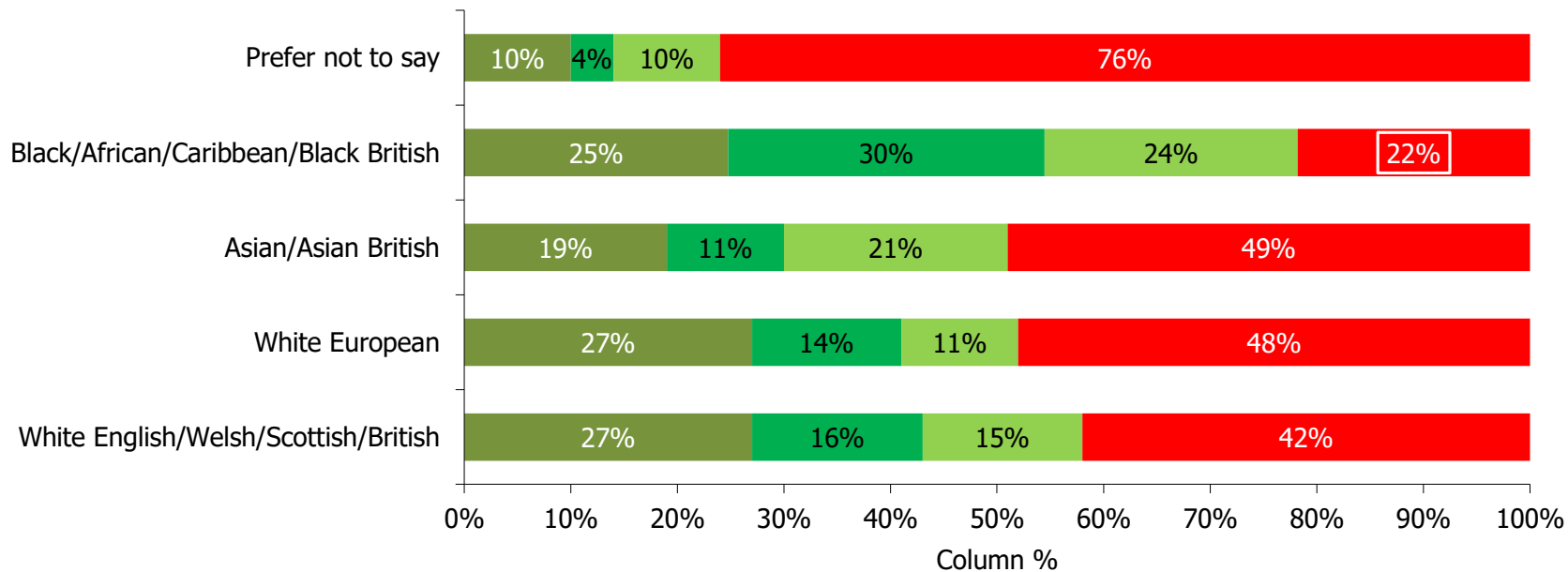
Whereas, opposition to paying an extra amount per month has fallen year-on-year among the upscale segments A (-8% to 35%) and B (-5% to 36%).

Base: CEO, board director, senior manager, professional, high level civil service or public sector manager (n=344), Middle manager, owner of a small business, mid-level civil service or public sector manager (n=692), Junior manager, supervisor, clerical worker or self employed (n=527), Skilled manual worker (n=397), Semi or unskilled manual worker (n=194), Unemployed (n=170), Full time or part time student in higher or further education (n=27), Sample Size = 2,351

Precept question | The pre-existing gap between the willingness of council taxpayers with Black ethnicity to pay extra (78%) versus those identifying as Asian (51%) has widened further in 2024 by +20%, to a margin of +27%.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | By ethnicity excluding exempt

- I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month
- I do NOT support any increase in council tax



