



Police Funding Consultation Results (2026)

Between 18 December 2025 and 18 January 2026, the PCC ran a consultation on police funding, including his proposed precept increase. The survey was made available on the OPCC website and promoted online to Newsletter subscribers and through My Community Voice, as well as traditional media and social media channels.

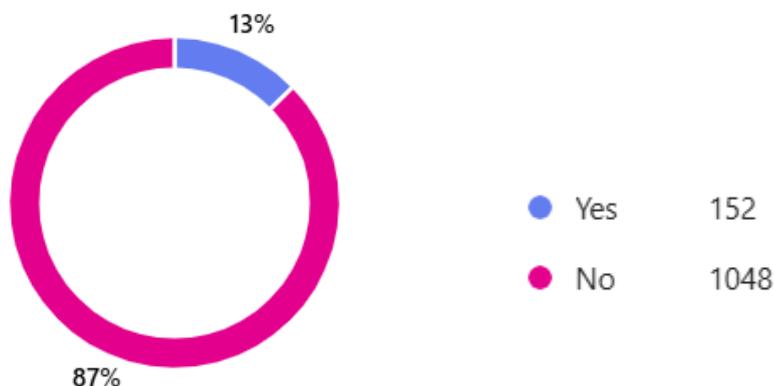
As Police and Crime Commissioner, it is my responsibility to ensure that Kent Police has sufficient resources to cut crime, support victims and build trust. At the same time, it is important to recognise that all of Kent Police's funding ultimately comes from one source – tax payers. There is no such thing as Government money, only tax payers' money.

With costs continuing to rise, I am having to make difficult decisions around police funding. This includes looking again at the council tax precept, and the savings that Kent Police will need to make if there is a shortfall of income versus expenditure.

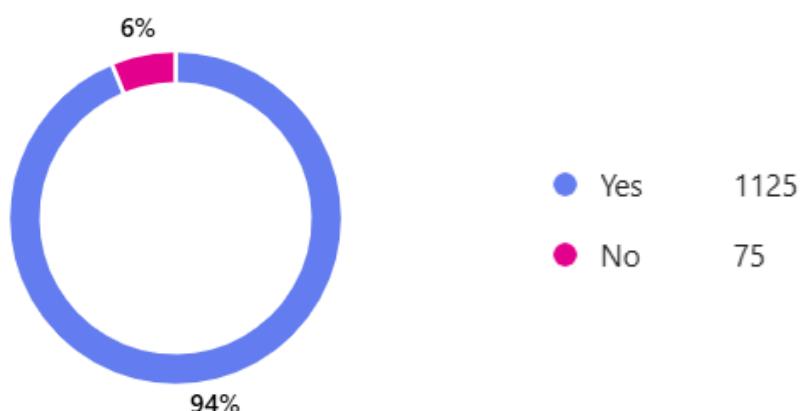
It was important to hear the public's views on raising the council tax precept, but also on how policing should be funded. Currently 57% of funding comes from the Government and 43% from the council tax precept and locally generated income. In 2010, the figures were 72% and 28% respectively.

I received 1,200 responses to my survey.

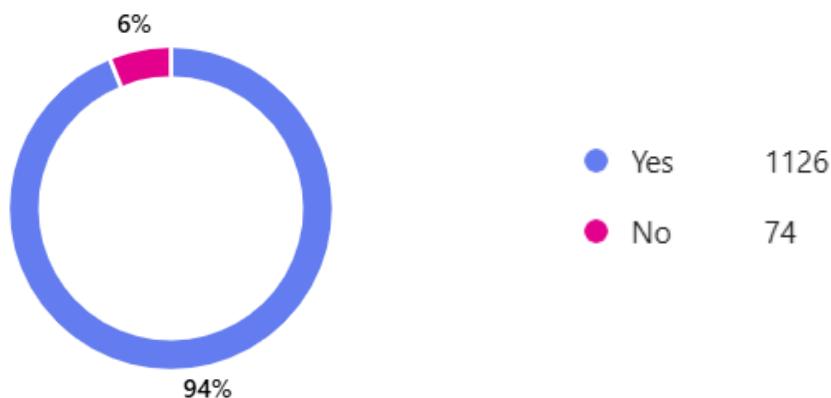
1. Do you think the balance between central funding and local funding is fair?



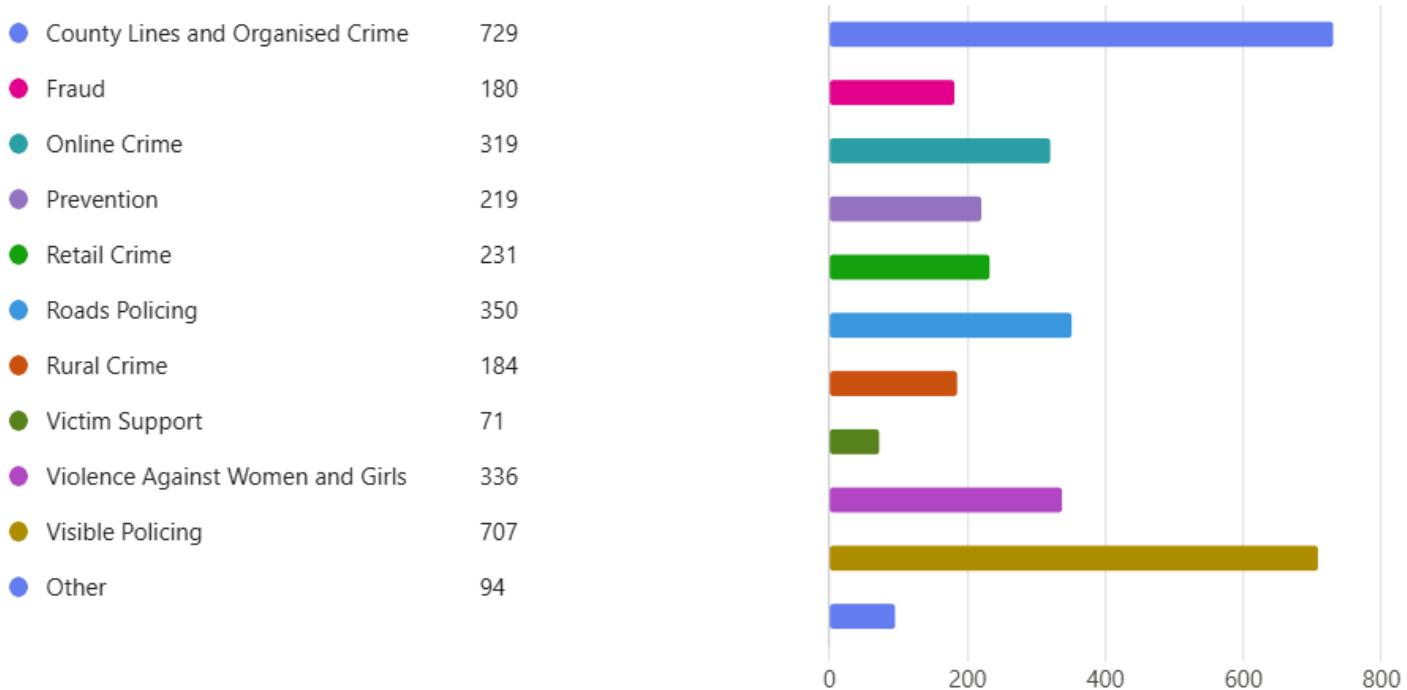
2. Do you think the proportion from the Home Office should be higher?



3. Do you support me in lobbying the government to change the way Kent Police is funded?

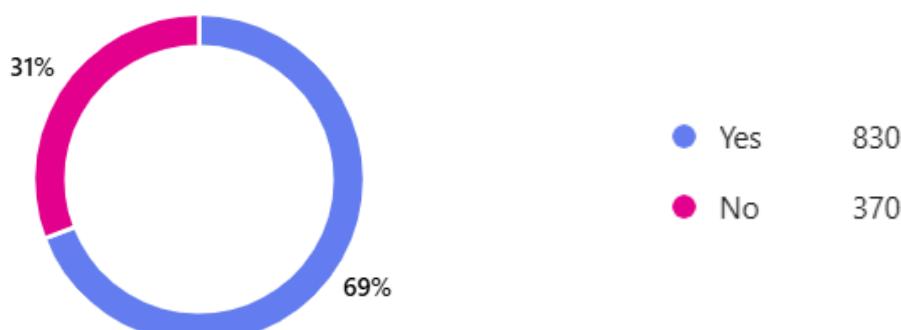


4. Which issues do you think need greater central funding from the Government?



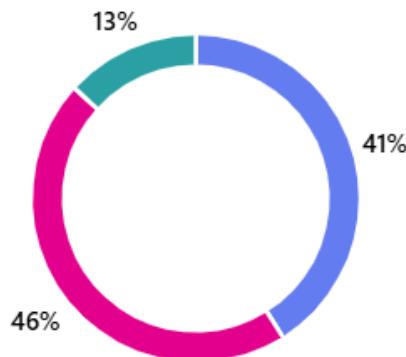
The majority of those who ticked 'Other' mentioned various types of anti-social behaviour.

5. Do you think PCCs should have the power to raise money through other avenues? (For example, rental incomes, investments and business partnerships)



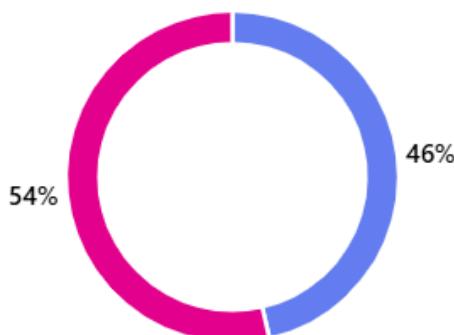
The Government will allow PCCs to increase the council tax precept by £15 per year for a Band D property in 2026/7. This raise will allow us to maintain the current level of service. If we do not achieve this income, Kent Police would be required to make cuts to the service.

6. How do you feel about the proposal to increase the council tax precept?



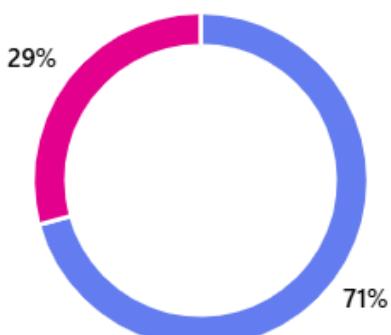
- I'm happy to contribute an increase of £15 per year for an average Band D council tax (or £1.25 per month) as described. 493
- I'm not happy about the increased charge, but accept it needs to be done to fund Kent Police and reduce the pressure to find further savings. 548
- I'm not happy about the increased charge and accept that this would mean a significant reduction in service. 159

7. Would you be willing to pay more than £15 per year extra?



- Yes 557
- No 643

8. There is a cap on how much extra council tax can be levied each year. Do you think the Government should set the maximum amount that Local Policing Bodies can increase the council tax precept, or do you think the cap should be removed?



- Keep the cap 849
- Remove the cap 351

Conclusion

The data shows strong and consistent support for changes to the way Kent Police is funded, particularly in relation to the balance between central and local funding. A large majority of respondents felt that central government should provide a higher proportion of police funding, and most were supportive of me lobbying for funding reform.

Across the survey, respondents highlighted a range of policing priorities where they believe greater central investment is urgently needed. The most frequently mentioned issues were:

- County Lines and Organised Crime
- Visible Policing
- Road's policing
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Online Crime

On the question of increasing the precept, 41% of respondents were happy to pay £15 extra per year, with a further 46% expressing that they were not happy about it but accept it is needed to maintain funding.

The majority of respondents (71%) would prefer to keep the cap on the council tax precept.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that most residents recognise the financial challenges facing Kent Police and are supportive of fairer funding, additional central investment, and measures to maintain current levels of policing.