

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Report to the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire

Precept Proposal for Policing 2026/27

On 28 January 2026 the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire formally notified the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel (“the Panel”) of their proposed precept for policing for 2026/27. The Panel is required to review the proposed precept and report on its decision, including any recommendations, to the Mayor by 8 February of the relevant financial year.

The Panel met at County Hall, Northallerton, on Thursday, 5 February 2026. Membership of the Panel at the meeting was:

North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Chris Aldred
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr David Chance
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Kevin Foster
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Tim Grogan
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Heather Moorhouse
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Steve Shaw-Wright
North Yorkshire Council	Cllr Peter Wilkinson
City of York Council	Cllr Michael Pavlovic
City of York Council	Cllr Andrew Waller (Sub)
Independent co-opted	Fraser Forsyth
Independent co-opted	Caroline O’Neill

The Panel would like to thank the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Constable and the Assistant Director of Resources (Deputy s73 Officer for Police, Fire and Crime functions) for assisting in providing responses to the questions and issues raised by the Panel.

Policing precept proposal

The Mayor presented a proposal to the Panel to set the policing element of the Council Tax precept for 2026/27 at £335.86, which represents an increase of £15 (or 4.67%) over the 2025/26 level for a Band D property. The Panel note that this is the maximum level that the Mayor can levy without seeking a referendum.

During the discussion at the Panel meeting, Panel members noted the 9% reduction in crime overall in North Yorkshire and York in the last two years and commended improvements made in neighbourhood policing in particular. However, in the context of the removal of national funding for police officer uplifts and the freezing of the Neighbourhood Policing grant, Members expressed concern around the continued commitment to deliver sustained, visible local policing moving forward.

The Panel notes the Chief Constable's assurance that the planned 17 additional neighbourhood officers will still be delivered in 2026/27 as funding will be at risk if this is not achieved. However, the Panel has a concern that in view of the funding pressures and challenges facing the police service locally – including around pay awards and inflation – an increase in the precept of £15 will still result in a funding gap which could result in a reduction of up to 21 police officers. While Members appreciate that the nature of crime is changing and as such policing resource needs to adapt accordingly with more focus on tackling hidden harms (e.g. cyber crime) as opposed to increasing numbers of warranted officers, we also maintain that it is important for communities to continue to feel safe as well as be safe through visible policing. At this stage is therefore is unknown what the impact of this reduction on communities might be.

It is recognised by the Panel that a reduction of 21 officers is very much a 'worst case' position in filling an anticipated budget gap of £1,250k and that the uncertainty around the budget impact is due to the fact that the national funding settlements are for 12 months rather than three years. However, the Panel would like to understand the impact of any reduction in officer numbers over the year and how many reductions there will be. As such, we would ask the Mayor that a mid-year update is brought back to the Panel on this in October 2026.

The Panel note the high level of public support for an increase in the precept of £15 and that planned savings and efficiencies will also help to ensure a balanced budget for 2026/27. The Panel welcomes and supports the efforts by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to make ongoing representations to government around the challenges of policing such a large rural area.

Decision – Policing precept proposal

The Police, Fire and Crime Panel supported the Mayor's proposal to increase the policing precept for 2026/27 to £335.86, which represents an increase of £15 (or 4.67%) over the 2025/26 level for a Band D property.

As far as the Panel is concerned, provision of this report ends its scrutiny process of the Mayor's proposed precept for policing for 2026/27.



Councillor Peter R Wilkinson
Chair, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel
5 February 2026