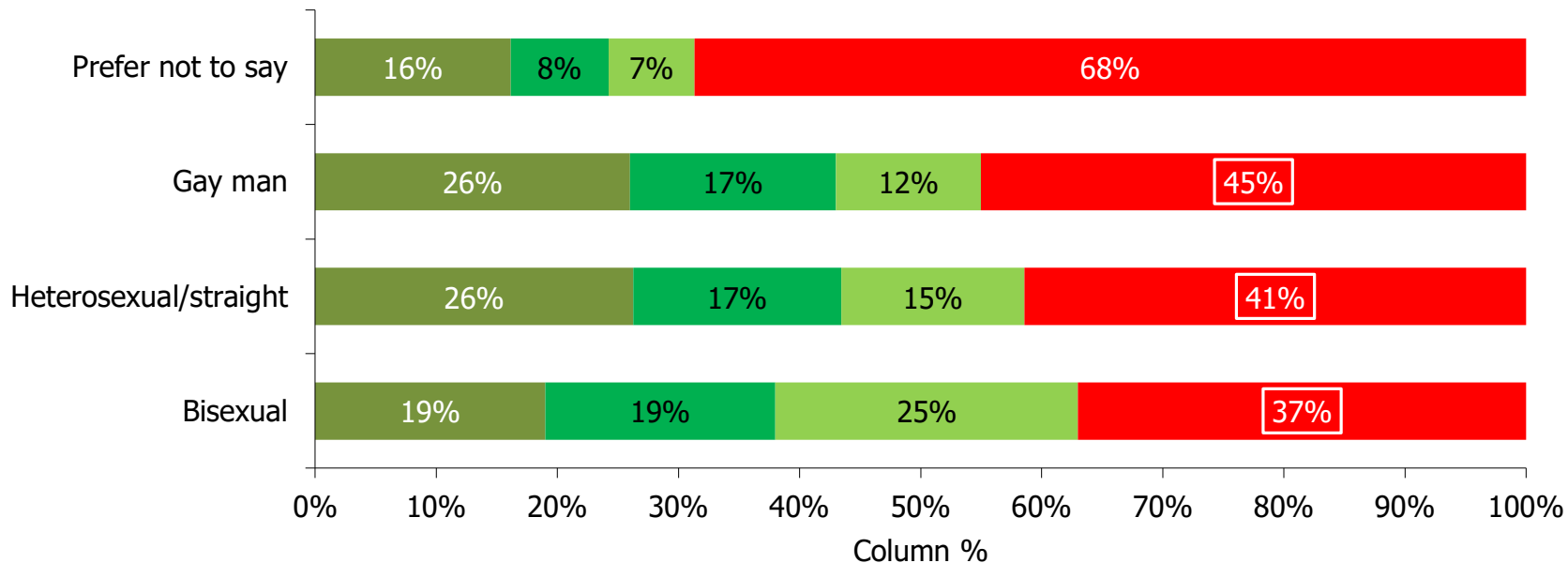
Base: White English/Welsh/Scottish/British (n=1,931), Mixed/multiple ethnic groups (e.g. White and Black African or White and Asian) (n=33), White European (n=120), Asian/Asian British (n=57), Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (n=106), Other ethnic group (E.g. Arab) (n=10), Prefer not to say (n=90), Sample Size = 2,347

Council taxpayers of White...British ethnicity are +4% more widely accepting (58% v 54%) of an increase, than was the case in 2023.

Precept question | Propensity to accept some level of increase in the precept has risen year-on-year by +7% among Bisexuals, +4% among Heterosexuals and +10% among Gay men.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | By Sexual Orientation **excluding exempt**

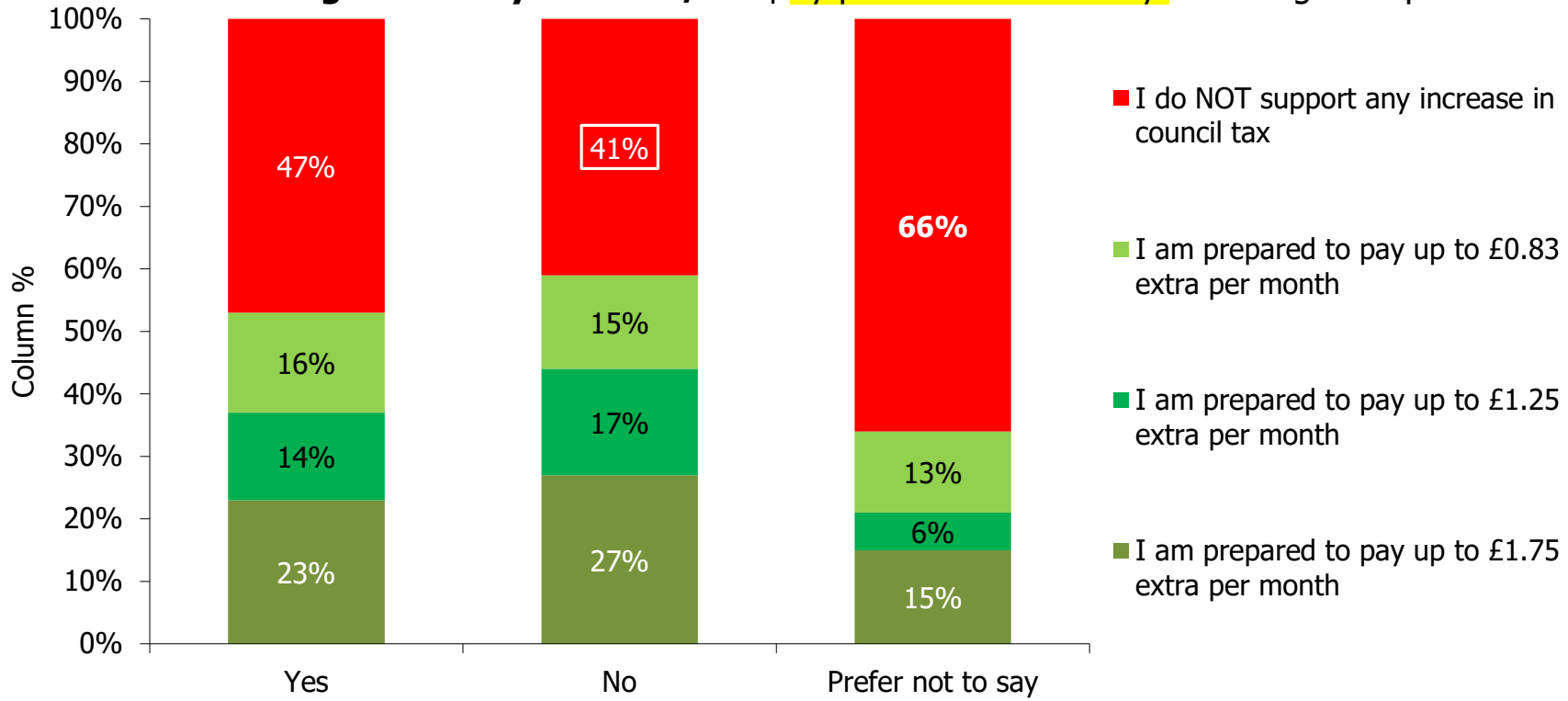
- I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month
- I do NOT support any increase in council tax



