York and North Yorkshire Precept Survey 2027/2028
(Policing, Fire and Rescue and Transport)

David Skaith, Mayor for York and North Yorkshire, wants to hear your views before deciding how much council tax funding should go towards North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, and other mayoral responsibilities, including bus services, from 1 April 2027.

The parts of your council tax that help fund these services are known as precepts.

Last year, more than 80% of people who responded supported the Mayor's approach to setting the precept. The Mayor will use the same three principles to make his decision this year:

1. **Minimum possible burden on local taxpayers**
2. **Having effective, well managed public services that keep people safe and deliver value for money**
3. **Delivering on local priorities**

The Mayor wants to hear from **anyone who lives, works or studies in York or North Yorkshire**. You don't have to be a council tax payer to take part.

- The survey will take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.
- The survey will close at 10am on Monday 4th January 2027.

Information should be accessible for all. If you require this information in a different language or format, please contact the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority 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 at: https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/your-information-rights/your-information-data-protection/how-we-use-the-information/survey-privacy-notice/

Q1. Do you live, work or study in York or North Yorkshire?

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No** *Sorry, you need to live, work or study in York or North Yorkshire to take part*

POLICE

North Yorkshire Police has a budget of £243 million. Around £111 million of this (46 per cent) comes from your council tax and the other 54 per cent mainly comes from the Government.

Over the last two years, investment has helped maintain York and North Yorkshire as one of the safest areas in the country by strengthening neighbourhood policing, preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, and improving safeguards for victims and vulnerable people.

North Yorkshire Police has also continued 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 additional investment to cover inflation and other costs. Savings will be driven through efficiencies and increases in Government funding but it is estimated £5 million would need to be raised through council tax.

The Government is likely to set a national limit allowing a council tax increase of up to £15 towards policing for an average Band D property.

Each £1 added to the precept raises approximately £330k. A £15 increase would raise about £5 million for policing annually.

The following options are based on the amount of council tax an average Band D property would pay for policing. This is currently £335.86 per year.

Q2. 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 £4 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 £15 a year (£1.25 per month)**
- *Raises around £5 million*
- *Maintains current levels of service delivery*

☐ **Up to £18 a year (£1.50 per month)**
- *Raises around £6 million*
- *Allows further investment. For example, in neighbourhood policing, crime prevention work, support for vulnerable people, and increasing efforts to tackle violence against women and girls*

☐ **Up to £21 a year (£1.75 per month)**
- *Raises around £7 million*
- *Allows more significant further investment. For example, in neighbourhood policing, crime prevention work, support for vulnerable people, and increasing efforts to tackle violence against women and girls*

Q3. Do you have any comments about the policing part of the council tax that may help us understand your response?

MAYORAL GENERAL PRECEPT

The Mayoral General Precept is the part of your council tax that helps fund services for which the Mayor is responsible. Since the Mayor was elected, it has funded North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. It can also include separate elements to fund other mayoral responsibilities, such as transport. Funding for Fire and Rescue and transport is considered separately.

FIRE AND RESCUE

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service has an annual budget of £54 million. Around £38 million of this (71 per cent), comes from your council tax and the remaining 29 percent is funded mainly by the Government and Business Rates.

Council tax increases over the last two years have provided much needed financial stability for the Service, protecting frontline services and providing investment in strategic priorities, including prevention of fires, road safety and operational capability.

The Mayor wants to keep future tax increases as low as possible while continuing to deliver improvements.

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service has also worked hard to save money and improve the efficiency of how it delivers its services to ensure value for money.

After these savings, and taking Government funding changes into account, it is estimated around £1.6 million additional investment from the council tax will be required to cover inflation and other ongoing costs, to maintain current service levels and deliver planned improvements.

Each £1 added to the precept raises approximately £330k. An increase of £5 for a Band D property would raise about £1.6 million annually.

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 £116.62 per year.

Q4. 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 £3 a year (25 pence per month)**
- *Raises around £1 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 £5 a year (42 pence per month)**
- *Raises around £1.6 million*
- *Anticipated to maintain current levels of service delivery and the financial security of the Fire and Rescue Service*

☐ **Up to £7 a year (58 pence per month)**
- *Raises around £2.3 million*
- *Helps strengthen the Fire and Rescue Service through the recruitment of additional firefighters*

☐ **Up to £9 a year (75 pence per month)**
- *Raises around £3 million*
- *Further strengthens the Fire and Rescue Service through the recruitment of more firefighters and allows investment in new technology and equipment to better respond to increasing climate change events such as wildfires*

Q5. Do you have any comments about the fire and rescue part of the council tax that may help us understand your response?

TRANSPORT (BUS SERVICES)

Based on consistent feedback from communities across York and North Yorkshire, residents and businesses want better bus services. In response, the Mayor is taking steps to improve local bus services, increase public influence over the network, and make it easier for people to access jobs, education and essential services.

The Mayor is considering a small increase to the precept to invest in bus services, make travel more affordable for young people, and support progress towards greater public control of the network.

A £3 precept would pay for £1 bus fares for younger people and allow additional fare reductions for people leaving the care system, as well as improving services in some rural areas. With greater levels of funding, we could also expand and improve bus services on key routes.

Each £1 added to the precept raises approximately £330k. An increase of £3 for a Band D property would raise about £1 million annually.

The following options are based on the amount of council tax an average Band D property would pay for buses.

Q6. How much do you think it is reasonable to pay each year for improved bus services in York and North Yorkshire?

☐ **Up to £2 a year (17p per month)**
- *Raises around £600k*
- *Continue reduced bus fares for people under 19 years old*

☐ **Up to £3 a year (25p per month)**
- *Raises around £1 million*
- *Continue reduced bus fares for people under 19 years old, provide free bus travel for care leavers and would improve bus services in some rural areas*

☐ **Up to £4 a year (33p per month)**
- *Raises around £1.3 million*
- *Continue reduced bus fares for people under 19 years old, provide free bus travel for care leavers, improve bus services in some rural areas and fund additional evening and Sunday journeys on key routes*

☐ **Up to £6 a year (50p per month)**
- *Raises around £2 million*
- *Continue reduced bus fares for people under 19 years old, provide free bus travel for care leavers, improve bus services in some rural areas, fund additional journeys on key routes across the week and extend service coverage to new areas*

Q7. Do you have any comments about the provision of buses in York and North Yorkshire 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.

Do you pay council tax in York or North Yorkshire?

☐ Yes
☐ No

In which area do you live, work and study? *Please select all that apply.*

	Live	Work	Study
Craven	☐	☐	☐
Hambleton	☐	☐	☐
Harrogate	☐	☐	☐
Richmondshire	☐	☐	☐
Ryedale	☐	☐	☐
Scarborough	☐	☐	☐
Selby	☐	☐	☐
York	☐	☐	☐
Outside of York/North Yorkshire	☐	☐	☐
Not Applicable	☐	☐	☐

How would you describe your gender?

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

What is your age?

☐ Under 19
☐ 19-24
☐ 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 below)

THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART

Responses to this consultation will inform the budget-setting process for 2027/2028 and will be published on the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's website early in the new year: https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/consultations-and-engagement/

Please return your completed survey via this FREEPOST address:

FREEPOST RTCL-AGAE-TRTS
Policing, Fire and Crime
York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority
Harrogate Police Station
Beckwith Head Rd
Harrogate
HG3 1FR

No stamp required