

## **Report of the PFCC for North Yorkshire to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel**

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Status: For decision**

### **The 2022/23 Police Precept Proposal**

#### **1 Purpose**

1.1 Legislation requires that I agree my budget and associated precept and basic council tax for the forthcoming year before 1<sup>st</sup> March each year. However before doing so I must notify this Panel of the precept which I propose to issue for the following year.

#### **2 Recommendations**

2.1 The Panel is asked to consider my proposal to set the Band D Police Element of the Council Tax within North Yorkshire for 2022/23 at £281.06. This is an increase of £10, or 3.69% over the 2021/22 level.

2.2 The Panel is asked to support this proposal.

#### **3 Reasons**

3.1 The balance of the cost of the police service not paid for by central government is met by local taxpayers through a precept on their council tax. In North Yorkshire this will equate to just over 45% of the overall income that I will receive in 2022/23. It is the responsibility of the eight local billing authorities to collect this.

3.2 Legislation requires the precept for 2022/23 to be set before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and that the first step in enabling this to happen is that I am required to inform this panel of my proposed precept by the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. Which I did by submitting this report prior to that date.

- 3.3 In making my proposal on the Police precept I have taken into account the following:
- The views of the public of North Yorkshire
  - The financial impact on the people of North Yorkshire.
  - The financial needs of the organisation as currently projected both for 2022/23 and in the future.
  - The limits imposed by the Government on a precept increase before a referendum would be triggered in North Yorkshire.
  - I have discussed my proposals with the Chief Constable and engaged and consulted with the public on the options available to me.

### **Overall Financial Context**

- 3.4 Police Funding Settlement 2022/23
- 3.5 The 2022-23 Provisional Settlement was announced on 16 December in a written statement by the Crime and Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse.
- 3.6 Full details of the Settlement can be found on the Home Office gov.uk pages.
- 3.7 This settlement follows the first three-year Spending Review for several years. Despite the economic landscape improving, there are still significant difficulties within the economy. Inflation is of particular concern with the Bank of England's prediction of a CPI figure of over 5% in 2022 coming to fruition.
- 3.8 Prior to the publication of settlement, the sector was expecting a continuation of additional Police Uplift Programme funding for the recruitment of 8,000 officers (towards the 20,000 total).
- 3.9 In a follow up meeting, Kit Malthouse confirmed that policing would receive an extra £550m in 2022-23, £650m in 2023-24 and £800m by 2024-25. It has been clarified that this means £100m extra in 2023/24 and then £150m extra in 2023/24.
- 3.10 At the time of the Spending Review, how this money was to be distributed was unknown, however, it was suggested that as well as Uplift funding this would also give forces enough resource to fund a pay rise, in line with the end of the public sector pay freeze.
- 3.11 The settlement also provided Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in England with the flexibility to increase funding in each year of the Spending Review period with a £10 council tax referendum limit. According to the Spending Review, if all PCCs in England and Wales were to take full advantage of this flexibility, this would raise up to an additional £774m by 2024-25 based on current Home Office forecasts.

### 3.12 Spending Review 2021 Headlines

- £10 Precept Flexibility for PCCs over the 3 years of the Spending Review.
- The Home Office settlement provides £4.2 billion over the Parliament, increasing from £12.3bn in 2019-20, (14.6bn in 2021-22) to £16.5bn in 2024-25
- Public Sector Pay Freeze to end in 2022

### 3.13 Core Funding

3.14 Based on the analysis released by the Government Core Funding to PCC's has increased by 5.8%, this however assumes that all PCCs increase their Precept by £10 and also does not take into account the loss of the additional Local Council Tax Support Grant that PCCs received in 2021/22.

3.15 The smallest increases in core funding were seen in City of London at 4.7%, with Dorset and Gloucestershire at 4.8%. In contrast Northumbria is shown to have the largest increase at 6.3%, followed by West Midlands at 6%.

3.16 The Government calculate the increase in North Yorkshire (including a £10 increase in Precept and excluding the loss of £1,155k for additional Council Tax Support Grant) to be 5.0%.

3.17 When the transfer of Special Branch out of force budgets is included, the additional money for all forces amounts to an increase of £549m. It has been confirmed that the funding that was promised to cover employer NI contributions increase of 1.25% is included within this funding.

3.18 What does the Government expect to be delivered with this additional funding?

3.19 The Government has written to PCC's setting out that:

3.20 One of our top priorities will be to complete the recruitment of the 20,000 additional officers by March 2023. All forces have continued to deliver through year two of the programme and, working in partnership with you, we have already recruited 11,053 additional officers. We expect the pace of delivery to continue.

3.21 For the final year of the Police Uplift Programme, the 8,000 additional officers to be recruited will be allocated based on the forces' share of the core grant under the police funding formula.

3.22 The allocation of 8,000 officers will support the growth of 425 officers into Regional Organised Crime Units to confront serious and organised crime. This continues our investment in to the regional-tier of policing. This investment will support the delivery of our strategic commitments as set out in the Beating Crime Plan, as well as tackling drug supply, fraud, and online harms. These officers will also allow us to do more to stop the exploitation and abuse of the most vulnerable in our communities.

- 3.23 The Government expects PCCs to continue to take responsibility for crime outcomes both locally and nationally, and we will support PCCs and forces to deliver well-evidenced crime interventions as part of their core business. The Spending Review has provided £150m of Government funding for specific crime reduction programmes, designed to prevent crime and keep our communities safe, in each of the next three years. This funding will be available on a 'matched funding' basis.
- 3.24 Within this Spending Review settlement, we expect to see over £100m of cashable efficiency savings per annum delivered from police force budgets by 2024/25 against the 2020/21 baseline. Following positive engagement across the sector, we have identified three key areas for efficiencies: corporate functions ("back office" including shared services), commercial and procurement, and modern working practices including estates (taking advantage for new technology and innovation). The delivery of efficiencies will be supported and monitored by the Home Office and the Efficiency in Policing Board.
- 3.25 What does this mean for North Yorkshire in 2022/23 in terms of Funding?
- An increase in of Core Police Grant plus Police Uplift Grant of £4,766k.
  - This includes up to £1,314k from the ring-fenced grant for the officer uplift – linked to the recruitment of 78 additional Police Officers by the end of March 2023 (which includes 4 to be allocated to the Regional Organised Crime Unit)
  - Police Pension Grant remains at £1,449k
  - Capital Grant has been abolished. In 2021/22 it was £116k
  - The one-off increase in Council Tax Support Grant of £1,155k has not continued.
  - A challenge to deliver £1,000k of savings and efficiencies towards the £100m of savings that have been factored into the National Core Grant allocations, with £800k required to be delivered in 2022/23

