

OPCC Record of Decision

The decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to set the future four-year financial position for the financial years 2025/26 to 2028/29 and the proposals that were presented to the 31st of January 2025 Police and Crime Panel.

Decision Record prepared by	
Name:	Nicola Allen
Role:	Treasurer
Date of Decision:	3 rd February 2025

1. Background

1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner sets the future four-year financial position for policing for the financial years 2025/26 – 2028-29 and these proposals were presented to the 31st of January 2025 Police and Crime Panel as follows:

1.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner proposed a £13.70 increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2025/26 financial year following consultation with the Chief Constable.

1.3 Further items that were presented for the Police and Crime Panel to note:

- The Commissioning Intentions Plan
- The Reserves Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and the Capital Strategy are published online to ensure transparency.
- The Chief Constable's resources summary letter detailing his operational policing requirements for the coming year.

2. Decision Record

2.1. The Police and Crime Panel did not exercise their power of veto to the Commissioner's proposals for a £13.70 proposed increase in the Band D equivalent for the police element of the council tax for the 2025/26 financial year. It is therefore the Commissioner's decision to confirm the proposed £13.70 (4.99%) increase to the Band D equivalent in the police precept proportion of council tax. This will take the Band D equivalent from £274.50 in 2024/2524 to £288.20 for 2025/26. The bands are shown in the table below:

Valuation Band	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Increase £	Increase %	Increase per day £	Increase per week £	Increase per month £	Increase per month (10 months) £
A	183.00	192.13	9.13	4.99%	0.03	0.18	0.76	0.91
B	213.50	224.16	10.66	4.99%	0.03	0.20	0.89	1.07
C	244.00	256.18	12.18	4.99%	0.03	0.23	1.01	1.22
D	274.50	288.20	13.70	4.99%	0.04	0.26	1.14	1.37
E	335.50	352.24	16.74	4.99%	0.05	0.32	1.40	1.67
F	396.50	416.29	19.79	4.99%	0.05	0.38	1.65	1.98
G	457.50	480.33	22.83	4.99%	0.06	0.44	1.90	2.28
H	549.00	576.40	27.40	4.99%	0.08	0.53	2.28	2.74

3. Consultation, Engagement and Communication

- 3.1. Publication of the provisional Police Finance Settlement was made on 17th December 2024 with the final settlement published on 30th January 2025. There was one change between the provisional and final settlement which related to the neighbourhood policing grant which doubled from 2.35 million to 4.67 million. It has been assumed that the totality of this funding will required the equivalent expenditure. Criteria around this funding has yet to be received.
- 3.2. As part of the commitment to actively engage with the communities of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly on the totality of the budget a public survey was run from November 2024. The survey was promoted on social media platforms, through Neighbourhood Alert, at public engagement events and via community networks. The Police and Crime Panel members were also invited to an informal briefing on the totality of the budget settlement, in January 2024.
- 3.3. The survey was designed to seek significant levels of engagement on questions around policing and investment priorities before the 2024/25 budget proposals were finalised. There were 1,915 responses to the engagement, which is statistically significant.
- 3.4. The Commissioner submitted her written proposals to the Police and Crime Panel on 23rd January 2025. These were scrutinised in public by the Police and Crime Panel on 31st January 2025. The Police and Crime Panel did not exercise their veto for the proposals and made no recommendations.
- 3.5. Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel Chair has written to the Commissioner to formalise the agreement of the Police and Crime Panel at the meeting on the 31st of January 2025. A copy of the letter has been provided in the supporting documents with this decision and will be published.

4. OPCC Monitoring Officer advice

4.1 Legal, Management, Equality and GDPR Implications – Current and Future

- 4.1.1 The Commissioner has taken into account this year's funding settlement and seeks to ensure that funding for the Force keeps pace with inflation at current levels. The budget is looking to deliver improved public confidence through better policing. The MTFS will maintain police officer numbers at 3,610.

4.1.2 Many new areas of policing require investment in new technology before any operational savings can be generated or operational benefits fully realised. The autumn budget announcement and the provisional settlement highlighted the importance of neighbourhood policing.

4.2 **Financial and Commercial – Current and Future**

4.2.1 Indicative spending levels. The national settlement has confirmed. We are expecting the next Comprehensive Spending Review later in the year. A risk register is attached to the Police and Crime Panel Report.

4.2.2 Work on the national funding formula has paused with the election of the new government. This remains a significant future risk.

5. **Supporting documents:**

5.1 Letter dated 31st January 2025 from the Police and Crime Panel Chair to the Police and Crime Commissioner accepting the proposed council tax, without exercising the power of veto or making any recommendations.

5.2 The Police and Crime Commissioners precept, budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 – 2028/29 as presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 31st January 2025 comprises the following documents:

- Proposed Precept, Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2025/26 – 2028/29 – Main Report
- Appendix 1 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 – 2028/29
- Appendix 2 – Letter from the Chief Constable
- Appendix 3 – Commissioning Intentions Plan 2025 -2026
- Appendix 4 – Risk Assessment
- Appendix 5 – “Your Safety, Your Say” survey results summary
- Appendix 6 – Glossary of Terms

6. **Official approval**

Following the appropriate approval, this decision sheet will be published, subject to FOIA classification, on the OPCC website.

The Recommendation for Decision as outlined in this report is formally approved and subject to Freedom of Information Classification will be published on the OPCC website:

<p>Police and Crime Commissioner</p>  <p>Signed: Print: Alison Hernandez Date: 03/02/2025</p>	<p>Governance Signature by Monitoring Officer</p>  <p>Signed Print: Fran Hughes Date: 023/02/2025</p>	<p>Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer</p>  <p>Signed Print: Nicola Allen Date: 03/02/2025</p>
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Equality Impact Assessment attached <i>[Tick if completed]</i>	
Data Protection Impact Assessment attached <i>[Tick if completed]</i>	
Decision logged in register? <i>[Tick if completed]</i>	
Decision published on OPCC website? <i>[Tick if completed]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For OPCC office use:

If FOI Closed at the current date under Section 22, please provide details of the future date by which this decision can be reconsidered for publication:	<p>[DD/MM/YY] <i>[insert date]</i></p>
Is there a publication schedule that lists the documents relating to this decision that will also be published at a later date in the future? If yes, please attach a copy with this decision.	<p>yes / no <i>[delete as appropriate]</i></p>