

The police share of council tax explained

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, deeply regrets that she has to ask for any rise in council tax for policing in Bedfordshire at a time when she appreciates fully that there is such economic uncertainty. However, without this rise, which pays for 38% of your policing and which amounts to approximately 30p per week or £1.25 per month (£15 over the year) per typical Band D home, Bedfordshire Police and the public would be in the position of losing services which are vital for community safety, the protection of the public and put at risk the best justice outcomes for victims of crime.

The Commissioner had to decide at what level to set the Council Tax precept for policing after public consultation, where the majority supported the proposed rise, and this was then verified - and passed unanimously - by members of all political parties and none at Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Panel on 2 February 2021.

In addition to securing the services listed below, the Commissioner is now able to keep her promise to increase the number of officers in this county in every year of her role; supporting the recruitment of 153 new officers in 2021-22, comprised of 100 replacements for leavers, 51 brand new posts for Bedfordshire alone and two to make good the force's commitment to the regional Counter Terror and Serious Organised Crime response, through the seven force Eastern Region Special Operations Unit.

The following services had been under threat and have now been secured:

Police Community Support Officers –15 vital community posts will stay.

Force Contact Centre – five experienced staff who answer calls for help from the public when they need police most on 999 and 101, also monitoring CCTV and starting a crime investigation, will remain.

Cyber Crime – vital investment in cybercrime defence and investigation systems will proceed as this is the type of crime most likely to be experienced by the public.

Warrants Officers – specialist officers will be retained to ensure named offenders who should be apprehended by police are traced and brought to justice when they are wanted by the courts or for recall to prison.

Investigation Officers –10 Investigation Officers will remain operational, keeping 10 police officers on front line duties who would otherwise have had to replace them.

File Management – specialist staff who ensure the best possible file quality to gain successful prosecutions and justice for victims will remain in place to prevent police officers being drawn away from 999 response duties to work on such files.



The Commissioner's priorities for policing in Bedfordshire have been signed off by the Police and Crime Panel:

1. A return to more visible community policing across the county
2. To rebuild public confidence in Bedfordshire police
3. To ensure that the police are available when we need them most
4. Putting victims at the centre of the way we police and prosecute
5. A fair deal on policing wherever you live – in the town or country
6. Protecting the police to protect the public with a proper duty of care
7. Genuinely being a Commissioner for all communities
8. Working with partners to break the cycle of serial offending and to prevent crime where possible

	2020/2021	2021/2022
	£	£
A	141.39	151.39
B	164.96	176.63
C	188.52	201.86
D	212.09	227.09
E	259.22	277.55
F	306.35	328.02
G	353.48	378.48
H	424.18	454.18