3.26 Based on the precept being proposed, of £281.06 for a Band D property, then the overall impact on the Core funding for the organisation is set to increase by 5.0%, or just over £8.5m, as set out in the table below:

Overall Government and Local Revenue Funding				
	2022/23	2021/22	(Increase)/Reduction	Year on Year Change
	£000s	£000s	£000s	%age
<b>Government Funding</b>				
Police Grant	(51,102)	(48,392)	(2,709)	5.6%
RSG/National Non Domestic Rate	(32,374)	(30,658)	(1,716)	5.6%
Police Officer Uplift Grant	(1,314)	(973)	(341)	35.0%
Council Tax Freeze Grant	(2,152)	(2,152)	0	0.0%
Council Tax Support Grant	(5,746)	(6,901)	1,155	-16.7%
Additional Police Pensions Grant	(1,449)	(1,449)	0	0.0%
<b>Additional Government Funding Changes</b>	<b>(94,137)</b>	<b>(90,525)</b>	<b>(3,612)</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
<b>Impact of a £10 (3.69%) Band D Precept increase</b>				
Net Surplus on Collection Funds	(318)	233	(551)	
Council Tax Requirement	(86,556)	(82,178)	(4,378)	5.3%
<b>Total Local Funding</b>	<b>(86,874)</b>	<b>(81,945)</b>	<b>(4,929)</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>Total Government + Local Funding</b>	<b>(181,011)</b>	<b>(172,470)</b>	<b>(8,540)</b>	<b>5.0%</b>

3.27 How does North Yorkshire compare to the National Picture?

3.28 Of the £550m increase in Government Grant, which equates to a 6.1% increase nationally, North Yorkshire has only received a 5.2% increase.

3.29 The 0.9% difference is the equivalent of £770k (this is the equivalent to a £2.50 (0.9%) increase in the Band D precept)

3.30 If each PCC increased their precept by £10, combined with tax base assumptions, there will be an additional £246m of resources for policing from council tax alone. Due to historic differences in council tax, increases for individual PCCs range from 3.3% in North Wales to 6.95% in Northumbria. The unweighted average for all PCCs is 4.2%.

3.31 A £10 increase in North Yorkshire would equate to an increase of 3.69%. This would be the fourth lowest percentage increase in England, which results from North Yorkshire having the fourth highest Policing Precept level in England (down from 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the previous year) and a current Precept level that is over 13% higher than the National average.

3.32 If each PCC took the £10 precept, the average band D police precept in England and Wales would be £249.42 (in North Yorkshire this would be £281.06) with an average of 41% of total funding coming from Council Tax (in North Yorkshire this would 49%)

3.33 Government Funding for 2023/24 and beyond

3.34 The Government have indicated that policing would receive an extra £100m extra in 2023/24 and then £150m extra in 2024/25.

3.35 A £100m increase equates to an increase of only 1.1% in 2023/24. Whereas an increase of £150m equates to an increase of only 1.7% in 2024/25.

- 3.36 Neither of these increases will be sufficient to keep pace with either pay or non-pay inflation.
- 3.37 In 2022-23 the top slices/reallocations total £1,373.7m, a £340.2m increase over last year (£1,033.5m). Primarily, this difference comes from an increase in Police Technology Programmes at £121.8m, with an additional £325m going to new programmes including Police and CJS Performance, Crime Reduction Programmes, Crime Reduction Capabilities, Rape Review, Drugs / County Lines, Capital Reallocations and Fraud.
- 3.38 Pensions Grant
- 3.39 Pensions Grant allocations remain unchanged from those in 2019-20. They have not been updated to reflect the new forecasts nor increased to reflect pay inflation and therefore additional costs and pressures have to be 'absorbed'.
- 3.40 Council Tax Legacy Grant
- 3.41 The Council Tax Legacy Grants relating to Council Tax Freeze grants from 2011-12, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 as well as Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) funding remains separately identifiable in 2022-23. These have again remained flat cash settlements and therefore take no account of any changes for inflation or local need since they were awarded and is another area where additional costs are having to be 'absorbed'.
- 3.42 Capital Funding
- 3.43 Capital Funding has been moved under the umbrella of reallocations and adjustments. Total Police Capital Funding is now worth £188.1m. Capital funding grant in its previous form no longer exists.
- 3.44 As such no Government funding is providing specifically for Policing in North Yorkshire is only £116k. When this is compared to a Capital Programme of around £7m to £10m per year it means there is a significant need to use Revenue Funding to fund the Capital Programme.
- 3.45 Counter Terrorism
- 3.46 The Minister announced a total of £1,022.9m for Counter Terrorism (CT) policing in 2022-23. The top slice amounts to a total of £978.9m, an increase of £65m. However, this year the policing minister stated that there would be a £44m transfer from the Special Branch from core PCC budgets to the CT policing grant, which pushes the total to over £1bn.
- 3.47 Ministry of Justice Grants
- 3.48 PCCs have yet to be notified of their 2022-23 allocations for commissioning of victims' services and therefore allocations are assumed to be in line with last year at £964k.

3.49 In addition to the above it has been confirmed that £483k has been awarded to North Yorkshire to continue to invest in the 3 additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisor posts and 9 additional Independent Domestic Violence Advisor posts that were the subject of a successful funding bid in 2021/22.

