



Councillor Andrei Czolak
Chair of the Sussex Police & Crime Panel
County Hall
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11 February 2026

Proposed Precept 2026/27

Thank you for your letter dated 2 February 2026.

I am grateful to those members of the Sussex Police & Crime Panel who supported my proposed £15 increase to the police precept [£281.91] for 2026/27 at the meeting last month, including the majority support received from the Budget and Precept Working Group.

The support of the Panel will enable Sussex Police to maintain the investment made to date in respect of police officers, staff and police community support officers (PCSOs), alongside the improvements delivered to operational policing systems and capabilities. There simply is no appetite to go backwards in Sussex.

It is also worth emphasising that this increase is equivalent to an additional 29p a week / £1.25 a month per [Band D] household and that Sussex remains within the lowest quartile for all police precepts in England, despite this increase.

As highlighted at the Panel meeting, Sussex are being disproportionately penalised by the Government decision to consolidate previously ring-fenced grants into one core policing grant. The final police funding settlement for 2026/27 was less than originally expected for Sussex Police because of the change to the funding allocation formula and even with the support of the Panel members to increase the precept by the maximum £15 permitted, the Force still has a significant budget deficit for the financial year when the existing discrepancy [carried over from previous financial pressures] is added to the settlement shortfall. This gap will be bridged by the Chief Constable and I through the prioritisation of further budget reductions and efficiency savings across 2026/27, as appropriate.

I also share your concerns about the existing Police Allocation Formula (PAF) and recognise that this needs to be updated and adjusted to reflect the actual costs of policing locally. The existing 30-year-old mathematical model and formula used to allocate central Government funding to the 43 police force areas in England and Wales is widely acknowledged to be complex, opaque and out-of-date by police leaders and Government officials. This position has been further compounded by the decision to consolidate all police funding into one grant which has had a significant and damaging impact on Sussex Police in particular.

Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

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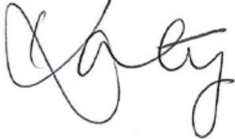
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**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

Ahead of the Panel meeting, I wrote to the Minister of State for Policing and Crime to set out my serious concerns regarding the police grant settlement 2026/27. With the grant now finalised, I will continue to lobby the Government for a fairer funding formula that is not contingent on local precepts being continually raised by the maximum amount permissible.

I would like to conclude by highlighting that it remains essential to take advantage of the maximum permitted precept increase to sustain policing services in Sussex without embedding a financial disadvantage into the budget for years to come. It is also strategically imperative to ensure long-term financial resilience and to deliver a stable organisation to the directly elected Mayor ahead of the transfer to the Mayoral Combined County Authority in May 2028.

Yours sincerely


Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner