



## Policing Precept Public Consultation Results 2026/2027

### Introduction

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act states that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) must make arrangements for obtaining the views of the people in their police area, and the relevant ratepayers' representatives, on their proposals for expenditure in the coming financial year.

Subsequently, the PCC launched a Policing Precept public consultation on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025, running until the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026. The consultation sought views relating to police funding, specifically:

- How much additional funding people would be prepared to pay towards their police precept
- What specific issue they wanted to see addressed by Cleveland Police and other local agencies

### Consultation Methodology

During the specified time period, the public consultation used a range of engagement mechanisms, including an online survey and face-to-face engagement as detailed below:

#### Online Survey

An online survey was shared via the below methods. In total, **1,074 responses** were received.

The survey was promoted as follows:

- Via the OPCCs social media channels, including paid advertisement on Facebook and use of Facebook polls
- Sent via email to:
  - Elected members and MPs
  - Voluntary Development Agencies
  - Partner organisations, stakeholders and commissioned services

- Communications teams of local authorities and local NHS trusts
- Via Cleveland Police's internal communication channels
- Via Cleveland Connected
- During resident meetings and community events attended by the PCC

The total Facebook advertising spend for the consultation period was £130.37. This investment enabled the advert to reach 21,764 people and generated 1,873 clicks to the online survey.

### **Face-to-face Engagement**

During the consultation period, face-to-face engagement stalls were held in community locations using a counter-based methodology, allowing members of the public to place a counter to indicate the level of precept increase they would be willing to support.

Over the twelve-week consultation period, stalls were hosted in six locations across the Cleveland area, gathering the views of 149 residents.

Stalls took place at the below locations:

- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Diwali event- Middlesbrough
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, Hartlepool
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Hill Street Shopping Centre, Middlesbrough
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Asda Supermarket, Thornaby, Stockton
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Morrisons Supermarket, Redcar
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Teesside Park, Stockton

### **Consultation Results**

A total of **1,223 responses** were received during the consultation period, representing a 133% increase on last year's response rate, where 524 responses were received.

This included 149 participants in face-to-face sessions and 1,074 respondents to the online survey.

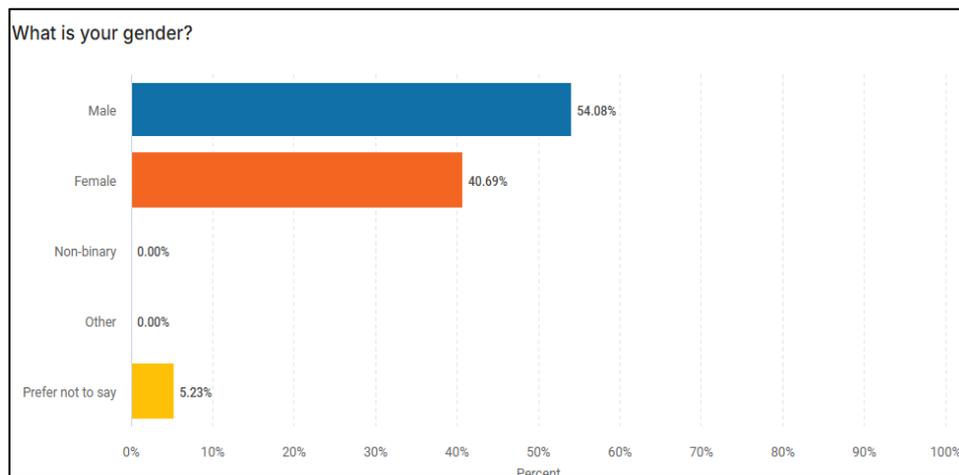
### **Consultation Demographics**

The online survey also gathered additional demographic information, including location, disability, gender, age, and race. As all demographic questions were optional, some respondents chose not to provide this information and skipped these questions.

