



Chair of Panel: Councillor Tony Riordan

Redcar and Cleveland House | Kirkleatham Street | Redcar | TS10 1RT

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CLEVELAND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

3 FEBRUARY 2026

THE PROPOSED PRECEPT OF THE CLEVELAND POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/27

REPORT OF THE PANEL

A review was undertaken by the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel ("the Panel") on Tuesday 3 February 2026 of the proposed precept of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland ("the Commissioner") for the financial year 2026/27.

Present

Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair for the meeting), Councillor Ian Blades, Councillor John Coulson, Councillor Graham Cutler, Mr Stan Glover, Councillor Lynn Hall Councillor Chris Jones and Councillor Ann McCoy

Apologies

Councillor Tony Riordan (Chair), Councillor Peter Chaney, Mayor Chris Cooke, Councillor Andrew Martin-Wells and Mr Luigi Salvati

Officers

Steve Newton, Alison Pearson and Sarah Connolly (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)

Also in attendance

Matt Storey (Police and Crime Commissioner), Lisa Oldroyd and Michael Porter (Commissioner's Office), Chief Constable Victoria Fuller

Declarations of Interest:

There were no interests declared.

The Review Process

The Chair reminded Panel Members of the procedure to be followed when reviewing a proposed precept, including the timescales for submitting a report to the Commissioner at the conclusion of the review.

The Review

A report from the Commissioner regarding the proposed precept for the financial year 2026/27 was considered by the Panel. The proposal was to set the Band D Police element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2026/27 at £332.73. This is an increase of £15, or 4.72%, over the 2025/26 level.

The Commissioner indicated that he had considered the following in making his proposal for the 2024/25 precept:

- The views of the public of Cleveland
- The financial impact on the people of Cleveland and the current financial environment.
- The financial needs of the organisation as currently projected both for 2026/27 and in the future.
- The limits imposed by the Government on a precept increase before a referendum would be triggered in Cleveland.

The PCC has discussed the proposals with both the Chief Constable and engaged and consulted with the public on the options available to him.

The Panel noted that the Provisional Police Funding Settlement 2026/27 had been announced on 18 December in a written statement by the Minister for Policing and Crime. This stated that funding available nationally to PCCs would increase by up to an additional £746m in 2026/27, assuming full take up of local flexibility to increase council tax by the maximum amount which was £15.

The Panel received a presentation from the Chief Constable, Victoria Fuller, covering progress made by the force in the preceding 12 months, key constraints and a forward look, including the following:

- A Domestic Abuse Protection Order pilot, one of a handful across the country, was progressing to provide longer term flexible protection for victims. 389 orders have been granted, which are robustly policed, with the force having acted on 294 breaches.
- July 2025 saw the launch of a successful work experience programme for young people aged 14- 19 wanting to get a taste of the work. The programme would be repeated in 2026.
- 390 illegal bikes had been recovered and crushed
- A pilot was underway for the Drone as First Responder programme with 17 deployments in the first 2 weeks, including recovery of a stolen quad.
- An increase in anti-social behaviour, personal robbery, sexual offences and serious violence had been recorded.
- Limitations of current funding formula and its impact on Cleveland Police.

The Panel had regard to the detailed information contained within the Commissioner's report in relation to the overall funding position, and specifically how this related to Cleveland. In determining the budget strategy and LTFP for Cleveland in 2026/27, it was noted that the following future funding and planning assumptions had been made:

- Precept increases of £15 per annum throughout future years of the plan.
- Government Grant increase of: 2.4% in 27/28, 1.0% in 28/29 and 2% per annum thereafter.
- Tax Base increases of 1.4% per year.
- Pensions Grant continued at current level.
- Pay Awards 3% (26/27), 2.5% (27/28) and 2% thereafter.
- General Reserves are projected to be around £6m throughout the plan. This would be around 3% of Core Grant plus Precept.

The Panel considered the report that had been prepared by the Task and Finish Panel and thanked the Members for their time in looking at the budget strategy and precept proposals in greater depth.

The Task and Finish Panel had recommended that, assuming no significant change from the currently stated position, the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to increase the precept element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2025/26 by £15 (Band D equivalent) be supported.

Alongside this recommendation, the Task and Finish Panel had made three further recommendations, namely:

1. The Police and Crime Panel be recommended to request that the Police and Crime Commissioner implement a robust Communication Strategy to ensure the public are made aware of the reasons for the current financial circumstances.
2. Given such limited flexibility in precept proposals resulting from the financial position, the Police and Crime Panel be recommended to request local MPs to support any government lobbying regarding the settlement.
3. The analysis of the consultation responses be shared with the Police and Crime Panel.

The Panel welcomed the information shared by the Commissioner in relation to these recommendations, as summarised below:

Making representations on the funding formula – The Provisional Police Settlement for 2026/27 has provided the PCC with the worst funding settlement in the country considering funding provided from the Government and the amount that can be raised from the Local Precept. The funding formula relied on outdated census data and its continued application results in an unfair distribution of funding which sees wealthier areas of the country receiving more generous settlements and Cleveland receiving insufficient funding to meet its needs based on current census and deprivation data. The police force needs the same equity in funding as other public sector organisations, such as local government. Three attempts at formal correspondence had not yet received a response, and additional meetings with ministers were ongoing with every opportunity being taken to highlight the impact of the current formula on more grant-dependent, deprived and urban areas resulting in funding allocations not matching need.

The Panel wished to add its support to the lobbying effort and agreed that a collaborative, cross party response echoing the above sentiments would be prepared and forwarded to the Home Secretary, Policing Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer on behalf of the Panel, local MP's and council leaders.

The analysis of the consultation responses – 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. Analysis had been undertaken which showed that over 50% of respondents from each of the 4 council areas had indicated they would be willing to pay at least £15 per year for policing in the Cleveland area and that anti-social behaviour was the key concern area for residents.

Whilst this was a positive and welcome response to the consultation, the Panel felt it was important that the Commissioner had a clear communication strategy acknowledging that even with the maximum precept acknowledged, the financial settlement from Government did not provide sufficient resource to meet policing need in Cleveland.

Having considered all the information available to it and discussed the funding assumptions and associated issues in detail, the Panel **RESOLVED** to:

1. Endorse the Task and Finish Panel's recommendation and support the Commissioner's proposal to set the Band D Police Element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2025/26 at £332.73 representing an increase of £15, or 4.72%, over the 2025/26 level.
2. Lobby government in respect of the funding formula.