

Sent by email



**Mayor David Skaith**

Friday 14 February 2025  
Our ref: 250214PFCP

**York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority**  
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Cllr Peter Wilkinson  
Chair, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Dear Cllr Wilkinson and Panel Members,

Thank you for your report and your consideration of my precept proposals.

I can confirm that I propose to use both precepts as below

### **Policing and Crime**

I will set the Police element of the Council Tax precept for 2025/26 at £320.86. This represents an increase of £14 over the 2024/25 level for a Band D property.

As members are aware the police funding settlement has provided an increase in core government funding of 6.2%. However, much of this is linked to decisions already taken nationally or expenditure, which include;

- Funding to cover last year's pay award and to maintain police officer numbers;
- Funding to help cover higher National Insurance contributions; and
- Funding to support the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.

Therefore, the precept for 2025/26 is required to ensure that the service can accommodate all inflationary pressures and the 2025/26 pay award.

The Panel's observations regarding Neighbourhood Policing are noted and Jo Coles, the Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime, and I, will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure that the public have confidence in North Yorkshire Police and receive the service they expect from.

### **Fire and Rescue**

I will set the Fire Element of the Mayoral General Precept within North Yorkshire for 2025/26 at £107.02. This represents an increase of £24 over the 2024/25 level for a Band D property.

As the panel are aware North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service has faced significant financial challenges, members have discussed this regularly. This follows a legacy of

under-funding and the freezing of previous precepts between 2011 and 2014. I am grateful for the Panels support in relation to this and attempts to obtain a fairer funding deal for North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that the service can be more financially stable and able to invest in critical equipment. I would like to thank the Panel once again for writing to the government to urge that consideration is given to putting funding for flooding response on a statutory basis and to ensure our public services have the long-term funding they need to operate in a sustainable way.

I also thank the Panel for supporting the greater flexibility under my general budget requirement to ensure that opportunity is taken in 2025/26 to address some of these significant issues by seeking a higher precept from the public. This will enhance public safety and the safety of firefighters.

I acknowledge the concerns raised regarding how high the increase will seem to the people of York and North Yorkshire. I will ensure that communication with the public is clear regarding the importance of raising this precept and what the money will be spent on.

I also take on board other comments made by the Panel. For example, giving further consideration for next year's public precept consultation around how to ensure a greater number of responses are obtained. We will look at this carefully to ensure we balance levels of participation against value for taxpayer's money during the consultation process.

The Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime and I will continue to hold both North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to ensure public confidence, and account for delivery of an effective and efficient service so that York and North Yorkshire, is a safe place to live, work and visit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Skaith', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the signature.

David Skaith  
Mayor of York and North Yorkshire