Base: Bisexual (n=100), Heterosexual/straight (n=1,954), Gay man (n=58), Gay woman/Lesbian (n=30), Prefer not to say (n=189), Other (n=13), Sample Size = 2,344

Precept question | At 47%, opposition to any increase in council tax is unchanged year-on-year among council taxpayers with a disability but down by -5% among those without a disability.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | **By presence of disability** excluding exempt

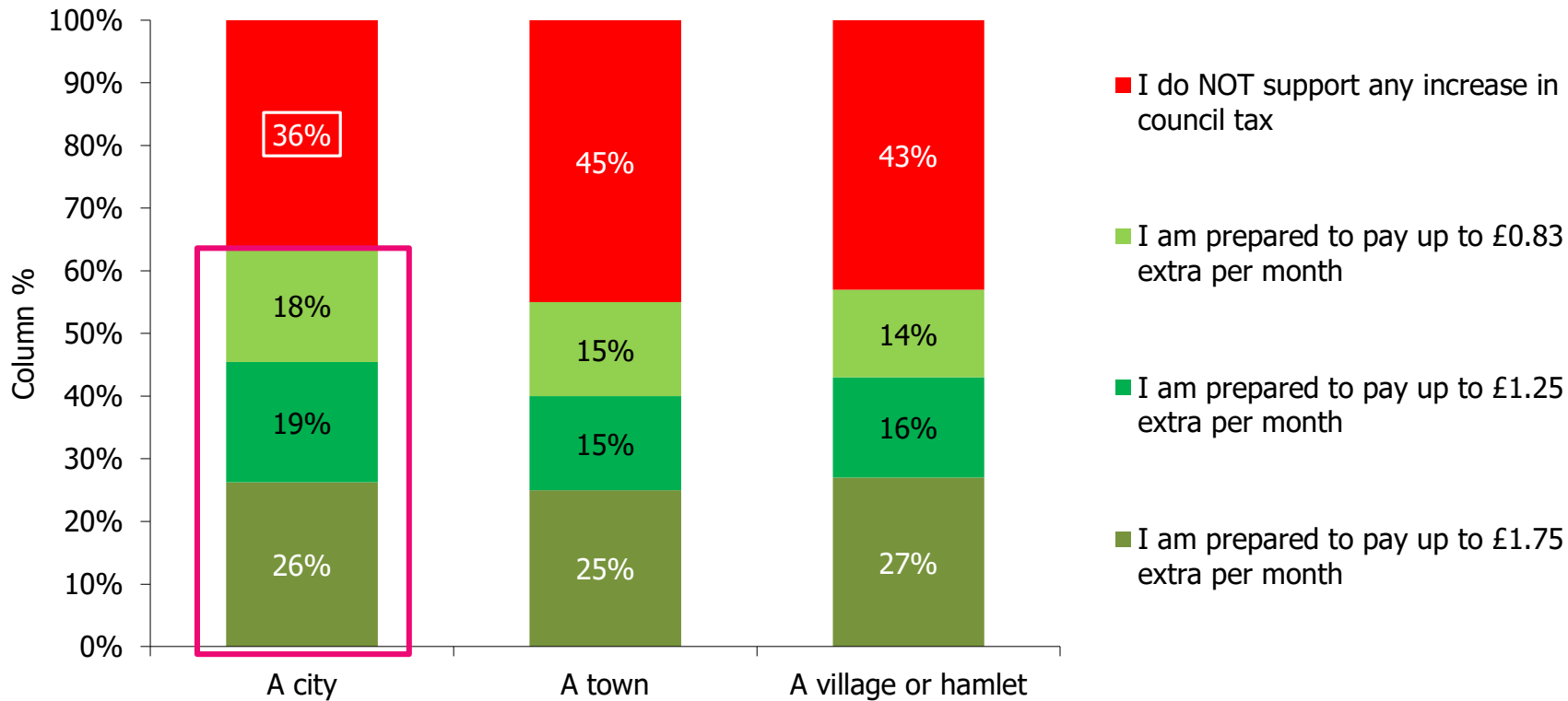


Opposition to any increase has risen by +7% to 66% among the sizeable minority who prefer not to say whether they have a disability or not.