3.43 MTFP Assumptions

When the 2021/22 budget was set in February 2021 the forecasts were underpinned by the following assumptions:

- Pay Awards:
  - 2021/22 - Freeze
  - 2022/23 - 1.0% increase
  - 2023/24 – 1.5% increase
  - 2024/25 – 2% increase
- Precept: Increases of:
  - 2021/22 - 1.99%
  - 2022/23 - 1.99%
  - 2023/24 – 1.99%
  - 2024/25 – 1.99%
- Tax Base increases of:
  - 2021/22 - 1.5%
  - 2022/23 - 1.5%
  - 2023/24 – 1.2%
  - 2024/25 – 1.0%
- Government Grants: Frozen for next 3 years
- Impact of Funding Formula review – Nil

3.44 Clearly much has changed in the last year and therefore in line with good planning our assumptions remain under review and are updated with the best information available and it is expected that the MTFP for 2022/23 and beyond will assume the following:

- Pay Awards:
  - 2022/23 – 3.5% increase
  - 2023/24 – 2.5% increase
  - 2024/25 – 2.0% increase
- Precept: Increases of:
  - 2022/23 - £10, or 3.69%
  - 2023/24 – 1.99%
  - 2024/25 – 1.99%
- Tax Base increases of:
  - 2022/23 - 1.58%
  - 2023/24 – 1.5%

- 2024/25 – 1.2%
- 2025/26 – 1.0%
- Government Grants increases of:
  - 2023/24 – 1.1%
  - 2024/25 – 1.7%
  - 2025/26 – 2.0%
- Impact of Funding Formula review – Nil

## 4 Local Financial and Service Delivery Context

### 4.1 Increased Pay Costs

4.2 There are broadly 3 main drivers of increased pay budgets for 2022/23. These are:

- A Forecast 3.5% pay award from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022
- A Employers National Insurance increase of 1.25% from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022
- Delivery of the final 78 Police Officer to meet the Government target

4.3 The costs of these 3 items alone are projected to be:

<b>Unavoidable increases in pay costs</b>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>Ultimate Cost</u>
	£m	£m	£m
3.5% Pay Award	2.7	4.7	4.7
1.25% NI Increase	1.2	1.2	1.2
78 Additional Police Officers	2.7	2.9	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>

4.4 The full year costs of these 3 items effectively require all of the additional funding, including the £10 precept increase, of just over £8.5m that was set out in paragraph 3.26.

4.5 It is however important to recognise that neither the PFCC nor the Chief Constable have any control over the level of pay awards. These are determined at a national level.

4.6 The impact of pay settlements that vary from those forecast within the MTFP will have a significant impact on the finances of the organisation and will need to be closely monitored.

### 4.7 Police Recruitment Plans in North Yorkshire

4.8 To be able to receive the £1,314k specific grant that is included within these financial plans, for the additional Uplift of Police Officers, and to meet the Government targets for Police Officer increases then North Yorkshire Police need to recruit an additional 78 Police Officers by the end of March 2023, and have at least 1,645 Police Officer by this point.



- 4.9 This follows closely on the back of recruiting the additional 51 Officers during 2019/20 and then the subsequent increases from the Uplift programme of 58 additional Officers in both 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 4.10 The Force is well positioned to deliver the Police Officer recruitment required for 2022/23 with expectations that it will start 2022/23 with around 1,600 Officers in Force.
- 4.11 To enable the growth in Police Officer numbers being targeted by the Government it is projected that North Yorkshire Police will need to recruit in excess of 100 Police Officers to reach this target, while replacing those who will leave or retire.
- 4.12 These continued levels of recruitment are clearly both a significant challenge and opportunity, however the Force has done an excellent job in delivering against their Police Officer recruitment plans over the last few years.
- 4.13 Not only is recruitment progressing well but the Force are also making significant improvements in relation to both equality and diversity.
- 4.14 Prior to the start of Operation Uplift around 37% of Police Officers within North Yorkshire were Female. Data recorded and published by the Home Office shows that to the end of September 2021 just under 49% of the new recruits into North Yorkshire Police, for whom they have data, have been Female.
- 4.15 Prior to the start of Operation Uplift around 2.5% of Police Officers within North Yorkshire indicated that their ethnicity was Black, Asian, Mixed or Other. Data recorded and published by the Home Office shows that, to the end of September 2021, 4.3% of the new recruits into North Yorkshire Police have indicated that their ethnicity was Black, Asian, Mixed or Other.
- 4.16 How will the additional Police Officers and wider financial investment be deployed and prioritised?
- 4.17 I have been clear with the Force that in asking the public of North Yorkshire to pay more they should expect more from their Police Service. With this in mind I have asked the Chief Constable to set out her priorities for 2022/23, linking to those areas that I have indicated as a priority in the Police and Crime Plan, that I am developing, and I will hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery of these during 2022/23.
- 4.18 The cornerstone of much of the investment and work in 2022/23 will surround the Chief Constable's vision "to see early intervention and prevention truly embedded as a way of working across the whole organisation. Preventing someone from coming to harm in the first place or doing a job "right first time" is the most effective way of improving the quality of life for all of our communities"

- 4.19 This approach to prevention and early intervention – the Early Action Together (EAT) model - enables the Force to scrutinise and identify those areas where the force needs to change, mature, grow or develop to better fulfil our commitment to keep the communities of North Yorkshire safe and feeling safe.
- 4.20 The Early Action Together model is particularly focused on supporting those most vulnerable, with mental ill-health, or complex needs, in order to reduce those crimes and incidents linked to social inequality or digitally-enable crime. We are also working to reduce the criminalisation of young people by deflecting them from future offending behaviours or victimisation.
- 4.21 A key element in our additional Precept spend is the deployment of the additional officers recruited as part of the national uplift programme
- 4.22 The first cohort of officers that were allocated to North Yorkshire Police will have completed their training by June 2022 which allows us to introduce them to full operational duties and consequently, move some of our more qualified and experienced officers into posts that will provide the additional capacity we need to deliver improved services to our communities
- 4.23 Early Action Together
- 4.24 Over the next year we will use the additional Precept funding to:
- Add 34 additional officers into our Customer Contact centre to provide an improved service to the public through focusing on early resolution of incidents or enquiries at the earliest opportunity.
  - Add 4 additional officers to support our new tasking and briefing process. This will help us to improve the quality of actionable intelligence and support more focused operational activity such as warrants within local communities.
  - Add 13 additional officers to our placed-based project to support problem solving within our neighbourhood policing teams. This will increase capacity to deliver the training required to deliver the needs of both our rural and urban communities. It will support our partnership working and will help us to provide the right support, at the right time and in the right place. Ultimately preventing crime and reducing harm within local communities.
  - Add 1 additional staff role to support the development of effective partnership working which is key to effective prevention and early intervention. This will focus on development of person-centred, trauma-informed services to address the root cause of offending behaviour. Through this work we aim to reduce the number of repeat victims and offenders, improving the lives of the most vulnerable in society reducing repeat demand on public services.

