



West
Yorkshire
Policing
& Crime

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire



Alison Lowe
Deputy Mayor for
Policing & Crime

Annex to Mid Term Financial Forecast Paper: **Public Consultation on the Council Tax Precept 24/25.**

Date: 31.10.23

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT:

This document provides a draft of the precept consultation questions we plan to promote to residents during December and January.

The consultation text aims to explain the rationale behind the Mayor's decision on next year's precept level, and collect residents' feedback on this proposal.

CONSULTATION PROGRAMME:

This year's public consultation will repeat the methodology used for last year's programme of consultation, and include:

- Our usual online consultation survey,
- A postal survey, mailed to a randomly selected sample of West Yorkshire households,
- Face to face consultation events arranged across West Yorkshire districts by the Policing and Crime Engagement Team.

Last year's precept consultation attracted 1,700 responses from residents, with 69% supporting the Mayor's proposal for the precept in 22/23. This represented an increase in support levels on the previous year's consultation (62% supported of the proposal for 22/23).

The hybrid approach of online survey, postal survey, and focus-group consultation provides options for different communities to engage with the consultation.

It mixes the convenience of an online survey (easily promoted, and simple for residents to complete), with a randomly selected sample of households contacted through the post.

Face-to-face consultation events will be held in each of our five districts during November and December. Promotion of these events also helps to raise wider awareness that the consultation programme is underway. We will also use these sessions as a first step in collecting residents' opinions on wider community safety issues in preparation for developing the next edition of the WY Police & Crime Plan. The postal survey will contact c.7,000 randomly selected households; this reflects a sample size which will achieve sufficient responses for a 95% confidence level on the result.

CONSULTATION QUESTION:

The consultation uses the format taken in previous years, with a page of commentary on the background behind the Mayor's decision to consult, followed by two simple questions to gauge residents' views on the precept proposal.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BENEFITS AND IMPLICATIONS

Through the programme of focus group events, we hope to reach out to communities and individuals who may struggle to respond to an online survey, or whose feedback can be under-represented in consultation surveys.

The attached questionnaire also includes the range of questions we will ask to evaluate the responses of those from different groups with the West Yorkshire population.

PROPOSED CONSULTATION TIMELINE:

We plan to launch the postal and online consultation during December, with face-to-face consultation events starting during November. This will be accompanied by promotional work utilising the local press, online, and social media channels.

The results of the consultation will be shared with the Panel in the February 2024 meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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COPY OF DRAFT ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE CONTENT [PTO]

The following pages provide a draft version of the consultation questionnaire based on last year’s online survey. Please note that the introductory text and precept value table will be updated once the 24/25 budget requirements are finalised.

The core consultation questions are in section 1 of the document. Section 2 covers questions on respondent’s personal characteristics. In this document, they are presented in full, however when individuals take the survey, they will only view aspects of the survey relevant to themselves (i.e. an Asian/Asian British respondent will only see the full list of Asian ethnic groups).

Consultation Text – draft version

[NOTE: Introductory text and precept values to be updated for 24/25 once known]

Dear Resident,

As Mayor of West Yorkshire, I am responsible for setting the annual budget for West Yorkshire Police. This includes agreeing the local 'police precept' - the part of the Council Tax that helps to fund local policing.

Every part of the country relies on funding gathered through Council Tax payments to support their local police force. The cost of the police precept in West Yorkshire is actually the fourth lowest in England and Wales, but it still provides 28% of West Yorkshire Police's total net annual budget, with almost all of the remainder coming from central government funding.

West Yorkshire Police's dedicated staff are working across our districts each and every day. They work in an increasingly complex world, with today's police officers needing to prevent crime, tackle criminals, and safeguard vulnerable people, not just in our neighbourhoods and communities, but also online and in places away from the public's view.

Through this consultation, I am inviting residents to give me their views on funding our local police service in the year ahead.

Funding gained through the police precept will help us to maintain the just, safe, and inclusive police service we need. Without this support, we will face severe pressure on the police budget.

This year the Government has announced that a precept equivalent to an annual £15 increase on Band D households can be set. The table below describes what these changes would mean for the cost of the precept as part of your Council Tax bill.

Most West Yorkshire residents live in properties in Council Tax Bands A, B or C, and under these proposals the extra cost for these households would be between 19p and 26p per week (a 6.78% increase on last year). If you do not pay Council Tax then nothing will change, and you will not pay the police precept next year.

