



Consultation Report: Precept 2026/2027

Policing

January 2026

Version 2.0

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1.0 Background and Consultation Approach

1.1 Background

Annual council tax bills inform residents about their contributions to local council services and other essential public services across York and North Yorkshire, including policing and fire and rescue. These contributions, known as ‘precepts’ vary according to a property’s council tax band.

The Mayor is legally responsible for setting both the policing precept and the Mayoral General Precept, which includes the portion that funds fire and rescue services. National referendum principles, set by the Government, limit how much council tax can increase before a public vote is required. These limits apply to the policing precept but do not apply to the Mayoral General Precept.

When determining the policing precept, the Mayor must take into account the views of council tax payers across York and North Yorkshire. While consultation on the Mayoral General Precept is not a legal requirement, it supports transparency, accountability, and public involvement in decisions that affect local taxation and public services.

For 2026/2027, the Mayor will not increase any non-fire elements of the Mayoral General Precept and will only seek an increase to the fire and rescue element.

1.2 Consultation Approach

The Mayor’s precept consultation aimed to understand how much more the public would be prepared to pay via their council tax for policing and separately for fire and rescue services in 2026/2027.

Between 17 November 2025 and 5 January 2026, an online, self-completion survey was open to the public of York and North Yorkshire with paper copies offered on request or available to download. The survey combined questions relating to both precepting areas into a single questionnaire. The order of the questions was rotated: half of respondents answered the policing precept question first, while the other half began with the fire and rescue precept question.

To achieve a more representative sample, targeted community engagement activities were undertaken to boost participation. These included outreach events on high streets and at leisure centres, engagement with local businesses, and email communications to seldom-heard communities.

The survey was extensively promoted, including via two media releases and additional reminders to reporters – particularly in under-represented areas – and via social media including Facebook and Nextdoor (reaching up to 107,000 households in 592 neighbourhoods). All users of the Community Messaging system in North Yorkshire and the City of York (18,704 people) were notified about the survey and an email was sent to local MPs and councillors to raise community awareness.

Posters and leaflets were distributed to North Yorkshire and City of York libraries, to raise awareness of the survey, while stakeholders were provided with a toolkit to help promote the survey and asked to engage their staff in the consultation.

The Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime recorded a video to help promote the consultation via her channels, and an additional explainer video was produced to provide further context.

During the consultation period, responses were reviewed and targeted social media posts and adverts were used to increase responses from underrepresented areas and communities.

The consultation yielded 2,926 responses; an increase of over 600 responses compared to the previous year.

2.0 Respondent Profile

The following tables present a profile of survey respondents. Response percentages may not always total 100% due to rounding

The survey was open to any individual who pays council tax in York or North Yorkshire.

Where possible, response data has been compared with 2021 Census information.

Overall, a good level of representation was achieved across geography, gender, disability, and ethnic group.

Respondents aged over 55 are overrepresented, while those under 25 are notably underrepresented compared with the general population. This is expected, as most individuals in this younger age group do not pay council tax and were therefore not eligible to participate in the consultation.

Table 1: Respondent demographics vs 2021 Census

Characteristic	Count	% responses	*Population 18+ %
AGE			
18-24	13	0.5%	10%
25-35	133	5%	15%
36-45	248	9%	14%
46-55	364	14%	17%
56-65	634	24%	17%
66-75	773	29%	15%
Over 75	481	18%	12%
TOTAL	2,646	100%	100%
GENDER			
Male	1459	55%	49%
Female	1185	45%	51%
TOTAL	2644	100%	100%
ETHNIC GROUP			
White	2598	98%	96%
Other Ethnic Group	50	2%	4%
TOTAL	2648	100%	100%
DISABILITY (self-defined in survey)			
Yes	673	26%	17%
No	1941	74%	83%
TOTAL	2614	100%	100%

Table 2: Responses by location vs 2021 Census

Location	Count	% responses	*Population %
Craven	265	9%	7%
Hambleton	421	15%	11%
Harrogate	482	17%	20%
Richmondshire	379	14%	6%
Ryedale	188	7%	7%
Scarborough	296	11%	13%
Selby	269	10%	11%
York	489	17%	25%
TOTAL	2789	100%	100%

*Data Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics

The report includes subgroup analysis of support for each precept increase option, broken down by age, gender, ethnic group, disability status, and geographic location.