4.25 Safeguarding and Violence against Women and Girls

8 officer and 1 staff posts investment will be allocated to raise standards and improve the quality of our engagement with victims. We recognise that we need to strengthen our approach to safeguarding and specifically in the areas of violence against women and girls (VAWG). To do this we need to better engage with victims of crime. It will also improve the quality of victim care and investigations our officers conduct on the front line.

4.26 2 of these officers will be assigned to our On-line Abuse Team to support the growing demand associated with child sexual and criminal abuse. The staff post will be focused on the mapping of perpetrators, victims and locations to better support our early intervention approach.

4.27 Safer Roads

4.28 10 officers will be used to grow and strengthen our Roads Policing Team. In 2021 we had 40 fatalities and 277 serious injuries on the roads of North Yorkshire. This additional resource will provide greater resilience within the team who deal with these very traumatic incidents and is in line with our 2022/23 priority to improve the safety of all road users in North Yorkshire through prevention activities.

4.29 Digital Forensics

4.30 1 additional officer and 14 staff posts, along with the associated licencing and equipment will be used to increase the resources within the Digital Forensics Unit. The majority of crime types now have some digital element which is putting our Digital Forensics team under increasing pressure. This investment will improve our service to victims, reduce our reliance of third party suppliers and importantly ensure our force retains the necessary accreditation which is critical for the purpose of taking cases through the criminal justice system.

4.31 Criminal Justice

4.32 2 officers and 2 staff posts will support our response to nationally mandated changes and to better equip the force to be ready for their implementation. The government's recent publication of the Beating Crime Plan has Criminal Justice, and therefore policing, at its heart. Criminal Justice processes are going through a period of significant transformational change. Effective criminal justice support is essential to delivering a high standard of victim care and outcomes.

4.33 Trust and confidence

- 4.34 We recognise that the public expect policing to operate to high standards in our recording of crime. Accurate crime recording forms the basis of how we assess threat, harm and risk to the public, prioritise incidents and then respond. We are investing:
- 9 staff to our Crime Recording and Occurrence Management unit
  - 1.5 staff to our Audit team to ensure that we are working to national standards
  - 1 permanent staff post and 4 temporary staff posts to ensure that we comply with the Data Protection Act
  - 1 temporary staff post to develop and support our sharing of information with partners particularly when dealing with serious case reviews.

4.35 Supporting our people

- 4.36 6 roles will be invested into our talent and wellbeing teams to develop our workforce and support their welfare. To continue to deliver our services to the public we need to invest in the development of our officers and staff. We need to attract and retain a diverse workforce of confident and well-supported professionals, who operate with a high degree of autonomy and accountability.

4.37 **Estates Investment**

- 4.38 A number of significant projects are expected to be worked on during 2022/23 from an Estates perspective:
- 4.39 Ripon – North Yorkshire Police co-located into the Fire station in Ripon in 2018. Temporary accommodation was provided but plans for fuller refurbishment were stalled by site complications. Plans are now approved to invest around £1.2m across Police and Fire to improve the joint estate in Ripon to provide suitable accommodation for police and fire on the current site.
- 4.40 Victims Centre - The Commissioner has decided to establish a Victims' Centre in York to house North Yorkshire's Sexual Assault Referral Centre and Child Sexual Assault Assessment Services and a dedicated Video-Recorded Interview suite for these victims, and separate Video-Recorded Interview suite for other vulnerable victims and witnesses by purchasing one new commercial property and disposing of the current accommodation. The overall investment, including buying the building is expected to be in the region of £1.5-£2.0m.
- 4.41 Malton - The Commissioner has decided to approve the purchase of land in the Eden Camp development in Malton for a new joint police, ambulance and potential fire station. The purchase of additional land to accommodate the footprint for a combined police, fire and ambulance station is subject to final modelling of the impact on callout times for responding fire crews.

4.42 These are included within a Capital Plan that is summarised below:

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Capital and Project Plans</b>				
ICT	1,978	2,732	2,524	2,013
Fleet	663	2,403	1,520	1,476
Estates	3,591	2,049	1,857	2,577
Other Rolling Programmes and Schemes	1,046	770	786	913
Other Schemes	33	0	35	0
<b>Total Agreed Programme</b>	<b>7,311</b>	<b>7,954</b>	<b>6,721</b>	<b>6,979</b>

4.43 A different approach to Capital expenditure and financial planning are in place for 2022/23 to bring more rigor and financial oversight to the plans. These include the following:

- No provision has been made within the plans for projects/programmes that have not already been approved.
- No additional funding has been allocated to Fleet in 2022/23. It is expected that they will firstly deliver the delayed and slipped replacement programme for 2021/22.
- No Estates schemes, beyond the 3 referred to earlier in the report have been included within the financial plans for 2022/23. The priority will be to deliver these in conjunction with any slippage from the 2021/22 programme.
- The remainder of the plans, including ICT, are predominantly replacement programmes and therefore should be deliverable providing the equipment and assets are available.

4.44 The above, combined with a robust approach to the approval of any carry forwards and a simplified method of Capital financial oversight is expected to see a marked improvement in delivery of the programme in 2022/23. This will however be closely monitored.

#### 4.45 Change Pipeline

To aid visibility of future work, projects, national developments and requirements, and capture the potential impact of these along with the resource and financial requirements, a comprehensive change pipeline has been developed.

4.46 It is expected that these areas will be developed into business cases and if approved added to the Capital and/or Revenue Budgets as required.

4.47 Excluding those areas already approved and included within either the Revenue and Capital budgets, and excluding any significant Estates development (as these are likely to be funded via borrowing), then the total pipeline, across the next 5 years, is estimated at £27m.

4.48 The funding for this change and investment is factored into the overall approach to financing of the Capital Programme.