Base: Yes (n=390), No (n=1,831), Prefer not to say (n=125), Sample Size = 2,346

Precept question | Opposition to any form of increase has fallen in each of the main places of residence, with town dwellers at (45% down -4%) still the least predisposed.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | By place of residence excluding exempt

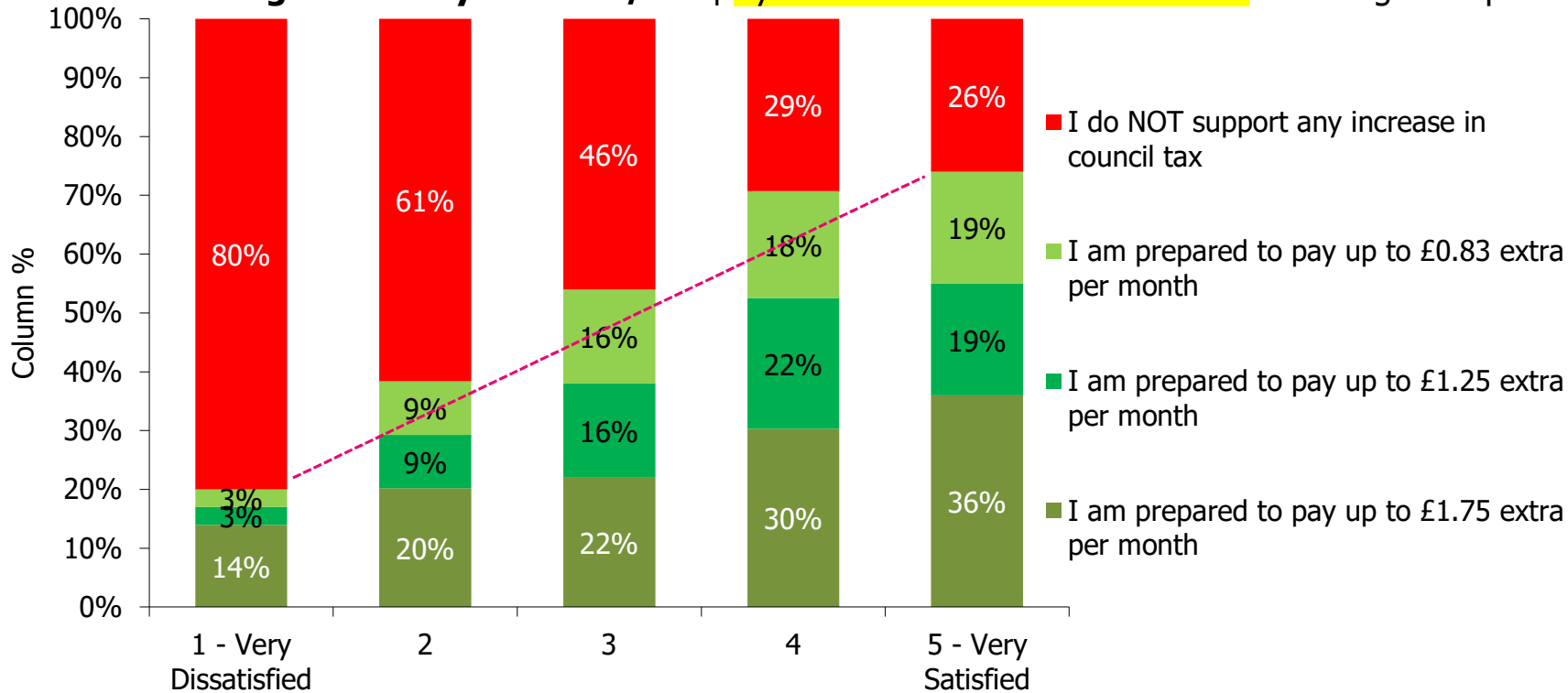


City dwellers continue to be the council taxpayers most widely inclined to be prepared to pay extra, with their willingness to do so increasing by +5% year-on-year to 64%.

Base: A city (n=377), A town (n=1,431), A village or hamlet (n=512), An isolated dwelling (n=21), Other (n=10), Sample Size = 2,351

Precept question | The relationship between satisfaction with Sussex Police and preparedness to pay extra is even more marked in 2024, with 74% of the 'Very Satisfieds' prepared to pay more versus only 20% among the 'Very Dissatisfieds'.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | **By satisfaction with Sussex Police** excluding exempt

