



Bedfordshire Police Council Tax 2022/23



Part of my role as being your Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire means that I am responsible for securing the annual budget for Bedfordshire Police.

One of my focuses is to determine the local policing priorities for the Chief Constable based on listening to what local residents tell me. These priorities are set out in my Police and Crime Plan and I hold the Chief to account, on your behalf, for their successful delivery.

The priorities in the Police and Crime Plan reflect what local people tell me are important, which is why I created the consultation survey to hear from you about changes to the budget.

You will probably know that we are facing rising costs across the public sector because of inflation. This means an increase to the Bedfordshire Police Council Tax (otherwise known as precept), is needed for Bedfordshire Police to maintain its current position and meet the costs of pay and price increases.

With higher costs for some everyday items and the impact of the pandemic affecting everyone, I know that any increase for 2022-2023 for some people will be hard. I also know, that you want to see more officers in our communities and our rural areas, taking more criminals off the streets and protecting our towns and villages. To do this, as well as maintaining other services, we will need to increase the precept.

This is the first budget of my first term as PCC and I have worked closely with the Chief Constable and his senior leadership team to understand the operational needs of Bedfordshire Police and the increase in demand that the force continues to experience.

Based on the analysis of crime trends and criminality in the county, there is no doubt in my mind that the Force requires additional investment, so that more criminals can be taken off our streets and put before the courts.

Amongst the survey, I asked if you thought these were important areas for us to direct additional resources into and I can positively say, the majority agreed with these directions, with 58% in support of the precept.

I have also welcomed support from the Police and Crime Panel to increase the precept. I want to reassure the public, that the use of taxpayer's money is one that I take very seriously.

I am fully committed to holding the Chief Constable accountable for delivering on these priority areas and will do everything within my power to help him and his team deliver these for the people of Bedfordshire.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to make Bedfordshire a better place to live and work.

Regards,

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Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Police

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A £10 increase (per band D property) will enable the Chief Constable to:

- Recruit an extra 72 Police Officers to strengthen the front line
- Increase our rural crime capability to protect our villages and farms from criminals who target our rural communities
- Improve the way 999 and 101 calls are answered, which you have told me takes too long
- Continue to prioritise drug related serious organised crime to dismantle county lines
- Increase our victim engagement officers to support victims of rape, serious sexual offences and domestic abuse
- Leadership of the local criminal justice board
- Improving links with local authorities to work closer in partnership on shared priorities
- A swifter commissioning process to distribute funding to local organisations to support victims of crime
- Invest in the Professional Standards Department to improve vetting and ensure the highest standards of professional behaviour
- Invest in the sustainability agenda including the use of low and zero emission vehicles, and alternative forms of energy

About us

For further information about the PCC, his Police and Crime Plan, the budget or how you can get involved, visit:



www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk

Recruit an extra 72 Police Officers

We know that visible community policing, working alongside our partners to problem solve, to stem the tide of anti-social behaviour, and to combat the crime that blights our towns and villages is the bedrock of policing in our county.

Improve the answer rate for 999 and 101 calls

Urgent investment is needed in improving how well Bedfordshire Police is able to respond to emergency calls. Our Control Room teams and call handlers do an amazing job, but the fact is that there just aren't enough of them to meet the demand coming in day after day and night after night. This precept rise will allow the Chief to devote more resources into our control room, to harness new and better technology and to be more responsive.

Continue to prioritise drug related serious organised crime to dismantle county lines

Many of you will know about the enormous amounts of Class A and Class B drugs being brought into Bedfordshire each month. Drugs are a sickening feature of modern life throughout the country. The scale of drug dealing, drug use, and the serious violence that accompany these should worry us all. With this rise in precept, we can target more investment into the parts of policing that is going to make a significant difference in the activities of organised crime gangs in our county.

Increase our rural crime capability to protect our villages and farms from criminals who target our rural communities

The rise in precept will allow the Chief Constable to invest in our rural crime team and increase the number of officers who work with our farmers and landowners and those who reside in the tucked away homes that criminals target because they have no neighbours watching out for them.

Invest in the Professional Standards Department so that we continue to root out and deal swiftly with any corrupt behaviour within the Force

The public, rightly have very high expectations of policing and Police Officers. Sadly, a very small number, including here in Bedfordshire, have fallen far short of the standards expected of a serving police officer. This is why I am proposing that we put more investment into our Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for vetting and helping to maintain the high quality of integrity we all expect from Bedfordshire Police's staff and officers.

Increase our victim engagement officers

The Chief Constable will be able to make permanent, the roles of Victim Engagement Officers who work with boys, girls, men and women - who have been raped or faced serious sexual assault in Bedfordshire. These victims need specialist, high quality care and support.

Our Police Force has gone from being one of the worst performing forces nationwide to now being 2nd and 6th at solving serious sexual violence and rape cases respectively.

I want us to improve or at least maintain this progress.



Public consultation

Before implementing this council tax increase, the PCC consulted local taxpayers.

The consultation survey was sent to:

- All commissioned partners
- All councillors, town councillors, parish councillors, ward councillors
- Media contacts across Bedfordshire
- Members of the public subscribed to the PCC's newsletter
- Published on the PCC's website
- Regular social media updates via Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn

Of those who completed the survey, **57.58%** supported an increase of precept (which works out as 84p per month, per average Band D household).

To be notified of future consultations about policing and crime in your area, sign up to receive the PCC's newsletter here:

pccevents@beds.police.uk

How to contact Bedfordshire Police



999 in an emergency

when a life is threatened or there is imminent danger

101 for all non-emergency calls

when you don't require an urgent response

Report Online

<https://www.beds.police.uk/crime>

You can report anonymously to **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111** or online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Bedfordshire Victim Care Services

To offer support to those who have been a victim of crime, contact BVCS on **0800 0282 887** or visit <https://www.bedfordshirevcs.com/>

Yearly Council Tax Rates By Band

Band	2021/2022	2022/2023
A	£151.39	£158.06
B	£176.63	£184.40
C	£201.86	£210.75
D	£227.09	£237.09
E	£277.55	£289.78
F	£328.02	£342.46
G	£378.48	£395.15
H	£454.18	£474.18

854
contacts received

310
calls to 999

Makes **22** arrests

16
online reports

478
incidents

Records **134.67**
new crimes

including:

34.46
assaults

4.43
sexual offences

An average day in Bedfordshire Police

