



# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

## REPORT TO THE POLICE & CRIME PANEL POLICE PRECEPT 2025-26

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 My proposals for the Police Precept 2025-26 reflect the priorities set in my first Police & Crime Plan 2025-2029, *A Safer Nottinghamshire for All*.

My plan is aligned to three strategic pillars:

- Communities and Victims First
- Strengthening Partnership Working
- Effective and Resilient Policing

Within these broader strategic pillars, I have set the following specific priorities:

- Restoring and embedding Neighbourhood Policing
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- Tackling knife crime and serious violence

1.2 The opportunity for the people of Nottinghamshire to engage in budget consultation has been via three separate streams, ongoing consultation, focus groups, and an online survey in December/January. This reflects my commitment to consult widely on the precept. The outcome of all consultation is analysed in Appendix B attached.

My precept proposal for 2025-26 reflects careful consideration of the views expressed in response to my consultations.

### 2. Government Grant

2.1 The Provisional Police Grant Report accompanied by a Written Ministerial Statement was laid before Parliament on 17 December 2024.

2.2 The core grant for Nottinghamshire is now £169.2m, an increase of £6m (3.7%). In addition, a ringfenced allocation of £6.2m is available to Nottinghamshire upon maintaining the uplift officers target number of 2,378. There is a further recruitment top up grant of £1.6m for maintaining an additional 30 officers to 2,408. The pensions grant allocation has been reduced to £6.4m in 2025-26, and Legacy Council Tax Grants of £9.7m have been maintained. Two additional specific grants have been allocated, £3.9m for the National Insurance increase, and £1.8m for Neighbourhood Policing.

2.3 The Minister confirmed the precept referendum limit to allow an increase up to an additional £14 per annum for a Band D property, without the need to call for a local referendum.

2.4 The Minister's statement sets out the national priorities for 2025-26 which:

- Maintains the police settlement's investment in tackling Serious Violence and County Lines next year, ensuring the continuation of Violence Reduction Units and supporting all forces in their ongoing work to close county lines.
- Ensures the continuation of Major Law Enforcement Programmes which will modernise national mission-critical systems, without which policing cannot operate effectively, tackle a range of threats and make our streets safer.
- Supports police efficiency and collaboration by investing in national policing capabilities. This funding establishes the new Commercial Efficiency and Collaboration Programme, maintains the digital routes through which members of the public can contact the police, and supports the implementation of digital evidence sharing across the criminal justice system.
- Supports law enforcement in tackling serious and organised crime by investing in Regional Organised Crime Units, ensuring they are supported in tackling some of the highest harm threats.

2.5 Following the cessation of capital grant funding to PCCs in 2022-23 there is no capital grant allocated to PCCs in 2025-26, the £123.1m budget available will be redistributed as part of wider reallocations.

2.6 The provisional settlement was subject to consultation, and I have written to the Home Secretary and the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire expressing my views on the provisional grant settlement.

### **3. Council Tax**

3.1 Council Tax information received so far is resulting in just under a 1% increase in the Council Tax base, this reflects the position received to date from the City and District Councils, our budget assumption had been 1.25% so the actual is currently below the forecast.

3.2 The government published its approach relating to 2025-26 Council Tax referendum principles on 28 November 2024. PCCs are to be allowed to increase band D bills by up to £14 without triggering a referendum. In considering the additional precept flexibility, I am mindful that this places further burden on taxpayers particularly when households are already facing financial pressures. I also need to ensure that funding for policing in Nottinghamshire is sufficient. The outcome of the various budget consultation exercises has helped to inform my decision.

3.3 Due to the pressure on the budget and informed by the views of local people, I propose an increase in the police precept of £13.95 for 2025-26. More detailed information is included in the precept report at Appendix A. The precepts for Band A and Band B (collectively representing some 60% of the tax base) would be:

- Band A £197.40; an increase of £9.30 per annum
- Band B £219.45; an increase of £10.85 per annum

3.4 The MTFP is based upon annual council tax increases of £10 per annum in 2026-27 onwards.

#### 4. Total Income and Funding

4.1 Total income included in the draft budget and projections for the subsequent four years are shown in **Table 1** below. *(note this assumes use of reserves to balance the budget in 2025-26)*

