

Bedfordshire Police Precept 2024-2025

“Over the last year I have spoken to hundreds of residents and community representatives about what they want from their police force. I am also very conscious of the demands and financial pressures that Bedfordshire Police is under, and the areas that His Majesty’s Inspectorate have identified for improvement. I am also acutely aware of the pressures on people’s own finances, so appreciate any rise in council tax will have an impact. This all means that difficult decisions need to be made around the precept.

Even with an increase of £13 in the police precept, the Chief Constable would still need to make savings to try to maintain the current level of service being provided. Every unit and department of Bedfordshire Police is being examined to identify where these savings can be made and where costs can be reduced.

The Chief Constable and I have agreed that by increasing the precept, we will be able to close some of the gap created by the outdated funding formula but will still require further innovation and use of technology to support the fight against crime in our county.”



Festus Akinbusoye, Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire

The increase in your precept means that we can focus on the following areas in 2024/25



Retail Crime

We want to work with retailers and partners to improve the investigation of retail crime by using artificial intelligence linked to CCTV technology. We want to put CCTV in real time in the hands of police officers and support the identification of suspects through facial recognition.



Force Control Room

The Control Room continues to experience high levels of demand, with a total of 23,000 emergency and non emergency calls received in November 2023. The Force will increase the level of resourcing and use a mixed workforce of police staff and police officers. Chat and voice bots will help with non emergency demand.



Crime Prevention

Bedfordshire continues to be impacted by knife crime and serious youth violence. We want to bring in a dedicated Superintendent role to develop a countywide crime prevention strategy with a specific focus on preventing serious youth violence and reducing knife related crime.



Improved outcomes for victims through immediate justice

We want to make more and better use of alternative ways of dealing with offenders by increasing our use of processes like out of court disposals. This will help us to speed up resolution for some victims of crime and help to shape offender behaviour to prevent further victims of crime.



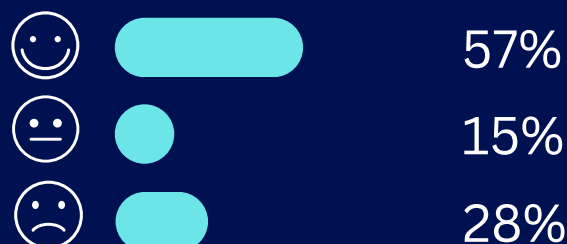
Speeding

We want to train and equip our Special Constables with monitoring and enforcement techniques to reduce speeding in key areas across our county at periods of high road use. During 2024/25 there will be a sustained campaign throughout the year to recruit more Specials in the Force as part of our commitment to Community Policing.

Chart of yearly increase 23/24 to 24/25

	2023/2024 £	2024/2025 £
A	168.06	176.73
B	196.07	206.18
C	224.08	235.64
D	252.09	265.09
E	308.11	324.00
F	364.13	382.91
G	420.15	441.82
H	504.18	530.18

Of those that expressed a preference, **67%** voiced their support for the increase in precept



Contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire:



PCC@beds.police.uk
01234 842064
@BedsOPCC