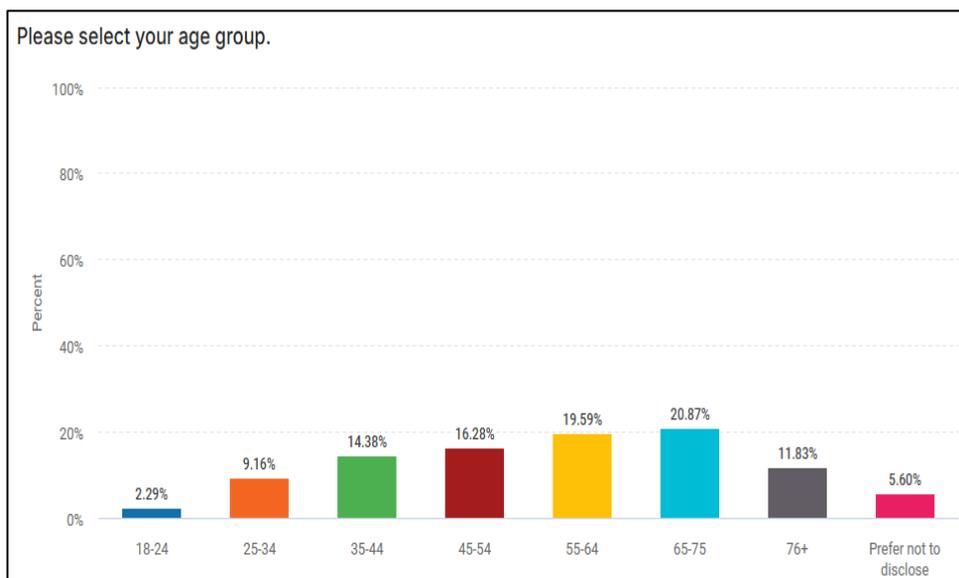
Response levels differed across the four local policing areas. Among the 925 respondents who provided this information, reflective of population sizes, Stockton-on-Tees recorded the highest number, closely followed by Middlesbrough, as shown below.

- Hartlepool responses –15.2%
- Middlesbrough responses – 24.0%
- Redcar and Cleveland responses – 22.1%
- Stockton-on-Tees responses – 36.5%
- Preferred not to disclose - 2.2%

Over half of the respondents<sup>1</sup> identified as male (54.0%), while 5.2% preferred not to disclose their gender, as shown in the graph below.



The largest age group among respondents<sup>2</sup> was 65-75 years (20.8%), closely followed by the 55-64 age group accounting for 19.6% of responses. The distribution across most other age groups was relatively even, with the lowest proportion of responses coming from the 18-24 age group (2.2%).



<sup>1</sup> 784 respondents completed this question

<sup>2</sup> 786 respondents completed this question

The majority of respondents<sup>3</sup> (91.4%) identified as White British. Only a very small number of participants identified as Asian, Black, Mixed Heritage, or another ethnic group, while 4.9% chose not to disclose their ethnicity. Additionally, 18.6% of participants reported that they considered themselves to have a disability<sup>4</sup>.

### **Views on Police Funding**

When asked, “***How much more would you be willing to pay towards local policing?***” respondents were presented with the below options. Participants were able to select just one option indicating how much more they would be willing to contribute each month.

- Up to £12 a year more (£1.00 per month), an increase of 3.78%: This would raise £2 million, however, is below the organisations inflationary level and would likely lead to reductions in current levels of service delivery.
- Up to £14 a year more (£1.17 per month), an increase of 4.41%: This would raise £2.3 million, is broadly in line with inflation levels, and would lead to no reductions in the police service delivered.
- Up to £18 a year more (£1.50 per month), an increase of 5.67%: This would raise £3 million, is likely to be higher than the organisations inflationary pressures and could allow some investment into policing in Cleveland.
- Up to £24 a year more (£2.00 per month), an increase of 7.55%: This would raise around £4 million, will be much higher than the organisations inflationary pressures, and would allow even further investment into policing in Cleveland

Due to the continued challenging economic conditions throughout 2025, contributing to rising running costs and financial pressures, there was no option for respondents to indicate that they did not wish to pay more.

The options are based on an average Band D property currently paying £303.73 each year for policing.

Overall, of the 1,223 consultation respondents, £2.00 per month emerged as the preferred option, receiving the highest level of support across both response methods - 36.2% in face-to-face responses and 44.8% in online responses. The second most selected option was £1.00 per month, with support ranging from 27.5% in face-to-face responses to 34.2% online

In contrast, the mid-range options (£1.17 and £1.50) attracted substantially lower levels of support, standing at 10.0% and 13.0% respectively. While face-to-face respondents showed slightly higher support for £1.50, the majority (36.2%) of respondents favoured a £2.00 increase.

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<sup>3</sup> 781 respondents completed this question

<sup>4</sup> 778 respondents completed this question

<b>How much more would you be willing to pay towards local policing?</b>				
<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>£1.17</b>	<b>£1.50</b>	<b>£2 .00</b>
Face-to-face	27.5%	8.1%	28.2%	36.2%
Online Survey	34.2%	10.2%	10.9%	44.8%
Overall combined	33.3%	10.0%	13.0%	43.7%

When comparing results across the four Local Policing Areas, the 925 respondents show a consistent pattern. In every area, £2.00 per month emerges as the preferred option, attracting between 39% and 41% of responses. Notably, Hartlepool stands out for having an equal proportion of respondents selecting the lowest (£1.00) and highest (£2.00) contribution levels, each at 37.6%.