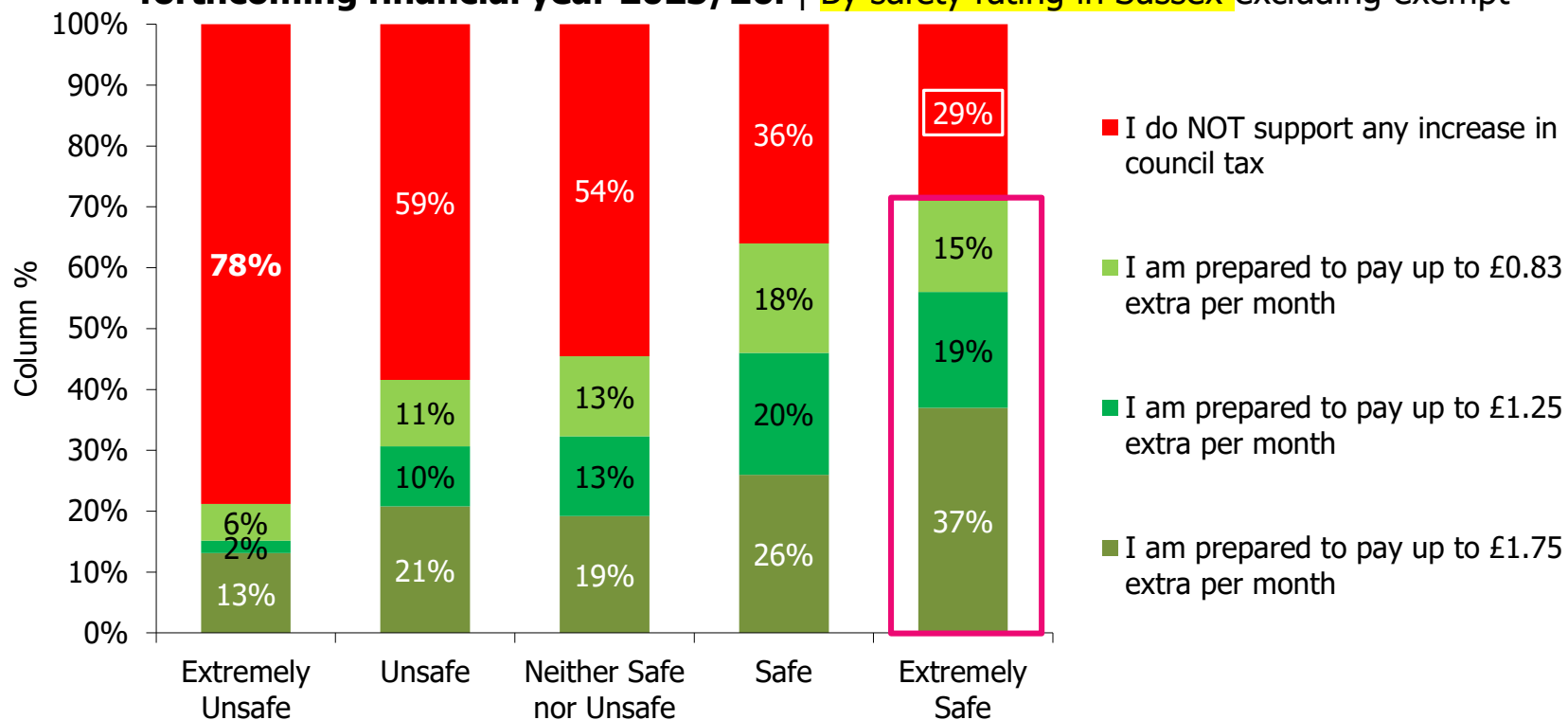


Base: 1 - Very Dissatisfied (n=238), 2 (n=280), 3 (n=757), 4 (n=739), 5 - Very Satisfied (n=337), Sample Size = 2,351

Majority support for some level of increase per month, only emerges among those rating their satisfaction with Sussex Police at 3/5 or higher.

Precept question | 78% of the council taxpayers participating, who generally feel 'Extremely Unsafe' in Sussex oppose any increase, whereas 71% of the segment who feel 'Extremely Safe' support an increase.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | By safety rating in Sussex excluding exempt