4.49 This is a significant programme of change with a number expected to be delivered during 2022/23 including:

- A replacement sexual assault referral centre (SARC) and improved video recording suites to encourage victims of crime to come forward and feel safe in the provision of evidence that can be relied upon.
- Forensic Collision Investigation Unit is moving to a regional model to deliver an accredited and standardised delivery of this service.
- Common Platform which is a digital case management system that allows all parties involved in criminal cases to access case information.
- Video Enabled Justice - to improve the way police officers and others can provide evidence. While initially focused for use in remand hearings this facility may be further extended.
- The implementation of solutions to enable North Yorkshire Police to better manage digital evidence. This will enable us to digitise the processes for capturing, storing, preparing and then sharing digital evidence with Criminal Justice partners. This will drive efficiency and improve Criminal Justice outcomes.
- Out of Court Disposals – a new framework to ensure consistency across police forces in the way low-level offences are dealt with out of court.

4.50 A summary of the Capital Programme, the Change Pipeline and the financing of this is set out at Appendix 2.

## **5 Public Consultation**

- 5.1 To further inform the decision around the proposed precept for 2022/23 consultation has been undertaken with the public to ascertain their feedback and thoughts on this subject.
- 5.2 The consultation was conducted via an online survey and by telephone, to ensure a representative sample of North Yorkshire and the City of York residents by age, gender and geography.
- 5.3 In total 1,502 responses were received via the open online survey and a further 1,011 interviews over the telephone. The open survey was published on the PFCC website and promoted widely via social media. The results of the consultation are detailed at Appendix 4.
- 5.4 The public were asked the following question:
- 5.5 Last year, in light of the financial impact of Covid, the Commissioner set a 1.99% increase which covered the rate of inflation but didn't allow for any additional investment in policing services.
- 5.6 This year, the Government has said that the Commissioner can increase the policing precept by up to £10, which is 3.7% for an average Band D property, but the Commissioner wants to know what you think.
- 5.7 Money raised beyond paying for inflation will be invested in enhancing services to support victims of violent crime, particularly women and girls, and in services to tackle the root causes of harm and offending behaviour.
- 5.8 It will also contribute to additional training, equipment and support for new Police Officers recruited to North Yorkshire Police through the national Policing Uplift Programme.

5.9 The following options are based on an average Band D property currently paying £271.06 each year for policing.

- No more than I pay now – a precept freeze  
This would be a cut to the police budget due to inflation and current service delivery could not be maintained.
- Up to £5.39, an increase of 1.99%  
This would raise £1.6 million, however this is likely to be below inflation and would be a challenge to maintain current service delivery with no additional investment in policing services.
- Up to £10, an increase of 3.7%  
This would raise £3.0 million, is likely to be slightly in excess of inflation and would provide limited scope for investment in the policing services mentioned.
- Up to £15, an increase of 5.5%  
This would raise £4.6 million, exceeds inflation and would mean a significant investment in the policing services mentioned.

5.10 A summary of the results is shown below with nearly two-thirds (65%) supporting an increase in the police precept of at least 1.99%. Around a two-fifths (41%) opted for an increase of £10 or more while almost a fifth (18.5%) opted for an increase of £15.

A summary of the overall results is shown in the table below:

	<b>Total (n=2513)</b>	<b>Telephone (n=1011)</b>	<b>Online (n=1502)</b>
<b>No more than I pay now – a precept freeze</b>	<b>36%</b>	37%	34%
<b>Up to £5.39, an increase of 1.99%</b>	<b>23%</b>	29%	20%
<b>Up to £10, an increase of 3.7%</b>	<b>23%</b>	22%	23%
<b>Up to £15, and increase of 5.5%</b>	<b>18%</b>	12%	23%
<b><i>TOTAL who support an increase of at least £5.39/1.99%</i></b>	<b>65%</b>	63%	66%
<b><i>TOTAL who support an increase if at least £10/3.7%</i></b>	<b>41%</b>	34%	46%

\*figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

5.11 Combined results (online and telephone) from the consultation show the majority (65%) support an increase of up to £5.39 in the policing precept. A cumulative total of 41% respondents would support an increase of £10 or more.



## **Financial Implications**

### **5.12 The Tax Base**

The eight local Councils have notified the PFCC of their tax bases for 2022/23 as set out in the table below:

<b>Tax Base</b>		
	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	Net Tax Base	Net Tax Base
Craven District Council	23,234	22,363
Hambleton District Council	37,907	37,343
Harrogate Borough Council	65,125	63,985
Richmondshire District Council	19,787	19,704
Ryedale District Council	22,227	21,801
Scarborough Borough Council	38,694	38,401
Selby District Council	32,768	32,065
York City Council	68,220	67,512
<b>Total</b>	<b>307,963</b>	<b>303,174</b>
<b>Annual Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>4,789</b>	
<b>Percentage Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>1.58%</b>	

- 5.13 The tax base is expressed in terms of Band D equivalent properties. Actual properties are converted to Band D equivalent by allowing for the relevant value of their tax bands as set down in legislation (ranging from 2/3rds for Band A to double for Band H; discounts for single person occupation, vacant properties, people with disabilities etc;) and a percentage is deducted for non-collection. Allowance is also made for anticipated changes in the number of properties.
- 5.14 The tax base calculated by the billing authorities differ from the figures used by the Government (which assumes 100% collection) in calculating Grant Formula entitlements.
- 5.15 As can be seen from the table above the number of Band D equivalent properties across North Yorkshire has bounced back from a small decrease during 2021/22 and has increased in 2022-23, in comparison to 2021-22, by 4,789 – this equates to an increase of 1.58%
- 5.16 The 2021/22 tax base is therefore 307,962.84 Band D Equivalent properties
- 5.17 Setting the Council Tax
- 5.18 During 2021/22 the Councils indicated an overall deficit on their Council Tax collection funds, of which £1,018k related to Police.
- 5.19 The Government recognised the challenge of absorbing these deficits in one year and therefore provided the flexibility to all billing and major precepting authorities (including police and fire authorities) to phase the deficit over a fixed period of three years.