3.0 Main Findings

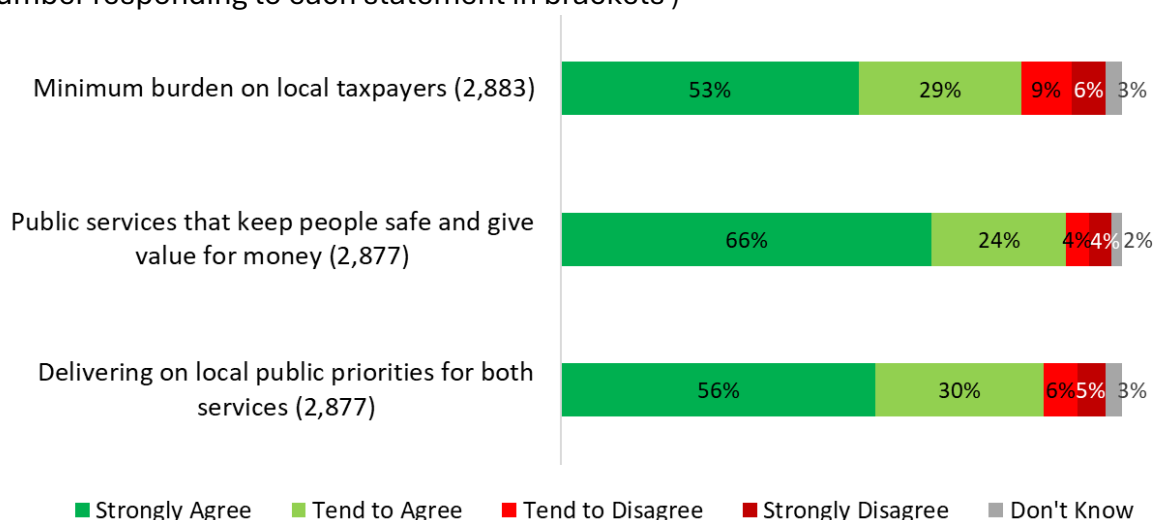
This chapter provides an analysis of the responses to the policing section of the precept consultation. Base sizes vary by question due to nonresponse to some questions; percentages are calculated on the valid base for each question

3.1 The Mayor's Precepting Principles

Respondents were asked for their views on the principles guiding the Mayor's final precept decision. Over 80% agreed with each of the three principles which collectively seek to deliver efficient and effective public services that meet local priorities while keeping the burden on taxpayers to a minimum.

Figure 1: Do you support the Mayor's core principles in making this decision?

(Number responding to each statement in brackets)



3.2 Level of Support for Precept Increase – Policing

The survey included background information on the funding and budget of North Yorkshire Police (see Appendix 1 for full details) to enable respondents to provide an informed answer to the precept question. The exact wording of the question is shown below.

Survey Extract:

The following options are based on the amount of council tax an average Band D property would pay for policing. This is currently £320.86 per year.