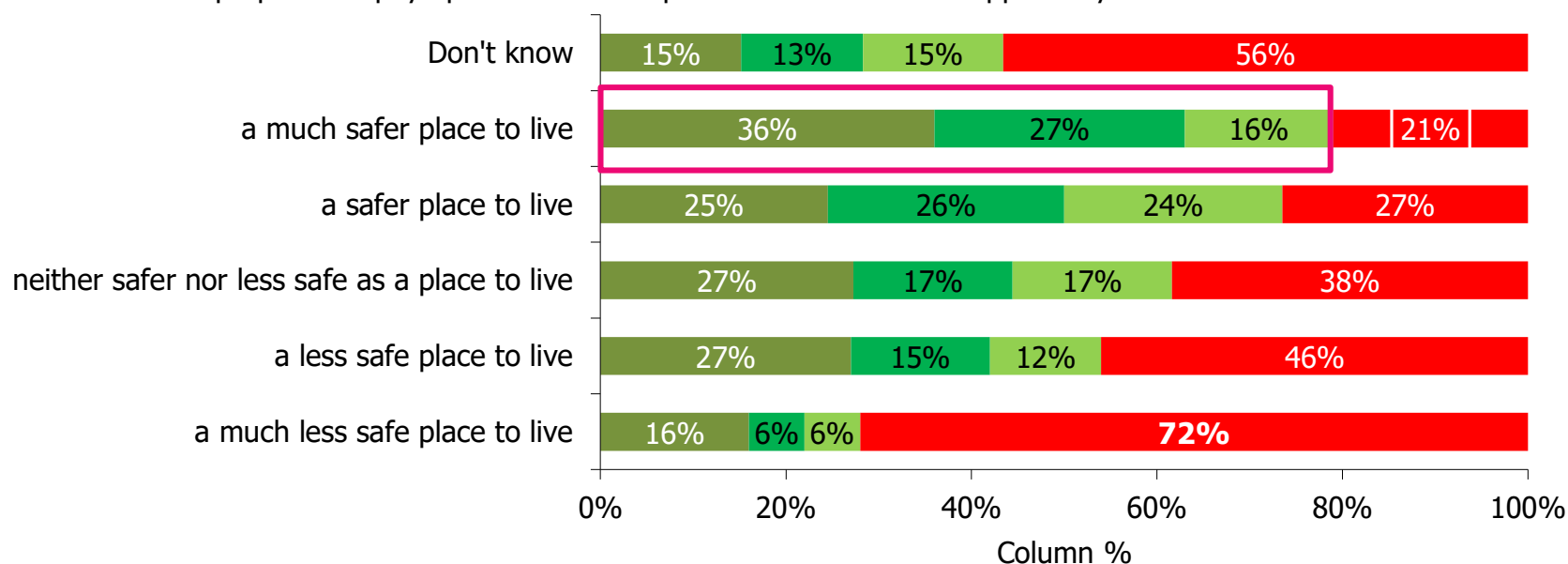
NB This chart equates the safety ratings to the question 'How safe or unsafe do you generally feel in Sussex, on a scale from 1 to 10, where a rating of 1 is extremely unsafe and a rating of 10 is extremely safe?' as detailed below:
 1-2 = Extremely Unsafe
 3-4 = Unsafe
 5-6 = Neither Safe Nor Unsafe
 7-8 = Safe
 9-10 = Extremely Safe.

Base: Extremely Unsafe (n=93), Unsafe (n=263), Neither Safe nor Unsafe (n=545), Safe (n=1,029), Extremely Safe (n=421), Sample Size = 2,351

Precept question | Support or opposition to an increase in the precept correlates very closely with whether a council taxpayer feels that their local community has become safer (wider support) or less safe (wider opposition) over the last 12 months.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | By 'Over the last 12 months, would you say that your local community has become...?' excluding exempt

- I am prepared to pay up to £1.75 extra per month ■ I am prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month
- I am prepared to pay up to £0.83 extra per month ■ I do NOT support any increase in council tax