- The deficit is therefore being phased in three equal and fixed amounts across the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

5.20 2022-23 is the second of these 3 years and therefore a £339k charge is factored into the overall collection fund position which has been reported as an overall surplus of £318k.

5.21 The precept calculation needs to take account of the net surplus and deficit on the billing authority collection funds. Projected surplus/deficits on the individual funds are shown in the table below.

Collection Funds Surplus/ (Deficit)	
	£
Craven District Council	43,749
Hambleton District Council	153,785
Harrogate Borough Council	(84,917)
Richmondshire District Council	(95,356)
Ryedale District Council	43,180
Scarborough Borough Council	150,216
Selby District Council	107,437
York City Council	0
<b>Net Surplus on Collection Fund</b>	<b>318,094</b>

5.22 The surplus/deficits that have arisen need to be returned through the precept. The final precept to be levied will reflect the position on each council's collection fund.

### 5.23 Financial Summary

#### Net Budget Requirement

Based on the proposed precept increase of £10, or 3.69%, the Net Budget Requirement (NBR) for 2022/23, in comparison to 2021/22, is set out in the table below:

Funding the Net Budget Requirement	2022/23	2021/22	(Increase)/Reduction	%age Change
	£000s	£000s	£000s	
<b>Funding</b>				
Police Grant	(51,102)	(48,392)	(2,709)	5.6%
RSG/National Non Domestic Rate	(32,374)	(30,658)	(1,716)	5.6%
<b>Total Formula Funding</b>	<b>(83,476)</b>	<b>(79,050)</b>	<b>(4,425)</b>	5.6%
Council Tax Freeze Grant	(2,152)	(2,152)	0	0.0%
Council Tax Support Grant	(5,746)	(6,901)	1,155	-16.7%
Net Surplus on Collection Funds	(318)	233	(551)	-236.6%
Council Tax Requirement	(86,556)	(82,178)	(4,378)	5.3%
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>(178,248)</b>	<b>(170,048)</b>	<b>(8,200)</b>	<b>4.8%</b>

5.24 There is an increase in the Funding for Net Budget Requirement available to the PFCC of £8,200k based on a £10 increase in precept. This equates to an increase of 4.8%.

5.25 It is important to recognise that the Net Budget Requirement does not include the £1,314k that the PFCC will receive as part of the grant/funding that is directly linked to the recruitment of Police Officers. This will be treated as a Specific Grant, given the conditions that will be attached to the funding and therefore included elsewhere in the income analysis.

5.26 The Government is providing this funding to increase the number of Police Officers by a further 78 FTEs (to 1,645) by the end of March 2023.

5.27 Precept Calculations

The final precept calculations are set out in the tables below based on a £10 or 3.69% increase:

<b>Proposed Precepts - £10, or 3.69% Increase</b>			
	<b>Unadjusted Precept</b>	<b>Collection Fund Balance</b>	<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Craven District Council	6,574,013	43,749	6,530,263
Hambleton District Council	10,808,038	153,785	10,654,254
Harrogate Borough Council	18,219,034	(84,917)	18,303,951
Richmondshire District Council	5,465,959	(95,356)	5,561,315
Ryedale District Council	6,290,259	43,180	6,247,078
Scarborough Borough Council	11,025,591	150,216	10,875,375
Selby District Council	9,317,211	107,437	9,209,774
York City Council	19,174,026	0	19,174,026
<b>Total Precept</b>	<b>86,874,130</b>	<b>318,094</b>	<b>86,556,036</b>

5.28 The 'basic amount' of council tax is the rate for a Band D property. It is calculated by dividing the Council Tax Requirement by the total tax base i.e. £86,556,036 by 307,962.84 giving a council tax rate for Band D properties of £281.06.

5.29 The proposed council tax rate for each property band is determined in accordance with the statutory proportions and is set out in the table below, it also shows the increases for each Band in comparison to 2021/22. It is advised that the tax rates should be calculated to more than 2 decimal places

<b>Council Tax Band Amounts and Increases</b>				
Property Band	<b>3.69% or £10 increase</b>			
	2022/23	2021/22	Increase per Annum	Increase per Week
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
A	187.373	180.707	6.67	0.13
B	218.602	210.824	7.78	0.15
C	249.831	240.942	8.89	0.17
D	281.060	271.060	10.00	0.19
E	343.518	331.296	12.22	0.23
F	405.976	391.531	14.44	0.28
G	468.433	451.767	16.67	0.32
H	562.120	542.120	20.00	0.38

5.30 As you will see from the table above the impact of the proposal to increase the Police precept by £10 or 3.69% will increase a household council tax bill by 19 pence per week for a Band D property.

**6 Conclusion**

6.1 The Police Settlement for 2022/23 has provided the PFCC with an increase in Government Funding of £3.6m or 4.0%; including a Ring-fenced Grant for increases in Police Officers of £1,341k and the loss of a one-off increase to Local Council Tax Support Grant of £1,155k.

6.2 Taking into account all other projected changes in income, other than from a Precept increase, then the overall forecast increase in income is expected to be £6.0m.

6.3 As set out in this report this money needs to cover the following unavoidable increases in pay costs:

<b>Unavoidable increases in pay costs</b>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>Ultimate Cost</u>
	£m	£m	£m
3.5% Pay Award	2.7	4.7	4.7
1.25% NI Increase	1.2	1.2	1.2
78 Additional Police Officers	2.7	2.9	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>

6.4 In addition to this there are significant non-pay pressures across utilities and fuel/fleet where inflationary pressures are in excess of £600k. In addition to this higher levels of general inflation across all areas of non-pay expenditure add in excess of £1m annual to the original budget.

6.5 Each £1 increase in the precept in North Yorkshire provides almost £310k of additional precept income on a recurring basis – so nearly £3.1m per year of additional income would be generated if the precept was increased by the maximum amount allowed.

6.6 As such a precept increase of £10 is proposed within the numbers contained within this report. This will provide sufficient funding to deliver the increased levels of Police Officers, as required by the Government, the expected increase in Pay, the unavoidable increase in National Insurance contributions whilst also meeting some significant increases in non-pay inflation.

