



## Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime - Council tax consultation 2025/26

### Message from Ben Adams, Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime

As Commissioner, I am asking you to have your say on how much you would be prepared to pay for Policing and Fire & Rescue services in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

I am responsible for setting the services' budgets, and determining the contribution you make as part of your annual council tax precept.

I am elected to oversee the work of our local Police and Fire & Rescue services, and commission services to support victims and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.

Since 2021 I have always tried to keep your council tax precept low, and I will only ask for more if I believe it is necessary to maintain or improve the services.

I want to continue to invest in people and technology to further improve our services, to protect our communities and keep bringing crime and ASB down, but government grants, this coming year, will not fully cover increases in pay, national insurance and inflation.

Even with the maximum precept increase of 0.14 for

property, maintaining the staff and service levels required to address national, regional and community priorities will be extremely challenging.

Here is a snapshot of what your council tax is already helping to deliver...

- HMICFRS discharged our Police service from 'special measures', and their full inspection highlighted improvements across the board, establishing a foundation to build an outstanding force again
- In March 2024, there were 2,020 Police officers in Staffordshire – 428 more than in 2020 but still 161 fewer than in 2010
- In the past 12 months these officers made 14% more arrests and 19% more stop & searches, helping to bring crime down by 3.8% and ASB by 6%
- Investment in pro-active policing is helping to tackle the organised gangs targeting properties, businesses and farms to steal vehicles and plant – addressing the community priorities of rural, retail and vehicle crime set out in my Local Plan
- Staffordshire Fire & Rescue's latest HMICFRS report confirmed the service as one of the top achieving in England & Wales, including an 'Outstanding' grading for responding to major incidents
- Our Fire & Rescue emergency response is rapid and effective, with teams attending 8,203 incidents (April 2023-March 2024), 80.9% within the target time
- Prevention and protection teams are increasingly successful at identifying those most at risk and using their powers to ensure

- Our Fire & Rescue service continue to prove the value of close working with NHS partners, responding to almost 940 incidents (April 2023-March 2024) of vulnerable people falling in their homes. A scheme helping discharged patients return home from hospital supported 1,381 people between its launch last December and the end of September 2024

So, I would welcome your thoughts to help inform my decisions. How much would you be willing to contribute to protect our local services? Every penny will help our officers, fire-fighters and staff to keep Staffordshire safe.

OK

1. Are you responsible for paying council tax?

- Yes
- No

2. The following options are based on a Band D property currently paying £273.57 each year for Police services.

How much more would you be prepared to pay per year for your Police services?

- No increase in present

0 of 10 answered

- An extra £7 per year (58p extra a month) This is a 2.56% increase
- An extra £14 per year (£1.16 extra a month) This is a 5.12% increase

3. The following options are based on a Band D property currently paying £86.77 each year for Fire services.

How much more would you be prepared to pay per year for your Fire & Rescue services?

- No increase in precept
- An extra £2.50 per year (21p extra a month) This is a 2.9% increase
- An extra £5 per year (42p extra a month) This is a 5.8% increase

4. If you have any additional comments, please include these in the box below.

NEXT

Powered by



Privacy & Cookie Notice