Without raising funds in this way, we can expect that West Yorkshire Police will need to cut costs across its operations, which will mean making difficult choices about which services to communities they will need to focus on, and which will need to be cut-back.

I want to maintain and support these levels of service in the years ahead, and so once again I would like to ask your opinion on our proposals with two questions on the following page. I have also provided a short table showing the weekly cost to residents for the different Council Tax bands.

Please remember that if you do not pay Council Tax now, then you will not pay

anything next year.

Council Tax Band	Current precept cost per year	Our proposed annual increase	You would pay...
A	£147.52	£10.00	19p extra per week
B	£172.11	£11.67	22p extra per week
C	£196.69	£13.33	26p extra per week
D	£221.28	£15.00	29p extra per week
E	£270.45	£18.33	35p extra per week
F	£319.62	£21.67	42p extra per week
G	£368.80	£25.00	48p extra per week
H	£442.56	£30.00	58p extra per week

You can check the council tax band of your property at www.gov.uk/council-tax-bands

I would like to thank you for your time responding to this consultation - it is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,



Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire

You can view the Combined Authority's Policing & Crime Team Privacy Policy [here](#), where you can find details about how we use your information and your rights over your data.

1. Consultation Questions

Do you support the proposal to increase the Council Tax police precept to seek the funding required to help West Yorkshire Police keep our neighbourhoods and communities safe?

- Yes
- No

Are you willing to pay the associated increase to your council tax (e.g. 19p - 26p per week for Band A, B or C properties) to help protect frontline policing across West Yorkshire?

- Yes
- No
- I do not pay Council Tax

**Are you ...
(Please tick all that apply)**

- A resident in West Yorkshire
- A business owner in West Yorkshire
- Someone who works in West Yorkshire

Please indicate which district you live in:

- Bradford
- Calderdale
- Kirklees
- Leeds
- Wakefield
- I don't live in West Yorkshire

If you do pay Council Tax in West Yorkshire, what band is your property?

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F
- G
- H
- Don't know

Do you have any other comments about funding the police service in West Yorkshire?

2. Information About You

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority would like to understand who we are hearing from through our consultations. We are required to act in line with the Equality Act 2010. By asking the following questions we can make sure our work reflects the diverse communities

we serve.

The questions are optional. If you choose to answer these questions you will not be identified by the information provided.

What is your age?

- 0-15
- 16-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75-84
- 85+
- Prefer not to say

What is your sex?

- Female / woman
- Male / man
- Prefer not to say

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say
- Or, I prefer to self-describe my gender identity as:

5. Your ethnic group

What is your ethnicity?

- Asian or Asian British
- Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- White

- Other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

3. Asian / Asian British ethnicity - part 2

What would you describe as your ethnicity?

- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Pilipino
- Shia Afghan
- Shia Syrian
- Sunni Afghan
- Sunni Syrian
- Vietnamese
- Prefer not to say
- Any other Asian background (please add in the box):

4. Black, African, Caribbean, or Black British ethnicity - part 2

What would you describe as your ethnicity?

- African
- Caribbean
- Congolese
- Eritrean
- Italian African
- Kenyan
- Nigerian
- Portuguese African
- Somalian
- Sudanese
- Zimbabwean
- Prefer not to say
- Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please add in the box):

5. Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups - part 2

What would you describe as your ethnicity?

- White and Asian
- White and Black African
- White and Black Caribbean
- Prefer not to say
- Any other mixed background (please add in the box):

6. White ethnicity - part 2

What would you describe as your ethnicity?

- White – British
- White - Irish
- Prefer not to say
- Any other White background (please add in the box):

7. Other ethnic groups - part 2

What would you describe as your ethnicity?

- Arab
- Kurdish
- Lebanese
- Prefer not to say
- Any other ethnic background (please add in the box):

8. Information about you (part 2)

The following questions are about sensitive personal characteristics. You do not have to answer these questions if you do not want to.

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

- Bisexual
- Gay man or gay woman/lesbian
- Heterosexual or straight
- Prefer not to say
- Or, prefer to self-describe:

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

10. Disabilities (part 2)

Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

- Yes - limited a lot
- Yes - limited a little
- No
- Prefer not to say

11. Information about you (part 3)

What is your religion or belief?

- Buddhist
- Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, and all other Christian denominations)
- Hindu
- Islam/Muslim
- Jewish
- Sikh
- No religion
- Prefer not to say
- Other religion or belief - please add in the box:

12. Thanks for your feedback

Thank-you for taking part in our consultation on funding policing in West Yorkshire.