

The police share of council tax explained

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has promised to recruit up to 400 new Police Constables and double the number of PCs in Community Policing across the county as a result of a £2 per month increase in the police share of council tax

The Policing Settlement of December 2018 gave PCCs the right to raise the police share of council tax - the precept - by £2 a month for Band D homes without having to hold a referendum. The decision to proceed with the increase follows a public consultation with residents and was then taken to the Police and Crime Panel, where members voted in favour of the rise.



The Commissioner's priorities for policing in Bedfordshire:

“This is why we have agreed a budget which creates 160 new PCs in Bedfordshire in the year 2019-20 and that those going into the eight Community Policing Hubs in towns around the county, will double the available number of PCs already in post in neighbourhood policing. This is a really meaningful uplift and is what everybody tells me they want.

“I also consider that it would be remiss of me to plan a budget which only deals with the final year of my term in office and am proposing one which will deliver recruitment of 120 more PCs in the year after that - which is 20 more than I've already promised, now the budget has been finalised - and for between 100 and 120 for the following year of 2021-22, whatever happens at the ballot box at the next Police and Crime Commissioner election, as a proper plan to secure Bedfordshire Police's future recruitment.

“Every single community, everywhere I go in the county, wants to see more officers in communities and that is also what I have agreed with the Force, with this very significant uplift in Community Hub officers as it has been imperative to me that people get a change that is palatable to them if having to pay an extra £2 per month.

“I entirely agree that continuing to fund improvements in policing through the council tax precept are not sustainable. All this would mean in future would be that those forces with a higher proportion of Band D homes in their county would grow richer while those, like Bedfordshire, with a far smaller number of Band D homes would get poorer, by comparison, and I made the Policing Minister, Nick Hurd, aware of this immediately after he announced this settlement for 2019-20, based on a maximum council tax rise by me of £2 a month,” said Commissioner Holloway.

1. A return to more visible community policing across the county
2. To rebuild public confidence in Bedfordshire police
3. To ensure that the police are available when we need them most
4. Putting victims at the centre of the way we police and prosecute
5. A fair deal on policing wherever you live – in town or country
6. Protecting the police to protect the public with a proper duty of care
7. Genuinely being a Commissioner for all communities
8. Working with partners to break the cycle of serial offending and to prevent crime where possible

Please see the below table for costings per band:

	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	Increase £
A	118.73	134.73	16.00
B	138.51	157.18	18.67
C	158.30	179.64	21.34
D	178.09	202.09	24.00
E	217.67	247.00	29.33
F	257.24	291.91	34.67
G	296.82	336.82	40.00
H	356.18	404.18	48.00