6.7 The organisational need for this increase, aligned with some significant support from the public for a £10 increase, at 41%, has lead me to propose a police precept for 2022/23 of £281.06 for a Band D property within North Yorkshire. This is an increase of £10 per annum, or 3.69%, from the 2021/22 level

To aid the Panel in considering my proposal on Precept I attach to this report:

- Appendix 1 – Draft Budget based on a £10 or 3.69% Precept Increase
- Appendix 2 – Draft Capital Programme
- Appendix 3 – Draft Forecast Reserves Schedule
- Appendix 4 – Report on Police Precept Consultation

**APPENDIX 1**

**PCC Summary MTFP - Draft Projections at January 2022 based on £10 Precept Increase**

	Actual Budget 2021/22	Forecasts			
		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
<b>Core Funding</b>	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Government Grant	(79,050)	(83,476)	(84,446)	(85,901)	(87,619)
Council Tax Precept	(81,945)	(86,874)	(89,663)	(92,882)	(95,666)
Council Tax Freeze Grant	(2,152)	(2,152)	(2,152)	(2,152)	(2,152)
Council Tax Support Grant	(6,901)	(5,746)	(5,746)	(5,746)	(5,746)
<b>Funding for Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>(170,048)</b>	<b>(178,248)</b>	<b>(182,007)</b>	<b>(186,681)</b>	<b>(191,183)</b>
%age Change in Net Budgetary Requirement	4.1%	4.8%	2.1%	2.6%	2.4%
<b>Other Funding</b>					
Specific Grants	(5,227)	(6,114)	(5,606)	(5,626)	(5,647)
Partnership Income/Fees and Charges	(7,266)	(7,293)	(7,206)	(7,323)	(7,445)
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(182,541)</b>	<b>(191,655)</b>	<b>(194,818)</b>	<b>(199,631)</b>	<b>(204,275)</b>
%age Change in Funding	3.0%	5.0%	1.7%	2.5%	2.3%
<b>Office of the PCC Planned Expenditure</b>	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Total Planned Expenditure</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>1,425</b>
<b>Commissioned Services</b>	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Total Planned Expenditure</b>	<b>5,531</b>	<b>5,244</b>	<b>4,712</b>	<b>4,727</b>	<b>4,727</b>
<b>Asset Management</b>	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Total Planned Expenditure</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>792</b>
<b>Police Force Planned Expenditure</b>	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Pay</b>					
Police Pay	84,788	89,734	93,846	95,936	97,840
Police Overtime	2,312	2,529	2,360	2,164	2,329
PCSO Pay (incl Overtime)	7,672	8,220	8,594	8,917	9,228
Staff Pay (incl Overtime)	37,963	39,848	41,372	42,866	44,364
<b>Pay Total</b>	<b>132,735</b>	<b>140,331</b>	<b>146,172</b>	<b>149,882</b>	<b>153,761</b>
<b>Non-Pay Budgets</b>					
Other Non Salary	1,724	1,798	1,800	1,800	1,800
Injury and Medical Police Pensions	3,871	3,693	3,650	3,647	3,680
Premises	4,319	4,640	4,831	4,928	5,024
Supplies and Services	23,126	22,522	23,401	23,305	23,562
Transport	2,646	2,880	2,941	3,003	3,065
<b>Non-Pay Total</b>	<b>35,686</b>	<b>35,533</b>	<b>36,625</b>	<b>36,683</b>	<b>37,130</b>
<b>Projects</b>	1,368				
<b>Total Force Budget</b>	<b>169,789</b>	<b>175,864</b>	<b>182,796</b>	<b>186,565</b>	<b>190,892</b>
%age Change in Expenditure	2.8%	3.6%	3.9%	2.1%	2.3%
<b>Total Expenditure Budgets</b>	<b>177,155</b>	<b>183,028</b>	<b>189,459</b>	<b>193,430</b>	<b>197,836</b>
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit before Reserves/Capital</b>	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Contribution to Capital Programme	5,679	8,858	6,117	6,958	6,445
Planned Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(293)	(231)	(757)	(757)	(7)
<b>Net (Surplus)/Deficit After Reserves</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0)</b>
<b>General Reserves</b>	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
General Fund Balance c/f	<b>5,603</b>	<b>5,603</b>	<b>5,603</b>	<b>5,603</b>	<b>5,603</b>
<b>Employee Numbers</b>	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs	FTEs
Police Officers	1,567	1,620	1,645	1,645	1,645
PCSOs	221	229	229	229	229
Police Staff	1,086	1,103	1,096	1,095	1,095
<b>Assumptions</b>					
Staff Pay Increases	0.0%	3.5%	2.5%	2.0%	2.0%
Police Pay Increases	0.0%	3.5%	2.5%	2.0%	2.0%
Non Pay Inflation	1.5%	calculated	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Precept Increases	2.0%	3.7%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Government Grant Increases	6.3%	5.6%	1.1%	1.7%	2.0%

	<b>APPENDIX 2</b>				
<b>Capital Financing and Expenditure</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Earmarked Reserve/Funding b/f</b>	<b>5,118</b>	<b>13,482</b>	<b>16,617</b>	<b>13,486</b>	<b>6,189</b>
Capital Grant	116				
Capital Receipts - vehicles and PPE	169	169	169	169	169
Capital Receipts from Estates Strategy	4,639	0	1,070	0	0
Contributions (to)/from Revenue	8,679	8,858	6,117	6,958	6,445
Borrowing	1,823	3,591	2,049	1,857	2,577
<b>Projected in-year funding available</b>	<b>15,425</b>	<b>12,618</b>	<b>9,405</b>	<b>8,984</b>	<b>9,192</b>
<b>Capital and Project Plans</b>					
ICT	1,089	1,978	2,732	2,524	2,013
Fleet	1,800	663	2,403	1,520	1,476
Estates	3,902	3,591	2,049	1,857	2,577
Other Rolling Programmes and Schemes	65	1,046	770	786	913
Other Schemes	206	33	0	35	0
Slippage/Re-profiling					
<b>Total Agreed Programme</b>	<b>7,062</b>	<b>7,311</b>	<b>7,954</b>	<b>6,721</b>	<b>6,979</b>
<b>Change Pipeline</b>		<b>2,172</b>	<b>4,583</b>	<b>9,559</b>	<b>8,312</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserve/Funding c/f</b>	<b>13,482</b>	<b>16,617</b>	<b>13,486</b>	<b>6,189</b>	<b>90</b>

