

31 March 2026

Cllr Peter Wilkinson,  
Chair of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel,  
By Email.

Dear Cllr Wilkinson and Panel Members,

### **Police & Precept Proposals 2026/2027**

Thank you for your reports and your consideration of my precept proposals.

I can confirm that I propose to use both precepts for 2026/2027 as below.

#### **Policing and Crime**

I will set the Police element of the Council Tax precept for 2026/27 at £335.86. This represents an increase of £15.00 over the 2025/26 level for a Band D property.

As members are aware the Police Settlement for 2026/27 has provided the Mayor with an increase in Core Government Funding of £3,707k, or 3.2%.

- The settlement assumes that the Mayor will increase the Band D Police Precept level by £15 in 2026/27.
- The report to Panel set out a clear financial need for an increase of £15.00 in the Police Precept in York and North Yorkshire based on the significant increases in costs that have been unavoidable, mostly in relation to pay awards and inflation. Therefore, the precept for 2026/27 is required to ensure that the service can accommodate all inflationary pressures.

The Panel's observations regarding sustained and visible policing, and a reduction of 21 Officers are noted. Jo Coles, the Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime, and I, will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure that the public have confidence in North Yorkshire Police with a strong presence in our neighbourhoods and communities. We will report back to the Panel mid-year.

#### **Fire and Rescue**

I will set the Fire Element of the Mayoral General Precept within North Yorkshire for 2026/27 at £116.62. This represents an increase of £9.60 over the 2025/26 level for a Band D property.

Sent via email

As the panel are aware North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service has faced significant financial challenges with many years of under investment in the service. I am grateful that Panel recognises the need to stabilise and for continued investment in the service particularly in the face of evolving environmental risks such as wildfires and flooding. I am also grateful for their support writing to government regarding securing funding for additional costs incurred from the Langdale Moor fires.

I acknowledge the concerns raised about higher inflationary costs, I also take on board other comments made by the Panel. For example, giving further consideration for next year's public precept consultation around how to ensure a greater number of responses are obtained from the under-40 demographics and respondents from York. I am also keen to ensure we balance levels of participation against value for taxpayer's money including the 3 precepting principles which I considered when setting the precept were:

- Minimum Burden on Local Taxpayers
- Public Services that keep people safe and give value for money
- Delivering on local public priorities

The Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime and I will continue to hold both North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to account to ensure public confidence and delivery of an effective and efficient service so that York and North Yorkshire, is a safe place to live, work and visit.

Yours sincerely,



**David Skaith**  
**Mayor of York and North Yorkshire**