Q. How much more do you think it is reasonable to pay each year for policing in York and North Yorkshire?

☐ **Up to £12 a year (£1 per month)**

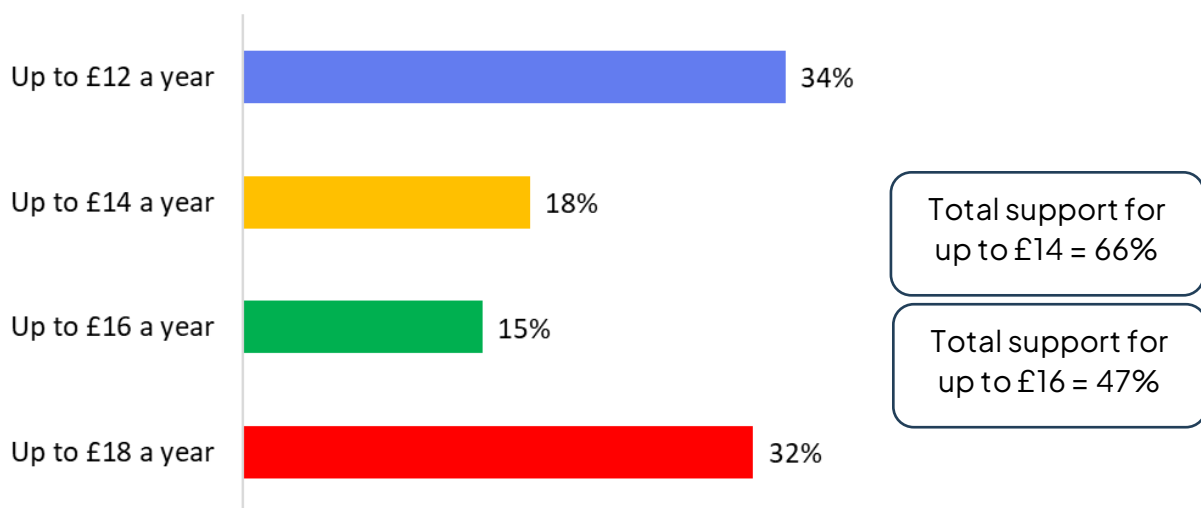
- *Raises around £3.9 million*
- *Below the organisation's inflationary pressures*
- *Would likely lead to reductions in current levels of service delivery unless significant further savings could be delivered*

- ☐ **Up to £14 a year (£1.17 per month)**
 - *Raises around £4.5 million*
 - *Matches the organisation's inflationary pressures.*
 - *Maintains current levels of service delivery*
- ☐ **Up to £16 a year (£1.33 per month)**
 - *Raises around £5.2 million*
 - *Likely to be higher than the organisation's inflationary pressures*
 - *Allows some investment. For example, in neighbourhood policing, early intervention and prevention activities and tackling violence against women and girls*
- ☐ **Up to £18 a year (£1.50 per month)**
 - *Raises around £5.9 million*
 - *Higher than the organisation's inflationary pressures*
 - *Allows more significant investment. For example, in neighbourhood policing, early intervention and prevention activities and tackling violence against women and girls*

Figure 2 summarises responses to the policing precept question. About one-third (34%) of respondents considered an increase of up to £12 reasonable. Overall, the majority (66%) favoured a higher uplift of up to £14 - comprising 18% who supported an increase of up to £14, an additional 15% who favoured up to £16 and a further 32% supporting up to £18.

Figure 2: Q. How much more do you think it is reasonable to pay each year for policing in York and North Yorkshire?

Those answering (2,585)



*percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

3.3 Subgroup Analysis

Table 3 below provides an analysis of opinion by subgroups. It shows the level of support by characteristic for up to a £16 increase in the council tax contribution to policing. These figures represent a combined percentage of respondents who selected ‘up to £16’ or the highest option of ‘up to £18’.

There is a positive correlation between household income and willingness to pay more, with higher-income respondents more likely to support larger increases. Respondents with a household income less than £20,000 were much more likely to choose the lowest increase of up to £12, while those with an income above £40,000 were more likely to choose the higher increase options of up to £16 or £18.

The majority (50% or more) of respondents in Craven, Harrogate, Ryedale and York supported an increase of up to £16, as did those aged 66-75, males and individuals without a self-defined disability. Respondents from ethnic minority backgrounds were less likely to support this level of increase; however, this finding should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of responses within this subgroup.