APPENDIX 3													
Forecast Usable Reserves													
	Balance at 31 March 2021 £000	Tranfers In 2021/22 £000	Tranfers Out 2021/22 £000	Balance at 31 March 2022 £000	Tranfers In 2022/23 £000	Tranfers Out 2022/23 £000	Balance at 31 March 2023 £000	Tranfers In 2023/24 £000	Tranfers Out 2023/24 £000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £000	Tranfers In 2024/25 £000	Tranfers Out 2024/25 £000	Balance at 31 March 2025 £000
<b>Funding for planned expenditure on projects and programmes over the period of the current medium term financial plan.</b>													
PFCC Reserve	510	33	(33)	510	33	(33)	510	33	(33)	510	33	(33)	510
Capital Reserve	1,735	8,679	(5,123)	5,291	8,858	(5,892)	8,257	6,117	(10,488)	3,886	6,958	(10,844)	0
Firearms Licence Reserve	615			615			615			615			615
PFCC Community Fund	11			11			11			11			11
Investments Reserve	593		(392)	201		(167)	34			34			34
Training Reserve	400			400			400			400			400
Council Tax Reserve	460			460			460			460			460
COVID Reserve	300		(300)	0			0			0			0
Donated Stock Reserve	51		(51)	0									
ESMCP	838			838			838			838			838
Commissioned Services Reserve	726		(44)	681			681			681			681
<b>Total Reserves within current MTFP</b>	<b>6,239</b>	<b>8,711</b>	<b>(5,943)</b>	<b>9,007</b>	<b>8,891</b>	<b>(6,091)</b>	<b>11,806</b>	<b>6,150</b>	<b>(10,521)</b>	<b>7,435</b>	<b>6,991</b>	<b>(10,877)</b>	<b>3,550</b>
<b>Funding for specific projects and programmes beyond the current planning period.</b>													
Confiscated Monies Reserve	273	130	(100)	303	130	(100)	333	130	(100)	363	130	(100)	393
Cost of Change Reserve	220			220			220			220			220
<b>Total Reserves beyond current MTFP</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>614</b>
<b>As a general contingency or resource to meet other expenditure needs held in accordance with sound principles of good financial management (e.g. insurance)</b>													
Insurance Reserve	554			554			554			554			554
Pay and Pensions Reserve	2,000			2,000			2,000		(750)	1,250		(750)	500
Major Incident Reserve	1,114			1,114			1,114			1,114			1,114
<b>Total General Contingency Reserves</b>	<b>3,669</b>			<b>3,669</b>			<b>3,669</b>			<b>3,669</b>			<b>3,669</b>
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>10,401</b>	<b>8,841</b>	<b>(6,043)</b>	<b>13,199</b>	<b>9,021</b>	<b>(6,191)</b>	<b>16,028</b>	<b>6,280</b>	<b>(10,621)</b>	<b>11,688</b>	<b>7,121</b>	<b>(10,977)</b>	<b>7,832</b>
<b>General Reserves</b>	<b>5,603</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,603</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,603</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,603</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,603</b>
<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>16,003</b>	<b>8,841</b>	<b>(6,043)</b>	<b>18,802</b>	<b>9,021</b>	<b>(6,191)</b>	<b>21,631</b>	<b>6,280</b>	<b>(10,621)</b>	<b>17,290</b>	<b>7,121</b>	<b>(10,977)</b>	<b>13,435</b>
<b>Capital Receipts Reserve</b>	<b>3,384</b>	<b>4,808</b>		<b>8,192</b>	<b>169</b>		<b>8,361</b>	<b>1,239</b>		<b>9,600</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>(3,580)</b>	<b>6,189</b>



**Precept Consultation Results 2022/23 – Policing Precept****Approach**

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s precept consultation aimed to understand how much the public would be prepared to pay via their council tax for policing and separately for the fire and rescue service next year (2022/23).

Between 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022, an online, self completion survey was open to the public of North Yorkshire and the City of York. The survey was promoted via media releases and social media including; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and social media accounts. All users of the Community Messaging system in North Yorkshire and the City of York were notified about the survey and an email was sent to all MPs and Councillors in December and January, to raise community awareness. Residents could respond via post, phone, email or online, resulting in 1,502 responses.

In addition, a representative telephone survey was conducted with 1,011 North Yorkshire and City of York residents, screened to ensure respondents were council tax payers and aged over 18. Quotas were set by gender, age and district to reflect the demography and geography of the county. The telephone interviews were undertaken by an independent market research company.

Questions around both precepts were combined within one survey. The order in which people considered each precept was rotated; 50% answered the policing precept question first, 50% the fire and rescue precept question.

Combined, the total number of responses to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s 2022/23 precept survey was 2,513.

All districts were well represented as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Total responses (combined telephone and online) by district**

	Craven	Hambleton	Harrogate	Richmondshire	Ryedale	Scarborough	Selby	York	TOTAL
<b>Survey responses</b>	7%	14%	21%	7%	8%	13%	9%	20%	<b>100%</b>
<b>North Yorkshire and City of York: estimated households*</b>	7%	11%	19%	6%	7%	14%	10%	25%	<b>99%**</b>

\*Household district estimates, Data North Yorkshire

[\\*\\*Rows may not add to 100% due to rounding](#)

**Results**

The results of the consultation have been analysed by methodology type (representative telephone survey vs open online survey) and are broadly similar in terms of the percentage of respondents who would support an increase in the precept. However, those answering the online survey were twice as likely to support the highest increase of £15 than those interviewed over the telephone.

Those who support a freeze for the policing precept are very likely to also suggest a freeze for the fire and rescue precept. There is a strong correlation between the amount people are prepared to pay and household income with lower income households most likely to opt for a freeze in both precepts.

Responses to the policing precept question are summarised in the chart below. Just under two-thirds of respondents (64%) were prepared to pay an increase of at least £5.39 in their council tax for policing next year. A cumulative total of 41% would support an increase of £10 or more.

Figure 1: Policing precept response

**Q. How much more would you be prepared to pay per year, through your council tax for policing?**