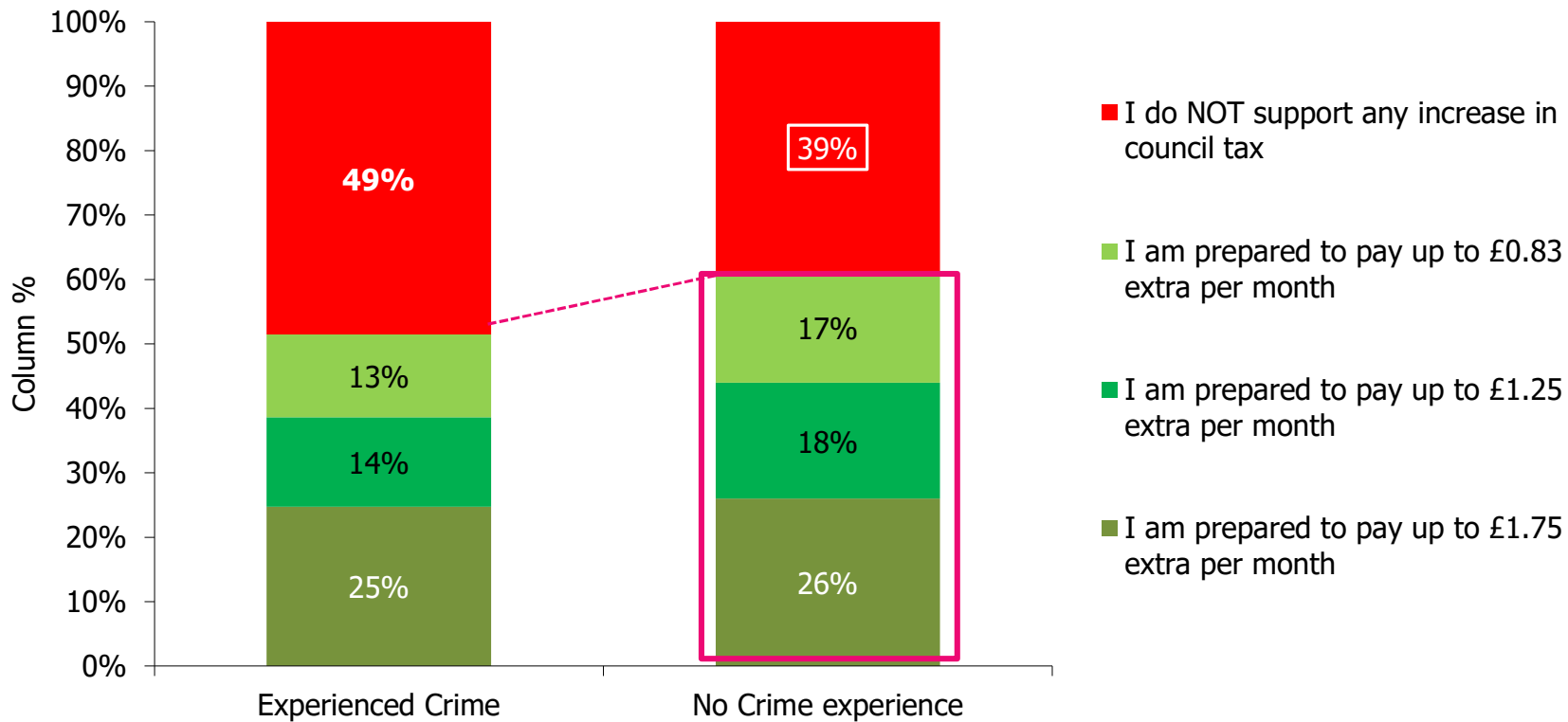


79% of the council taxpayers who feel that their local community has become 'a much safer place to live' over the last 12 months, support an increase. Whereas 72% of the participants who feel that their local community has become 'a much less safe to place to live' in that time, oppose any increase.

Base: a much less safe place to live (n=257), a less safe place to live (n=683), neither safer nor less safe as a place to live (n=1,082), a safer place to live (n=200), a much safer place to live (n=77), Don't know (n=52), Sample Size = 2,351

Precept question | Experiencing at least one researched crime within the last 12 months, would appear to reduce support for an increase in the precept by -10% to 51% from 61%.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | By personal experience of a researched crime within the last 12 months excluding exempt



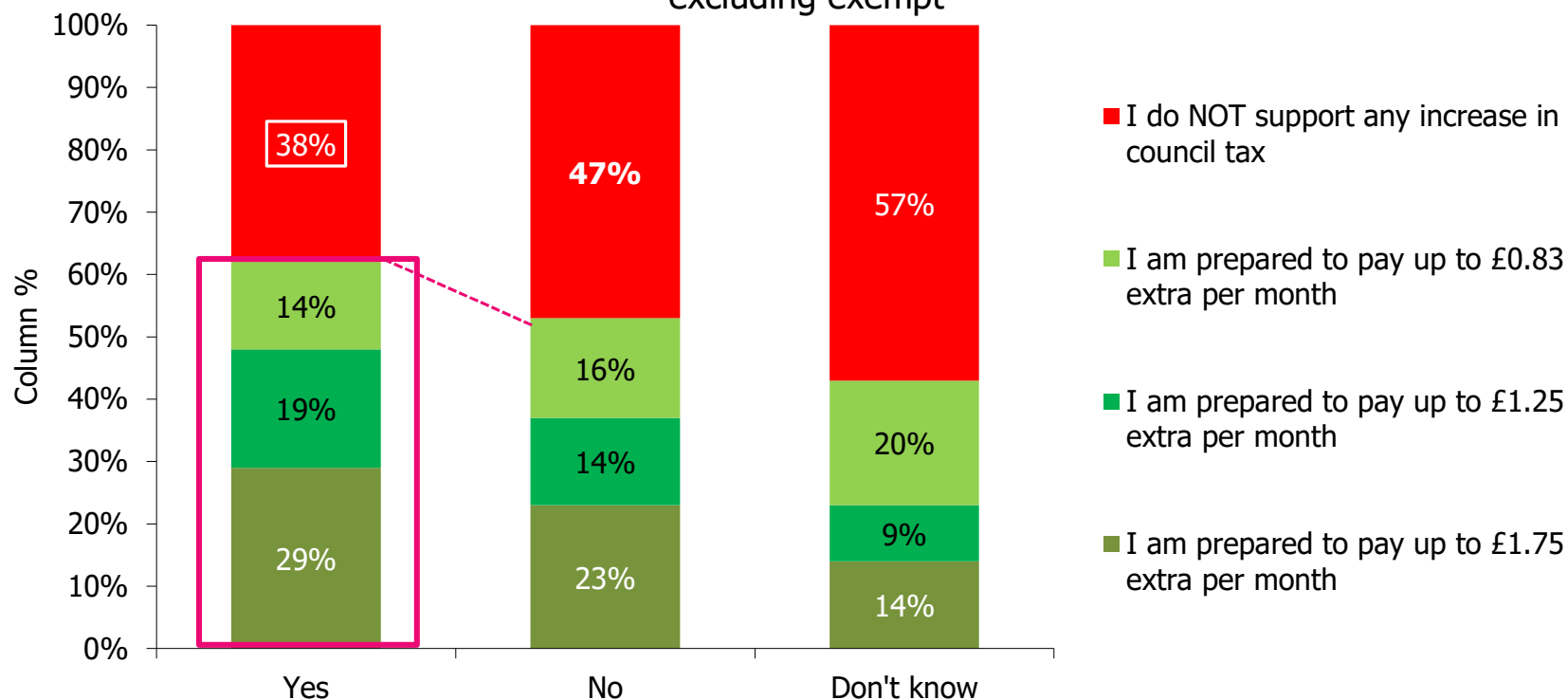
Base: Experienced Crime (n=1,011), No Crime experience (n=1,340), Sample Size = 2,351

Support for the highest level of increase in the precept up to £1.75, runs at around a quarter of council taxpayers, regardless of whether they have personally experienced a crime within the last 12 months or not.

