

Equality Impact Assessment – Initial screening:

Setting the police precept element of the Council Tax for 2026/27

Project details

Business area:	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Name of Project / Policy Title & Number	Setting the police precept element of the Council Tax for 2026/27 for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
Name of Business Lead	Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner
Name of person carrying out EIA	Fran Hughes, Chief Executive Officer
Version & date	Version 1 – 30/01/2026
Associated Documents / Working Practices	Police and Crime Panel reports (item 5) 30/01/2026

Equality Impact: Initial Screening

1. Significance & Impact: The relevance for equality depends on the nature and extent of the impact not just the numbers of people affected.	
Do the proposals affect service users, employees or the wider community?	Yes
Do the proposals significantly affect service delivery, business processes or policy?	No
Does it involve a significant commitment of resources?	Yes
Do the proposals relate to an area where there are known inequalities? (e.g. hate crime, domestic abuse, accessibility, recruitment & progression)	No
2. What are the main aims, purpose and outcomes of the proposals or policy?	
<p>The police precept must be set in line with government guidelines to ensure that policing in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has a realistic operational budget for the year ahead and a balanced Medium Term Financial Strategy for the next four years. The proposal applies equally to all council tax payers unless they qualify for an exemption or additional support from their local council.</p>	
3. Relevance: How does the aim and purpose of the proposal or policy relate to each of the aims of the public sector equality duty?	
a) To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010	The setting of the precept determines the universal police budget envelope for Devon and Cornwall Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. There are no matters, including those of inequality, discrimination, harassment, or victimisation – which have been identified within the funding

	<p>envelope.</p> <p>The majority of the budget will be utilised by the Chief Constable for operational delivery. Under the Policing Protocol 2023 the Police and Crime Commissioner sets the budget and the Chief Constable determines how to utilise that budget in order to run an effective and efficient policing service. The case of <i>R v Chief Constable, ex parte International Traders Ferry</i> (1999), is authority for the fact that it is entirely a matter for the Chief Constable to determine how to deploy their resources (relying on the universal budget) and that every decision made by the Chief Constable about how to utilise the budget with a potential to impact on those within Protected Characteristic groups under the Equality Act 2010, will be subject to a specific Equality Impact Assessment.</p>				
b) To advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups	As above.				
c) To foster good relations between people from different groups.	As above.				
4. Is it likely that the proposals or policy could affect particular protected groups differently?					
Age	No	Disability	No	Sexual Orientation	No
Race	No	Sex	No	Religion or Belief	No
Gender reassignment	No	Pregnancy & Maternity	No	Marriage or Civil Partnership Status	No
Please provide details for each protected group where you have indicated 'Yes'.					
N/A					
5. What are the issues that you have identified and considered in relation to Human Rights?					
There are no specific Human Rights issues identified from setting the council tax precept at the maximum level allowable for 2026/27; equating to a £15 increase for Band D equivalent properties in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.					
a) What is the potential for interference with an individual's rights?	None				
b) What is the legal basis?	N/A				
c) Are the interferences justified?	N/A				
d) Are the interferences proportionate?	N/A				
6. Proceed to Equality Analysis?	No				
7. Approved by Business Lead	Fran Hughes, Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner				