

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2029/30

Annual Budget 2026/27

“Community Policing delivered with
competence, compassion and a
common sense approach”



The Medium Term Financial Strategy: 2026/27 to 2029/30

	Page
1. Police and Crime Plan	3
2. Revenue Strategy	
a. Funding Forecast	5
b. Main Components of the Revenue Budget	6
c. Schedule of Key Budget Assumptions	7
d. Reconciliation of 2026/27 Revenue Budget to 2025/26 Budget	8
e. Income from Sales, Fees, Charges and Rents	9
f. Staffing Analysis	10
3. Reserves and Balances	11
4. Council Tax Information and Precept	12
5. Capital Programme	13

1. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

The Police and Crime Commissioner (Commissioner) has a statutory duty to produce a Police and Crime Plan (The Plan). The Plan must set out the priorities for policing and community safety in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly along with the resources that will be provided to the Chief Constable and others in order to meet those objectives. The Plan must be kept under regular review to ensure it remains appropriate to the needs of local people, the police and partners. The strategy used to produce this MTFS is my Police and Crime Plan for 2025-2029 which provides continuity from my previous approach 'Safe, resilient, connected communities'.

The Police and Crime Plan can be found at:

[Police-and-Crime-Plan-2025-FINAL.pdf](#)

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is created to support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. It sets out both the funding available, and the forecast spending required to deliver the Plan priorities. The MTFS for 2026/27 and beyond has been prepared within a backdrop of a difficult economic climate and a new government. The provisional settlement announced on 18th December 2025 had minimal detail and therefore this MTFS may need restating once further detail is available. It is unclear whether the mandated maintenance of the police uplift programme will still be required.

The Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Plan was created in November 2024 and will be used to inform the Peninsula Strategic Assessment. The new Plan will run until 2029 and sets out the Commissioner's priorities for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, including:

- ❖ Antisocial behaviour
- ❖ Alcohol and Drugs
- ❖ Theft
- ❖ Serious Violence
- ❖ Victims

The Commissioner will work closely with the Chief Constable and colleagues across the Peninsula to drive forward progress against these priorities.

During 2025/26 an announcement was made to abolish the role of Police and Crime Commissioners from May 2028. There is very little detail on the impact of this decision. The Bank of England base rate continued to decrease, with inflation ranging from 3.2% to 3.8% which is still higher than the government target of 2%. However, there was a decrease in the rate of employers pension rates which has mitigated some increased costs.

This MTFS includes the impact for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly on the national uplift in officer numbers. An element of the government grant (£8.2m) has been ringfenced and is subject to the maintenance of these numbers.

The Police and Crime Plan places a strong emphasis on protecting the vulnerable in our society. There has been progress, but the work continues to encourage the reporting of crime and encouraging victims to come forward and seek justice and to ensuring that they receive a high-quality service when they do come forward.

The focus of the 2026/27 budget process is specifically on maintaining “business as usual, enabling it to be sustained for the long term. This will enable Devon and Cornwall Police to strengthen, stabilise and sustain their current position. Visibility of policing and public confidence in policing is vitally important, and this budget will endeavour to keep police officer numbers at the highest ever seen. However, this will be dependent on the additional detail around the funding settlement. Neighbourhood policing is also a focus for the year both locally and nationally.

Delivery & accountability

The Police and Crime Plan will be delivered by the Commissioner with close co-operation from the Chief Constable and partners.

The Plan details how strategic measures and indicators (including qualitative surveys) will be used to monitor its implementation and successful achievement. Regular progress reports will be published on the OPCC website.

The Commissioner is required to report regularly to the Police and Crime Panel.

Slavery and Human Trafficking compliance statement

The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable are committed to eliminating discrimination and exploitation in all its forms from the workplace and will not knowingly or otherwise be complicit in human rights infringements.

Slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, including child labour and human trafficking and other human rights offences must be identified, tackled and prevented for the future.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary embrace the obligations placed on organisations under section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and understands they are vital in tackling and preventing modern slavery and human trafficking.

2. REVENUE STRATEGY

a. FUNDING FORECAST

The funding forecast provides a prediction of the level of funding across the timeframe of the MTFS.

2025/26		2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	<u>Grant Funding</u>				
142,206	Core settlement	147,933	149,413	150,907	152,416
0	Rule 2	8,008	8,088	8,169	8,251
80,443	DCLG Formula	83,678	84,515	85,360	86,214
15,461	Legacy CT Grants	15,461	15,461	15,461	15,461
238,109		255,081	257,477	259,897	262,342
	<u>Council Tax</u>				
192,241	Precept income	204,707	216,983	229,483	242,212
2,562	Surplus	1,784	1,000	1,000	1,000
194,804		206,491	217,983	230,483	243,212
432,913	Total Funding	461,572	475,460	490,381	505,554
667,041	Tax base	675,155	681,906	688,725	695,612
4.65%	Tax base Increase	1.22%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
288.20	Band D	303.20	318.20	333.20	348.20
4.99%	Council Tax Increase %	5.20%	4.95%	4.71%	4.50%
£13.70	Council Tax Increase £	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00

b. MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE REVENUE BUDGET

25/26 MTFS Plan £000's	Category	Description	26/27 MTFS Plan £000's	27/28 MTFS Plan £000's	28/29 MTFS Plan £000's	29/30 MTFS Plan £000's
263,684	Pay & Employment Costs	Police Officer Costs	280,481	291,112	298,364	309,616
123,680		Police Staff Costs	134,174	138,134	142,014	145,304
2,341		Restructure, Training & Conference Costs	2,168	2,051	1,965	1,966
1,193		Other Employee Expenses	1,268	1,289	1,315	1,342
390,898	Pay & Employment Costs Total		418,091	432,586	443,658	458,228
16,815	Overheads	Premises Related Expenditure	17,236	16,967	17,058	17,191
19,933		Supplies and Services	22,522	21,648	21,704	21,887
19,488		Communications and Computing	20,184	20,840	21,664	22,199
6,175		Transport Related Expenditure	7,067	7,177	7,294	7,400
17,873		Third Party Payments	17,439	17,892	18,308	18,818
80,284	Overheads Total		84,448	84,525	86,028	87,495
(35,671)	Grant, Trading & Reimbursement Income	Government & Overseas Funding	(29,754)	(29,831)	(29,908)	(29,415)
(1,405)		Interest/ Investment Income	(961)	(1,046)	(1,049)	(1,040)
0		Local Government Specific/Partnership Funding	0	0	0	0
(672)		Reimbursed Services - Other	(677)	(688)	(697)	(704)
(1,532)		Reimbursed Services - Other Police Forces	(1,130)	(1,132)	(1,134)	(1,132)
(9,457)		Reimbursed Services - Other Public Bodies	(11,075)	(11,219)	(11,205)	(11,371)
(10,808)		Sales, Fees, Charges and Rents	(11,387)	(11,750)	(12,505)	(12,406)
(429)		Special Police Services	(459)	(459)	(459)	(459)
(59,973)	Grant, Trading & Reimbursement Income Total		(55,443)	(56,125)	(56,957)	(56,527)
1,640	Capital Financing and Contributions	Loan Charges	1,539	2,366	2,771	2,915
5,000		Minimum Revenue Provision	5,342	5,346	6,348	7,742
6,547		Revenue Contribution to Capital	7,856	8,964	9,012	10,089
13,188	Capital Financing and Contributions Total		14,737	16,676	18,131	20,747
(18)	Transfers to / (from) Specific Reserves		(927)	1,770	1,813	1,887
(18)	Transfers to / (from) Reserves Total		(927)	1,770	1,813	1,887
424,378	Sub-Total Force		460,906	479,433	492,674	511,830
0	Savings Programme (PBB)		(5,958)	(10,696)	(9,114)	(13,203)
424,379	Total Force		454,948	468,737	483,560	498,627
2,957	Office of the PCC		2,750	2,847	2,946	3,052
5,578	PCC Commissioning		3,875	3,875	3,875	3,875
8,535	Total OPCC		6,625	6,722	6,821	6,927
432,913	Net Revenue Expenditure		461,572	475,460	490,381	505,554
432,913	Funding		461,572	475,460	490,381	505,554

c. SCHEDULE OF KEY BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

This schedule identifies the key assumptions used in the ongoing calculation of the 2026/27 budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

