

The Police Share of your Local Council Tax

Kathryn Holloway, the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, has promised to recruit a further 156 officers in this year as a result of increasing the police share of the Council Tax by 84p a month (per average, Band D, home).

The Police and Crime Panel agreed the Commissioner's proposal for the increase in officers which are in addition to the 160 officers she promised to recruit this time last year. Since that time, in addition to the 160, she has recruited a further 18 officers, to allow for any who leave training, and a further 18 as a first share of the national uplift promised by Central Government.

The funding settlement received from the Government has allowed the Commissioner to plan to increase the Force by 120 new PCs. This is made up of 100 to replace leavers and 20 more Constables as part of her plans to expand Bedfordshire Police; the national uplift is providing a further 36 officers in the 2020/21 financial year, totalling 156 recruits.

The number one priority of Commissioner Holloway's Police and Crime Plan for 2016-20 has been a return to more visible policing, as well as ensuring that the police are available when we need them most. This investment in at least 316 officers over two years will significantly assist in the delivery and embedding of these priorities.

Even though her own term ends in May, the Commissioner will be leaving a sound financial plan for her successor: over the next two years, while savings will still need to be achieved, the incoming PCC and Chief Constable should be able to deliver a balanced budget and continue to recruit new officers to replace those who leave the Force, as a minimum.

The PCC explained to the Police and Crime Panel that she and her successor, as well as the Chief Constable, would continue to lobby the Government to ensure that future funding from the Home Office is increased and shared appropriately across England to ensure that the burden for the cost of policing on the local taxpayer in Bedfordshire is reduced.



The Commissioner's priorities for policing in Bedfordshire:

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 be a Commissioner for all communities
8. Working with partners to break the cycle of serial offending and to prevent crime wherever possible

The costings per household by band for the police share of the Council Tax:

	2019/20	2020/21	Increase
	£	£	£
A	134.73	141.39	6.66
B	157.18	164.96	7.78
C	179.64	188.52	8.88
D	202.09	212.09	10.00
E	247.00	259.22	12.22
F	291.91	306.35	14.44
G	336.82	353.48	16.66
H	404.18	424.18	20.00