Table 3: Variation in total support for up to £16 increase by subgroups
(bases in brackets)

Sub-group	% total support for up to £16 *	Sub-group	% total support for up to £16 *
TOTAL (1226)	47%		
AREA		AGE	
Craven (245)	50%	18-35 (120)	43%
Hambleton (365)	42%	36-45 (215)	43%
Harrogate (449)	50%	46-55 (334)	47%
Richmondshire (325)	43%	56-65 (573)	47%
Ryedale (166)	50%	66-75 (725)	53%
Scarborough (261)	48%	Over 75 (393)	49%
Selby (241)	43%	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
York (447)	54%	Less than £20,000 (367)	35%
GENDER		£20,001 - £40,000 (651)	48%
Male (1,317)	50%	£40,001 - £60,000 (473)	58%
Female (1,088)	48%	£60,001 - £80,000 (235)	56%
DISABILITY (Self-defined)		£80,001 - £100,000 (140)	68%
Yes (607)	47%	More than £100,000 (130)	57%
No (1772)	50%		
ETHNIC GROUP			
White (2363)	49%		KEY
Other Ethnic Group** (43)	37%	Under 40%	
		40-49%	
		50-60%	
		Over 60%	

*% total support = combined percentage of respondents selecting ‘up to £16’ or ‘up to £18’

** Interpret results for ‘Other Ethnic Group’ with care due to small base

3.4 General Comments

Respondents were invited to share comments on the policing precept to provide context for their views. The main themes identified from these comments are outlined below. Most respondents referred to multiple themes within a single response.

1. Lack of police presence / calls to increase visibility (c241 references)

References to lack of police in the local area, visible policing needed to deter criminals, more proactive patrolling - more 'bobbies on the beat' and 'boots on the ground', belief that increased presence will prevent crime, ASB, vandalism, violence.

Comments were split between an attitude of not paying more until police presence improves and acknowledging the need for additional funds to enable investment into visible and neighbourhood policing.

Never hardly see any policing in my village why should I pay for something I'm not seeing and don't know if I'm getting.

We need more 'boots on the ground' to provide a visible deterrent to criminals - Prevention is better than cure.

I never see the police, except when they rush past in cars...

2. No increase / precept reduction (c201 references)

Cost-of-living pressure and affordability concerns (c102 refs), the perception of already high council tax, belief that funding should come from the central government (c39 refs), some calls to freeze or reduce precept are based on low confidence and a lack of action.

Why is there no option for zero increase? We already pay too much for a very poor service.

I would rather no increase at all, the cost of living has gone up too much for families to afford to pay more.

3. Efficiency (c140 references)

Rather than asking for more money, some respondents said that money should be found internally through efficiencies and being more frugal with funds.

Many of these comments interlinked with the previous theme of no increase to the precept, while some were comments of conditional increases *if* funds are managed well.

Don't feel the Police offer good value for money and should look at their policies prior to asking for more money.

I do not believe it is reasonable to pay any more for policing in York and North Yorkshire unless we have been assured that the service is running efficiently.

We need to see effective services, cut the amount of waste in public services due excess bureaucracy and time wasting - need to be much smarter and save your way to better services.

There needs greater joined up work with all partners and cost saving by sharing call centres, fleet, management etc with the fire service.

4. Support investment (c86 references)

Support for an increased precept if it allows investment into the services, such as improvements to equipment, training, recruitment. Particularly as crime becomes more complex and technical, and following years of perceived under-funding.

Our emergency services are facing increasingly complex criminal activity from criminal networks.

Investment is needed so that services can be provided effectively.

The demands on the police are forever increasing. Therefore, they need to have more money to keep up their excellent work.

I believe the police service has suffered years of cuts and morale is low. An increase in funding will mean they are able to deliver more, with more confidence.

