

# Police and fire precept consultation

2024/25



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
POLICE, FIRE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER



Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold is responsible for setting the police and fire precepts – that is the amount residents contribute towards local police and fire services through their council tax.

**18%**  
Council tax  
fund police &  
fire services

Around 18% of the council tax you pay in Northamptonshire goes towards funding your local police and fire services, the rest goes to your local authorities.

Total funding for your police and fire services is made up of the precept and central government grants.

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold is asking local people how much they are prepared to pay towards their emergency services next year. Those views will be considered before the Commissioner takes his proposals on the level of council tax precepts to Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel in February 2024.

Over the last few years, both Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have benefitted from significant investments that have brought stability and strengthened the way both services look after the public.

Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service are on firm foundations but will face a challenge to sustain these improvements, next year and into the future.

Your views are vital in helping to ensure that your priorities for both services can be delivered.

Asking for more money at any time is never easy and I know the impact that rising prices have had on households across Northamptonshire over the last two years. But rising prices also have an impact on police and fire, and I must balance the need to invest in these vital services that keep the county safe, with my wish not to increase the burden on local taxpayers

Stephen Mold



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[Northamptonshire Police](#)

[Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service](#)



## Northamptonshire Police

Northamptonshire Police has an annual budget of £168.6 million – around 45 per cent of this comes from the precept you pay through your council tax, with the rest coming from central government grants.

Annual budget  
**£168.6**  
million

The Force now has over 1,500 police officers, which is more than it has ever had. The number of police officers dedicated to neighbourhood policing has more than doubled, with plans to enhance this even further; the response to local crimes such as burglary has been improved; a new roads policing team has been set up; and vital systems and technology have been updated.

To keep this level of service and continue to make improvements, Northamptonshire Police is likely to need around £12.4m more next year than it does for this year's budget.

It is expected that around £5.7m of this increase will come from government grants.

Policing has asked the Government for an increase in police precept of up to £15 in the next financial year. That would increase the rate for a Band D property to £308.04, an increase of 5.1% or an extra 29p per week for an average Band D property and across all properties as follows.

### What the precept increase would mean for each council tax band

Policing -  
Increase of  
**5.1%**

Property Band	Increase per year	Increase per week
A	£10.00	19p
B	£11.67	22p
C	£13.33	26p
D	£15.00	29p
E	£18.33	35p
F	£21.67	42p
G	£25.00	48p
H	£30.00	58p

While an increase of £15 would raise an added £5m, this is less than the amount needed to meet cost pressures and savings of around £1.7m will still need to be made.

Considering this, which one of the following statements best represents your views?

I don't think the Police are funded enough in Northamptonshire, and I would be prepared to pay more than £15 towards them if that were possible.

Every £1 (0.3%) increase in Band D council tax would raise a further £0.26m each year which could be used towards additional investment in policing.

I would not be prepared to pay any more for policing than I do now

If there was no increase in council tax, savings of £6.7m would need to be made every year, and this would affect frontline policing services, police officer numbers and visibility in neighbourhoods.

I would be prepared to pay an increase of £15 a year for policing (approximately 29p per week for an average, Band D household)

This 5.1% increase will go some way towards meeting the unavoidable cost pressures in 2024/5. While additional savings will be needed, the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner will be able to keep his commitment to sustaining 1,500 police officers and increasing their visibility in neighbourhoods for as long as possible.

I don't know



Read more details and  
take the survey here

## Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

Annual budget  
**£29.6**  
million

Since moving to the governance of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold, in 2019, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service has worked hard to reach a stable financial position.

The fire service budget is almost £8 million more than when it transferred to the OPFCC. More than £10 million of capital investment has been made in new fire tenders and equipment, renewing out-of-date technology and systems, and updating the estate.

The number of wholetime firefighters has increased from 242 to 254 since 2019, and regular recruitment is taking place so that the number is kept at that level.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service has a budget of £29.6m, 64% of which comes from local council taxpayers. 22% of the funding comes from business rates and 14% from central government.

Thanks to good planning and financial management, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is now in a stable position and performance has improved: the Service is still the third-lowest funded in the country, however.

To keep this level of service and continue to make improvements, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is likely to need around £2.5m more next year than it does for this year's budget. It is expected that £0.5m of this increase will come from government grants and business rates.

For the past two years, the Government has given Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner the flexibility to raise the fire precept by £5. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is asking for the same flexibility again this year.

An increase of £5 per year for a Band D property would be equivalent to 6.8%, around 10p a week and across all properties as follows

### What the precept increase would mean for each council tax band

Fire -  
Increase of  
**6.8%**

Property Band	Increase per year	Increase per week
A	£3.33	6p
B	£3.89	7p
C	£4.44	9p
D	£5.00	10p
E	£6.11	12p
F	£7.23	14p
G	£8.33	16p
H	£10.00	19p

This would raise around £1.6M, which is less than the amount needed to meet cost pressures and £0.4m of savings would need to be found.

Considering this, which one of the following statements best represents your views?

I don't think Fire are funded enough in Northamptonshire and I would be prepared to pay more than £5 towards them if that were possible

Every £1 (1.37%) increase in Band D council tax will raise a further £0.26m each year which could be used towards additional investment in essential firefighters and equipment

I would not be prepared to pay any more for Fire than I do now

If there was no increase in council tax, £2m of savings would need to be made every year and would affect operational fire services, reducing pump availability and planned investment in essential firefighting equipment

I would be prepared to pay an increase of £5 a year for fire (approximately 10p per week)

This 6.8% increase will go a long way towards meeting the unavoidable cost pressures in 2024/25. Whilst more savings will still be needed, operational services such as firefighter levels and pump availability can be maintained

I don't know



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