While there is noticeable variation in support for the lowest and highest contribution levels depending on the respondent's local policing area, collectively the £2.00 option remains the most selected choice across all areas.

<b>How much more would you be willing to pay towards local policing?</b>				
<b>Local Policing Area – Combined Responses</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>£1.17</b>	<b>£1.50</b>	<b>£2 .00</b>
Hartlepool	37.6%	10.6%	14.2%	37.6%
Middlesbrough	28.4%	14.9%	18.0%	38.7%
Redcar	30.4%	9.8%	19.1%	40.7%
Stockton	34.6%	13.0%	11.8%	40.5%

## **Views on how additional funding should be spent**

Respondents were asked to identify the single most important issue they would like Cleveland Police and/or other local agencies to address<sup>5</sup>. This question was optional. The higher proportion of “Other” responses are influenced by those who engaged with in face-to-face conversations, providing the opportunity for more detailed feedback that did not fit neatly into the predefined categories.

Across Cleveland, antisocial behaviour emerged as the primary concern, identified by 40.8% of respondents. This theme was broadly consistent across all four local authority areas, with each reporting antisocial behaviour as the top priority.

The next most frequently selected issue was violent crime, including knife crime, accounting for 15.5% of all responses. This was followed by drug related crime at 11.55%. At the opposite end of the scale, online safety was the least selected issue.

**Please pick ONE issue you would like to see Cleveland Police or/and other local agencies address.**

**This might be the most important priority to you or the issue that affects you - or your community - the most:**

<b>Selected Concern</b>	<b>All responses</b>	<b>Hartlepool</b>	<b>Middlesbrough</b>	<b>Redcar &amp; Cleveland</b>	<b>Stockton</b>
Antisocial behaviour (including off-road bikes, noise nuisance and rowdy behaviour)	40.8%	38.3%	44.6%	44.6%	39.1%
Better support for victims of crime	1.0%	0.7%	0.9%	0.5%	1.5%
Domestic abuse	3.2%	7.8%	1.8%	3.4%	2.4%
Drug-related crime	11.5%	9.2%	12.2%	9.8%	13.0%
Fraud and scams	1.5%	0.0%	1.4%	2.5%	1.5%
Hate crime	1.7%	2.8%	2.7%	1.5%	0.9%
Online safety	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%
Residential burglary	2.2%	2.8%	2.3%	2.5%	2.1%
Road-related crime (including antisocial driving and speeding)	4.6%	4.3%	4.1%	2.9%	6.2%
Sexual violence	1.4%	1.4%	1.8%	1.0%	1.2%
Shoplifting	4.0%	4.3%	1.8%	4.4%	5.3%
Vehicle theft/damage	1.1%	0.7%	0.0%	1.5%	0.9%
Violent crime, including knife crime	15.5%	9.2%	18.5%	11.8%	16.9%
Other	11.1%	18.4%	7.7%	13.7%	8.9%

In comparison with last year’s precept consultation, antisocial behaviour again

<sup>5</sup> 944 respondents completed this question

emerged as the main concern for respondents. Last year, 27.6% identified it as their primary issue; this has risen significantly to 40.8% in the current consultation. Previously, 'Other' concerns were the second most selected category (25.0%), followed by drug related crime (16.8%).

Using feedback from last year's survey, we revised the design of the consultation and broadened the range of themes and options available. Because many residents used the 'Other' category last year to highlight more specific issues, this year's consultation expanded the list of options to include violent crime (including knife crime), online safety, and fraud and scams - and still included an 'Other' category.

Following these additions, the proportion of respondents selecting 'Other' fell to 11.1%. However, some residents still felt that important issues were not represented in the predefined options and expressed additional concerns they would like Cleveland Police and local agencies to address. These concerns and comments included:

- A number of comments expressed a desire to see officers in their neighbourhoods, noting that policing feels "invisible".
- Repeated requests for "*more police presence*", officers on the beat, and local stations reopened.
- Frustration with police performance, including slow response times and perceived lack of action.
- Strong calls for a visible police presence, including dedicated neighbourhood officers and more patrols.
- Drug-related crime frequently described as the root cause of other offences (ASB, burglary, violence, exploitation, shoplifting).
- Calls for dedicated drug enforcement teams and better intelligence-gathering with community involvement.
- Concerns about antisocial behaviour and its impact on neighbourhood safety and quality of life.
- Requests for improved protection for women and girls, including tackling misogynistic attitudes within policing.
- Concerns about organised crime, serious violence, and crime involving children.
- Issues raised around homelessness, school safeguarding, and wider social problems linked to crime.