Precept question | Council taxpayers who claim to be aware of Katy Bourne as the current Sussex PCC on a prompted basis, are +9% more likely to support an increase in the precept (62% support) than individuals who are not aware (53% support).

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | By awareness of Katy Bourne as the current Sussex PCC

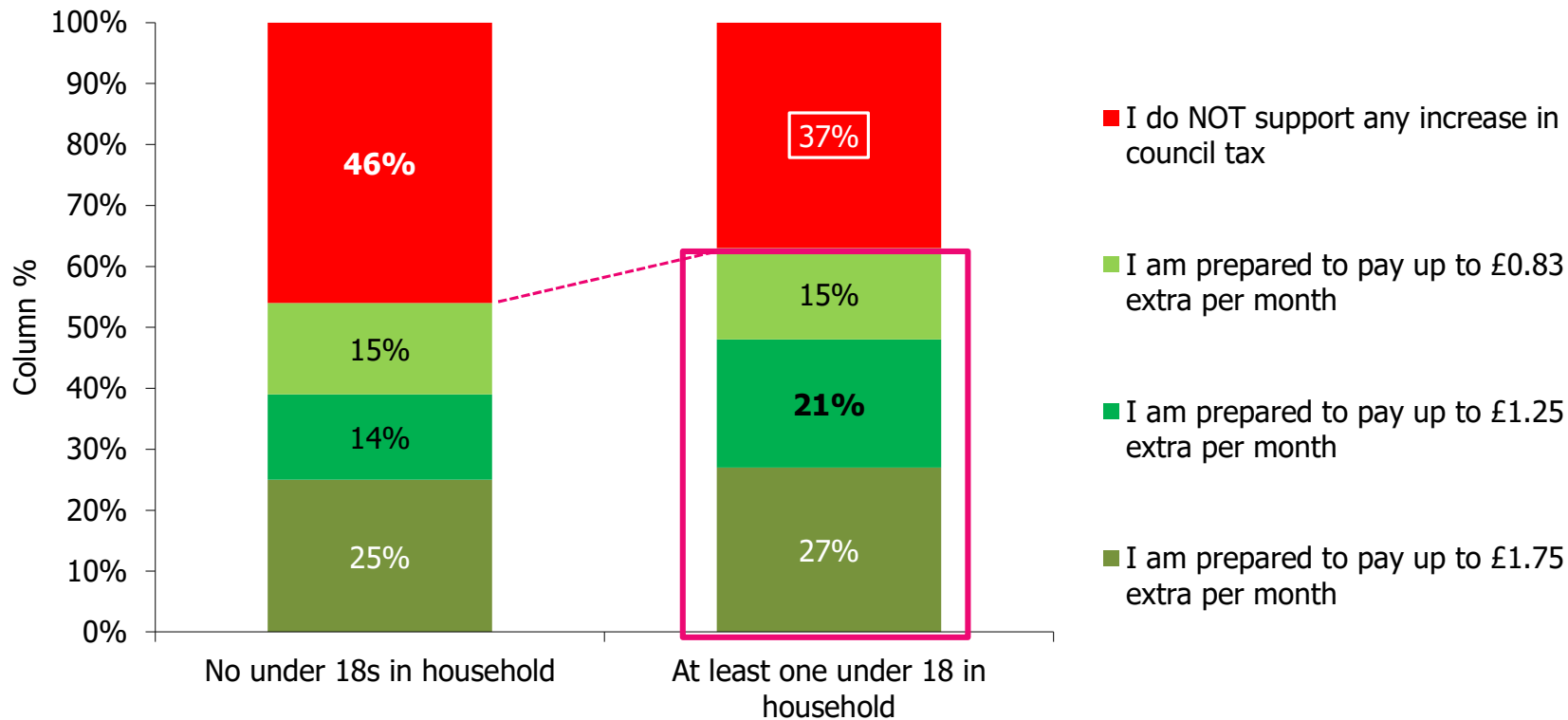
excluding exempt



Base: Yes (n=1,130), No (n=1,100), Don't know (n=121), Sample Size = 2,351

Precept question | 63% of council taxpayers with at least one under 18 in their household support an increase in the precept, compared with 54% where there are no under 18s in the household.

Please indicate which of the options below you would support for the precept in the forthcoming financial year 2025/26. | **By presence of under 18s in household** excluding exempt



Council taxpayers with an under 18 in their household have a comparatively higher propensity (+7%) to be prepared to pay up to £1.25 extra per month.

Base: None (n=1,637), Any (n=710), Sample Size = 2,347

Thank you.

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