Core Income & Funding	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	Assumptions
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Core Police Grant	169.2	178.4	184.4	189.9	193.7	Assumed 2% increase from 2026-27 onwards
Legacy CT Grant	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	Fixed Amount
Pensions Grant	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	Fixed Amount
Officer Maintenance Ringfenced Grant	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.7	Assumed 2% increase from 2026-27 onwards
Additional Recruitment Top Up	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	Top up to maintain 30 additional officers
National Insurance Contribution	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Funded change in relation to employers NI, assumed rolled into core from 2026-27
Neighbourhood Policing Grant	1.8	2.4	1.8	0.0	0.0	Funding for Neighbourhood Policing model, assumed rolled into core from 2026-27
Fairer Funding Formula Review	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	Gains phased - Floors & Ceilings
Special Grant	2.6	2.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	Op Perth
Precept	100.8	105.5	110.3	115.2	120.2	£13.95, then £10 per year from 2026-27 and 1.25% tax base growth
Transfer from Reserves	4.8	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	Planned use to fund general expenditure/Op Perth/Op Catalyst
<b>Total</b>	<b>307.1</b>	<b>314.1</b>	<b>323.1</b>	<b>329.4</b>	<b>340.3</b>	

**Table 1**

#### 5. Expenditure Plans

5.1 Total spending in 2025-26 has increased in the face of internal and external cost pressures.

5.2 The budget is summarised in Table 2 and described below.

Net Revenue Expenditure	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	Assumptions
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Pay	253.4	261.7	270.6	279.0	287.7	2% pay award in 2025-26, 2.5% pay award each year thereafter
Non-Pay	82.2	84.8	87.4	89.7	92.2	2.0% general inflation and specific rates for gas/electricity/fuel/Home Office ICT
Specific Income	-29.8	-29.6	-30.2	-30.8	-31.4	2% p.a.
Use of Asset Reserve	-1.5	0.3	-1.0	1.5	0.6	Planned use to smooth replacement ICT cost
Proposed Growth Items	2.8	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>307.1</b>	<b>318.7</b>	<b>328.3</b>	<b>340.9</b>	<b>350.9</b>	

**Table 2**

5.3 The draft 2025-26 budget has been compiled following a rigorous review by budget holders, a review of workforce plans, and assumptions built in for unknown factors such as pay awards. Some £27m of budget pressures were identified during the budget review, c£19m on staff related budgets including pay awards, increments, restructures and national insurance contribution rate changes, c£2m with regards to loss of income, and c£1m relating to inflation. £5m has been included to meet demand/improve performance.

5.4 Specific grants in the OPCC such as MoJ victims' services, VRU (Violence Reduction Unit), CADA (Children Affected by Domestic Abuse), have been continued for 1 year, albeit the core victims' grant is slightly reduced and the value of the VRU grant is not confirmed. Others such as Safer Streets have ceased as expected.

5.5 A Priority Based Budget exercise was completed for Grants and Commissioning aligning the budget with the PCC's ambitions ensuring he can continue the vital work to support victims and prevent crime, help people feel safe and protect them from becoming victims of crime.

5.6 The Chief Constable's 2025-26 budget includes £160.3m for police officer pay

(including maintaining the uplift target number of officers at 2,408) and £6.7m for PCSO pay. The police staff establishment is budgeted for including a 6.5% vacancy factor. The Police Uplift Programme (PUP) was to increase police officer numbers by 20,000 nationally by March 2023, and then to maintain them. The officer maintenance ringfenced grant allocation of £6.2m is available to Nottinghamshire upon maintaining the uplift officers target number of 2,378. There is a further recruitment top up grant of £1.6m for maintaining an additional 30 officers to 2,408. The force is in a good place having already achieved the target number and the budgeted work force plan ensures this is maintained as of March 2026.

## 6. Savings and Efficiencies

6.1 Some £4.9m of savings and efficiencies have been identified and included in the proposed budget:

- £1.7m of efficiencies due to a lower MRP charge
- £1.3m within Estates for Gas and Electricity charges
- £1.0m from lower insurance costs
- £0.5m has been identified as a reduction in overtime
- £0.4m arising through savings from uniform replacement costs and reduced IT system costs within comms and computing

## 7. Service Impact

7.1 The draft budget for 2025-26 shows a balanced budget, based upon a council tax increase of £13.95 per band D property, efficiency savings, assumptions on receiving special grant and some use of reserves. Final information on the collection fund surplus and deficits is not yet confirmed.

7.2 It is clear that use of reserves will continue to be necessary to balance the budget beyond 2025-26, i.e. in the MTFP. Efficiencies will also need to be identified to reduce the expenditure budget in the MTFP, and to an even greater extent if additional income is not forthcoming, e.g. from the formula funding review.

7.3 Specific grants in the OPCC such as MoJ victims' services, VRU (Violence Reduction Unit), CADA (Children Affected by Domestic Abuse), have been continued for 1 year. Planning is continuing for how sustainable the funded activities are and how the specific earmarked reserve can help to phase the impact of the funds ceasing potentially from April 2026. Others such as Safer Streets have ceased as expected. A Priority Based Budget exercise has been completed on the Grants and Commissioning budget.