- This budget reflects the first year of the recent comprehensive spending review.
- Core Government Police Grant funding will increase by 2.3% in 2026/27. Future years assume a 1% grant increase for each year thereafter.
- There is minimal detail on the specific grants and therefore it has been assumed that these will remain the same for 2025/26. There is no detail on any grant criteria or conditions.
- This MTFS assumes Council Tax for a Band D property will increase by £15 in 2026/27 and each year thereafter.
- The 2026/27 figures for tax base and Council Tax surplus along with future years assumptions are shown below. The previous year figures are included for context.

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Annual increase in tax base	4.65%	1.20%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Annual surplus/deficit on Council Tax collection funds	£2.7m	£1.6m	£1m	£1m	£1m

- Turnover on police officers assumes officers leaving at their usual pension date, plus an estimate for ill health retirements, transfers out and resignations.
- A 4.2% pay award was agreed for police officers and police staff from 1st September 2025. The MTFS assumes that a 3% pay award will be applied on 1st September 2026, and 2.5% 1st September each year thereafter for police officers and police staff.
- Inflation has been applied only to budgets that are subject to inflationary pressures. Actual CPI for November 2025 was 3.2% compared to 2.6% in November 2024.
- The Devon Pension Fund employer's contribution to the police staff pension scheme, plus agreed contributions to the deficit, is as set out below. The scheme was revalued from 1st April 2026.

	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
LGPS Base Contribution	18.90%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%
Plus Repayment of LGPS Deficit (cash lump sum)	£0.677m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m
Estimated Total Cash Contribution	£17.7m	£17.0m	£17.7m	£17.8m	£18.2m
% of Staff Pay Budgets	19.27%	16.83%	17.43%	17.15%	17.25%

d. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN THE REVENUE BUDGET BETWEEN 2029/30 AND 2025/26

	26/27 MTFS Plan £000's	27/28 MTFS Plan £000's	28/29 MTFS Plan £000's	29/30 MTFS Plan £000's
2025/26 Budget	432,913	432,913	432,913	432,913
<u>Savings</u>				
Savings Delivered – OPCC	(973)	(973)	(973)	(973)
Savings Programme (Priority Based Budgeting)	(5,000)	(8,325)	(9,025)	(10,025)
Savings Required - Balancing Figure	(3,073)	(4,502)	(2,235)	(5,339)
<u>Planned Budget Reductions:-</u>				
Rent Reductions	0	(510)	(630)	(750)
ICT related reductions	(604)	(699)	(699)	(699)
Other budget efficiencies	(228)	(548)	(626)	(626)
<u>Pay related increases</u>				
Pay Award	15,852	26,143	36,156	46,409
Increments (Officer & Staff)	6,019	12,178	18,686	25,601
Police Officer Pay Changes	(372)	(1,810)	(7,461)	(9,398)
Overtime	1,078	578	600	0
Other Pay Changes	815	690	667	612
LGPS Changes	(3,206)	(3,535)	(3,666)	(3,767)
Increase to Neighbourhood policing	5,248	5,265	5,278	5,292
<u>Non Pay related Increases</u>				
Inflationary changes	2,170	3,597	4,894	6,261
Other Contractual Changes	956	525	584	762
Other unavoidable increases	519	540	543	546
Regional Budgets	679	1,012	1,427	1,831
<u>Changes in Income</u>				
Investment Interest	444	359	356	365
Changes to Income	146	166	(158)	173
<u>Grant Changes</u>				
Neighbourhood Policing Grant	(8,591)	(8,591)	(8,591)	(8,591)
Uplift Grant	13,222	13,222	13,222	13,222
Other Grant Changes	(249)	(249)	(249)	(249)
<u>Capital Financing</u>				
RCCO	1,309	2,417	2,465	3,542
MRP	209	1,074	2,040	3,400
Interest Paid	(102)	370	810	989
Transfer to/from reserves	(723)	1,948	1,948	1,948
Growth	3,114	2,204	2,104	2,104
Total 26/27 MTFS	461,572	475,460	490,381	505,554

e. INCOME FROM SALES, FEES, CHARGES AND RENTS

This analysis details the level of external income generated from sales, fees, charges and rents. The level of income generated is continually reviewed to ensure that all opportunities are optimised.