5. Core priorities and policing focus (c70 references)

A range of specific priorities were identified including, violence against women and girls (VAWG), drugs, anti-social behaviour (ASB), shoplifting and theft, road safety. There were criticisms of 'woke' activities alongside calls to return to 'core policing' and arresting criminals.

Limited resources should be spent on effective policing and crime detection not on police PR and outreach public meetings etc.

Police need to look at local priorities not national. The roads in our county are the single biggest cause of harm but roads policing...are constantly being stripped of resource.

Appendix 1 – Precept Survey 2026/2027



York and North Yorkshire Precept Survey 2026/2027 (Policing and Fire & Rescue)

David Skaith, the Mayor for York and North Yorkshire, is asking for your views before setting the amount that goes to North Yorkshire Police and, separately, to North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service from your council tax bill. This is known as a Precept.

Principles on which the Mayor will make his final decision are:

1. The minimum possible burden on local taxpayers
2. Having effective, well managed public services that keep people safe & deliver value for money
3. Delivering on local public priorities for both services, including improving the safety of our region's roads

Around 80% of police and fire and rescue budgets are spent on staff who need and deserve a pay rise. The Mayor also has to balance inflation pressure with increasing demand for both emergency services. Unlike most areas, York and North Yorkshire are able to fund the fire and rescue service beyond the national cap of £5 because of devolution arrangements.

Separately, changes to the formula that sets these budgets are anticipated soon which may affect the core funding for these services in our region. The options presented here therefore include the range of options we need to consider because of that uncertainty.

Before setting the levels of precept for the two services, the Mayor would like to know your views on the possible options. When an option might impact on service to the public that is made clear.

- The survey will take no longer than 7 minutes to complete.
- The survey will close at 10am on Monday 5th January 2026.

Information should be accessible for all. If you require this information in a different language or format, please contact the Policing, Fire and Crime Team at info@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk or call us on 01423 569 562 to request a copy.

Our privacy notice about how we use and protect your data can be found here: [Survey Privacy Notice](#)

Q1. Do you pay council tax in York or North Yorkshire?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No – sorry, you need to pay council tax in York or North Yorkshire to take part in this survey

Q2. Do you support the Mayor's core principles in making this decision?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Minimum burden on local taxpayers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public services that keep people safe and give value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivering on local public priorities for both services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

POLICE

North Yorkshire Police currently has a budget of £232 million. Around £104 million of this (45 per cent) comes from your council tax and the other 55 percent mainly comes from the Government.

North Yorkshire Police has worked hard to increase the efficiency of how it delivers its services to ensure the public get value for money. To maintain the current level of service, the Police need an extra £12 million to cover inflation and other ongoing costs. About £4.5 million of this would need to be raised through the council tax, with the remainder delivered from savings and increases in Government funding.

The Government is likely to set a national limit allowing a council tax increase of up to £14 towards policing for an average Band D property. Each £1 raises approximately £325k. The £14 increase would raise about £4.5 million for policing.

The following options are based on the amount of council tax an average Band D property would pay for policing. This is currently £320.86 per year.

Q3. How much more do you think it is reasonable to pay each year for policing in York and North Yorkshire?

- ☐ **Up to £12 a year (£1 per month)**
 - *Raises around £3.9 million*
 - *Below the organisation's inflationary pressures*
 - *Would likely lead to reductions in current levels of service delivery unless significant further savings could be delivered*
- ☐ **Up to £14 a year (£1.17 per month)**
 - *Raises around £4.5 million*
 - *Matches the organisation's inflationary pressures.*
 - *Maintains current levels of service delivery*
- ☐ **Up to £16 a year (£1.33 per month)**
 - *Raises around £5.2 million*
 - *Likely to be higher than the organisation's inflationary pressures*
 - *Allows some investment. For example, in neighbourhood policing, early intervention and prevention activities and tackling violence against women and girls.*
- ☐ **Up to £18 a year (£1.50 per month)**
 - *Raises around £5.9 million*
 - *Higher than the organisation's inflationary pressures*
 - *Allows more significant investment. For example, in neighbourhood policing, early intervention and prevention activities and tackling violence against women and girls*

Q4. Do you have any comments about the policing council tax that may help us understand your response?

FIRE & RESCUE

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service has an annual budget of £51.6 million. Around £35 million of this (67 per cent), comes from your council tax and the remaining 33 percent is funded mainly by the Government and Business Rates.

Last year's council tax increase provided much needed financial stability and allowed for important investment in North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. The Mayor would like to see this work continue and to invest in road safety in line with agreed public priorities.

In 2026-27 it is estimated £3-4.5 million more is needed to maintain current service levels and deliver planned improvements, depending on the final funding formula which determines the level of Government funding we receive. £2-3 million of this would need to come from council tax, with the rest from savings and increased Government funding.

Each £1 raises approximately £325k . An increase of £6 for a Band D property would raise about £2 million.

The following options are based on the amount of council tax an average Band D property would pay for fire and rescue services. This is currently £107.02 per year.

The options show the maximum increase you might pay. The Mayor will reduce these amounts in line with the level of funding received from Government.

Q5. How much more do you think it is reasonable to pay each year for fire and rescue services in York and North Yorkshire?

- ☐ **Up to £6 a year (50 pence per month)**
 - *Raises around £2 million*
 - *Any changes to the current funding formula will risk current levels of service delivery and the financial security of the service*
 - *No scope for additional service investment*
- ☐ **Up to £8 a year (67 pence per month)**
 - *Raises around £2.6 million*
 - *May allow limited investment in road safety if no changes to the funding formula*
 - *Any changes to the current funding formula will result in increases in debt and reduce future capital investments*
- ☐ **Up to £10 a year (83 pence per month)**
 - *Raises around £3.3 million*
 - *Allows for investment in road safety*
 - *Minimises impact of significant changes to the funding formula*
 - *Maintain current levels of service delivery and the financial security of the service*
- ☐ **Up to £12 a year (£1 per month)**
 - *Raises around £3.9 million*
 - *Allows for investment in road safety*
 - *Minimises impact of significant changes to the funding formula*
 - *Allows limited investment in other areas of service delivery. For example, in operational training and equipment*

Q6. Do you have any comments about the fire and rescue council tax that may help us understand your response?

ABOUT YOU

We have a duty to promote equality and ensure all parts of the Community are included in this consultation, but the following questions are optional.

Which area do you live in?

- ☐ Craven
- ☐ Hambleton
- ☐ Harrogate
- ☐ Richmondshire
- ☐ Ryedale
- ☐ Scarborough
- ☐ Selby
- ☐ York

How would you describe your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your age?

- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-35
- ☐ 36-45
- ☐ 46-55
- ☐ 56-65
- ☐ 66-75
- ☐ 76-85
- ☐ Over 85
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term health issue?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group?

White:

- ☐ English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Roma
- ☐ Any other White background

Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups:

- ☐ White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ White and Black African
- ☐ White and Asian
- ☐ Any other mixed or multiple ethnic background

Asian or Asian British:

- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Any other Asian or Asian British background

Black or Black British, Caribbean or African:

- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ African
- ☐ Any other Black, Black British, Caribbean or African background

Other ethnic group:

- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Any other ethnic group

- ☐ Prefer not to say

Which of these best reflects your total household income?

- ☐ Less than £10,000
- ☐ £10,001 - £20,000
- ☐ £20,001 - £40,000
- ☐ £40,001 - £60,000
- ☐ £60,001 - £80,000
- ☐ £80,001 - £100,000
- ☐ More than £100,000
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Finally, how did you hear about this survey? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Community Messenger
- ☐ Nextdoor
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Website
- ☐ Through staff of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority
- ☐ Through the Mayor (David Skaith) or Deputy Mayor (Jo Coles)
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Advert/Poster
- ☐ Local newspaper
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____