The proposed increase in the precept provides resource to fulfil my commitment to maintaining police officer numbers and strengthening neighborhood policing. The priorities of my first Police and Crime Plan are fully reflected in the spending plans.

7.4 Plans for 2025-26 include:

- No service reductions, where possible demand and performance improvement funding has been included.
- Maintaining Police officer numbers at 2,408, approximately one police officer for every 482 members of the public, and PCSOs at 150.

- A staff establishment at c1,500 with a 6.5% vacancy factor included.
- Maintaining a high-level response rate to 999 calls.
- Maintaining the number of local policing response PCs at 590. Increase of 15 Sergeants and 5 Inspectors to enhance supervisory ratios and to provide strong leadership, oversight and governance at a time when the level of experience of officers has reduced following the Police Uplift Programme.
- Simplification of the neighbourhood policing model, to ensure a balanced three team pattern, across all 12 districts, providing daytime and evening coverage, ensuring Nottinghamshire deliver the core pillars of neighbourhood policing.
- Continuing to promote the force as an employer of choice to fill vacant posts/retain staff and thus deliver better services to the public.
- Consideration of collaboration opportunities with neighbouring forces around specialist training and further areas of joint support.
- Supporting the national aviation working group, by developing a management information tool that all of the 43 forces will utilise, to understand the optimal blend between traditional aircraft and drone usage for operational police deployments.
- Establishment of 4 priority tasking teams to respond flexibly to emerging threats within our communities.
- Expansion of the IAG model, to listen and hear concerns from far reaching communities, to support community cohesion and safety.
- ASB Hotspot patrols and Immediate Justice have delivered positive results in prevention and deterrent of crime, and we will seek to continue these initiatives.
- Dedicated knife crime leads and bespoke KCT teams within our areas of greatest harm, resulting in a drop in knife incidents against the person, and new initiatives to deter.
- The force continues to support the National Race Action Plan and has bespoke leads for the four thematic areas, ensuring Nottinghamshire plays its role in improving policing for black people, whereby there has been a historical challenge.
- Dedicated lead for stop and search, resulting in new processes and training. As a force, we have seen a reduction of amongst a quarter of stop and searches, with a positive outcome rate of 40%. This work will continue.
- Further embedding of the Prevention Hub, to support preventive activity across the whole business.
- Force continues to attend all burglaries and has a dedicated lead for business crime.
- Continue to improve file quality and maximise opportunities to increase the successful prosecution of cases.
- Improve the quality of investigations to drive up outcomes for victims and witnesses: with greater supervisory scrutiny and oversight, improved assessment of victim's needs, and the positive management of suspects and offenders.

- Implementing delayed prosecutions for youths to help reduce first time entrants into the criminal justice system.
- Aligning the Grants & Commissioning budget with the PCC's ambitions, ensuring I can continue the vital work to support victims and prevent crime, help people feel safe and protect them from becoming victims of crime.
- Investing in capital projects to; ensure officers and staff have the right tools for the job e.g. appropriate ICT; ensure the vehicle fleet is fit for purpose; make provision for environmental projects to achieve a reduced carbon footprint (a review of opportunities has taken place and a plan has been drafted) and deliver on the net zero target.
- Continuing to maximise new funding opportunities that align with the Police & Crime Plan to target specific activity and benefit as many people as possible.

7.5 Further detailed information on revenue and capital expenditure plans, and risks and reserves are within Annex C, attached.

## 8. Council Tax Proposal

8.1 My proposed Council Tax increase for 2025-26 is £13.95. This is £296.10 for a Band D property. With this increase, Council Tax provides £4.7m more funding than in 2024-25 (excluding any increase in the tax base).

8.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner's share of council tax is shown in table 3 below. This illustrates the impact of a £13.95, 4.9% increase. The additional cost to some 60% of Nottinghamshire council taxpayers would be 21 pence per week or less.

Council Tax Band	Proportion of Band D	2024/25 Council Tax	£13.95 Annual Increase to Band D	Proposed 2025/26 Council Tax	% increase	Pence per week increase
A	6/9	£188.10	£9.30	£197.40	4.9%	£0.18
B	7/9	£219.45	£10.85	£230.30	4.9%	£0.21
C	8/9	£250.80	£12.40	£263.20	4.9%	£0.24
D	9/9	£282.15	£13.95	£296.10	4.9%	£0.27
E	11/9	£344.85	£17.05	£361.90	4.9%	£0.33
F	13/9	£407.55	£20.15	£427.70	4.9%	£0.39
G	15/9	£470.25	£23.25	£493.50	4.9%	£0.45
H	18/9	£564.30	£27.90	£592.20	4.9%	£0.54

**Table 3**

Gary Godden, The Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire

23 January 2025