25/26 Budget £000's		26/27 Budget £000's	27/28 Budget £000's	28/29 Budget £000's	29/30 Budget £000's
(7,694)	National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme	(7,610)	(7,838)	(8,074)	(8,316)
(482)	Firearms Certificates	(645)	(608)	(900)	(687)
(525)	Rents & Lettings	(548)	(548)	(548)	(548)
(310)	Accident Reports	(436)	(445)	(454)	(464)
(140)	Driver Improvement Income	(565)	(582)	(600)	(618)
(110)	Sale of Vehicles	(110)	(110)	(110)	(110)
(1)	Vehicle Recovery	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
(59)	Radio Masts and Equipment Hire	(59)	(59)	(59)	(59)
(4)	Stores External Income	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
(69)	Provision of Vehicle Services	(69)	(69)	(69)	(69)
(1,414)	Other Sales, Fees, Charges and Rents	(1,341)	(1,486)	(1,687)	(1,531)
(10,808)	Grand Total	(11,387)	(11,750)	(12,505)	(12,406)

f. STAFFING ANALYSIS

	2025/26 (FTE)	2026/27 (FTE)	2027/28 (FTE)	2028/29 (FTE)	2029/30 (FTE)
<u>Police Officers</u>					
Opening Balance at 1st April	3,610	3,610	3,610	3,610	3,610
Closing Balance at 31st March	3,610	3,610	3,610	3,610	3,610
<u>Police Community Support</u>					
PCSO	150	199	199	199	199
PCSO Change	49				
Blue Light	26	26	26	26	26
Total	225	225	225	225	225
<u>Police Staff (Force)</u>					
Opening Balance at 1st April	2,200	2,281	2,226	2,165	2,165
Change	81	-55	-61	0	-43
Closing Balance at 31st March	2,281	2,226	2,165	2,165	2,122
<u>Police Staff (OPCC)</u>					
Opening Balance at 1st April	34	34	31	31	31
Change	0	-3	0	0	0
Closing Balance at 31st March	34	31	31	31	31
<u>Police Staff (Road Safety - Vision Zero South West)</u>					
Opening Balance at 1st April	113	132	132	132	132
Change	19	0	0	0	0
Closing Balance at 31st March	132	132	132	132	132

3. RESERVES AND BALANCES SUMMARY

	Forecast Balance 31/3/2026 £000's	Forecast Balance 31/3/2027 £000's	Forecast Balance 31/3/2028 £000's	Forecast Balance 31/3/2029 £000's	Forecast Balance 31/3/2030 £000's
Revenue Reserves					
Capital Financing Reserve	6,528	5,680	4,830	3,080	809
ESN Capital Reserve	4,101	4,101	3,265	0	0
VZSW (Ringfenced)	1,558	695	703	1,110	1,388
Improvement Reserve	200	200	200	200	200
Budget Management Fund	3,210	568	568	568	568
Police and Crime Plan Reserve	931	931	931	931	931
Total Revenue Reserves	16,527	12,173	10,495	5,888	3,895
Capital Reserves					
Capital Grant	360	360	360	360	360
Capital Receipts	977	977	977	977	977
Total Capital Reserves	1,337	1,337	1,337	1,337	1,337
General Balances	15,469	14,869	15,869	16,869	17,869
Total Reserves and Balances	33,333	28,379	27,701	24,094	23,101

4. COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION AND PRECEPT

Council Tax Information and Precept

	2026/27	2025/26
	£	£
Police Budget to be met from Council Tax	206,491,250	194,803,217
Less net surplus on council tax collection from previous years	(1,784,375)	(2,561,983)
Total precept payable by Billing Authorities	204,706,875	192,241,234

Tax base, collection variations and precepts					
	2026/27				
	Tax Base declared by Councils	Total Precept collected by Councils	2025/26 Surplus (Deficit) on collection fund	Amount due from Councils	% share collected by Councils
		£	£	£	
East Devon	65,733.46	19,930,385.07	232,884.27	20,163,269.34	9.76%
Exeter	40,186.00	12,184,395.20	128,435.52	12,312,830.72	5.96%
Mid Devon	31,180.16	9,453,824.51	109,124.49	9,562,949.00	4.63%
North Devon	37,751.61	11,446,288.15	222,545.03	11,668,833.18	5.65%
Plymouth	76,887.00	23,312,138.40	80,212.00	23,392,350.40	11.33%
South Hams	46,083.87	13,972,629.38	521,000.00	14,493,629.38	7.02%
Teignbridge	52,653.00	15,964,389.60	458,765.00	16,423,154.60	7.95%
Torbay	49,488.48	15,004,907.14	147,030.00	15,151,937.14	7.34%
Torridge	26,477.64	8,028,020.45	38,789.00	8,066,809.45	3.91%
West Devon	22,623.50	6,859,445.20	157,000.00	7,016,445.20	3.40%
Cornwall	224,697.68	68,128,336.58	-291,701.00	67,836,635.58	32.85%
Isles of Scilly	1,392.20	422,115.04	-19,709.00	402,406.04	0.19%
	675,154.60	204,706,874.72	1,784,375.31	206,491,250.03	100.0%

Police element of Council Tax due for each Property Valuation Band						
Valuation band	Government multiplier		Council Tax by band		Increase per week	%
	Ratio		2026/27	2025/26		
A	6 / 9	0.667	£202.13	£192.13	+ 19.2 p	5.20%
B	7 / 9	0.778	£235.82	£224.16	+ 22.4 p	
C	8 / 9	0.889	£269.51	£256.18	+ 25.6 p	
D	1	1.000	£303.20	£288.20	+ 28.8 p	
E	11 / 9	1.222	£370.58	£352.24	+ 35.3 p	
F	13 / 9	1.444	£437.96	£416.29	+ 41.7 p	
G	15 / 9	1.667	£505.33	£480.33	+ 48.1 p	5.20%
H	18 / 9	2.000	£606.40	£576.40	+ 57.7 p	

5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Capital Programme	Revised 25-26 £'000	MTFS 26-27 £'000	MTFS 27-28 £'000	MTFS 28-29 £'000	MTFS 29-30 £'000
Fleet	2,571	4,510	4,586	3,629	3,661
Estates Minor Building Works	3,204	1,500	4,100	3,250	3,250
Barnstaple North Walk Mitigation	0	0	656	0	0
Bodmin Roof	400	0	0	0	0
Camborne Phase III	1,527	0	0	0	0
Comms Roof/Windows HQ	1,150	1,269	0	0	0
EV Infrastructure Upgrade	500	500	1,000	1,500	1,500
Exmouth	0	500	1,500	3,214	0
HQ Firing Range	0	500	1,500	1,000	1,000
North Devon Provision	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000
Relocation of Staff to HQ	515	1,110	0	0	0
Sustainability 2040 Net Zero	850	500	1,120	1,120	1,000
South Devon Provision	1,120	540	0	0	0
SARC - REFCUS	0	0	600	0	0
Estates Contingency	0	0	2,000	4,000	4,000
Estates Major Building Works	6,062	6,919	10,376	12,834	10,500
Strategic Change	485	1,256	597	500	1,000
National Projects	55	173	134	202	0
ESN	0	0	836	3,265	5,362
ICT Infrastructure	3,447	5,482	6,666	7,257	5,557
Operational Equipment	2,632	1,809	1,133	513	560
Regional Collaboration (including REFCUS)	657	771	449	899	451
Other Capital	376	550	223	150	150
Total Programme	19,489	22,970	29,100	32,499	30,491
Capital Financing					
Borrowing	9,251	12,894	17,477	17,327	17,381
Capital Financing Reserve	3,223	1,598	1,600	2,500	3,021
Revenue Funding (RCCO)	6,562	7,856	8,964	9,012	10,089
Funding from Other Forces (Forensics)	120	72	0	395	0
Vision Zero Reserve	333	550	223	0	0
ESN Reserve	0	0	836	3,265	0
Total	19,489	22,970	29,100	32,499	30,491