

Public Consultation

To further inform the decision around the police element of the proposed precept for 2026/27 consultation has been undertaken with the public to ascertain their feedback and thoughts on this subject

Between 19th December 2025 and closed Wednesday 14th January 2026 an online, self-completion survey was open to the public of Lancashire with paper copies offered on request.

The survey was promoted in the local media, on the Commissioner's website In the Know community messaging and newsletters. It was also promoted across social media including local Facebook groups, hyper local social media app NextDoor and via the Commissioner's WhatsApp Channel.

During the consultation period, responses were reviewed and targeted social media posts and adverts were used to try and increase responses from underrepresented areas and communities. The survey was also shared through the force Diversity and Inclusion Teams Community Ambassadors.

The results

In total 2,026 responses were received to the survey, making the results statistically robust at the county level.

Q How much more would you pay to maintain growth and investment in policing and deliver on your priorities in Lancashire?

- Up to £15 a year (up to 29p a week) **23%**
- Up to £20 a year (up to 38p a week) **24%**
- More than £20 a year (more than 38p a week) **19%**
- I would not be prepared to pay more **34%**

66% of respondents would be prepared to pay more council tax towards policing.

662 free text responses. Examples below. Themes included need for local policing, efficiently, crime prevention and community engagement.

Taxpayers are already stretched through inflation, increase in energy bills, increase in council tax bills, increase in the price of food. Any shortfall in funding therefore should be funded by central government rather than putting additional pressures on taxpayers.

It has to be used effectively. Less paperwork. More police visible

It is not the amount that is paid, it is the areas in which it is wasted. Red tape, paperwork. Focus needs to be back on the streets protecting and serving the majority, not the minority.

Other questions:

Q In developing my budget proposals, I want to see Lancashire Constabulary receive more funding to deliver investments in preventing and reducing crime, protecting the vulnerable and supporting victims across the county. Do you agree?

Yes 78%

No 13%

Maybe 9%

349 Freetext. Themes included budget efficiency and organisational efficiency.

Yes, but not by raising council tax. We already pay more than most European countries. As a Pensioner I can't afford more increases.

There is already plenty of money. Spend it wisely, not more.

Use what you have more efficiently

More funding is essential, we have a growing community, which brings more problems, it's essential that policing grows alongside. We need a police force that is more visible in the community!

Q The Police and Crime Commissioner's intention is to invest most of the money raised through the precept into neighbourhood policing, do you agree with this proposal?

Yes 79%

No 14%

Don't Know 7%

534 Freetext. Themes included strong support for neighbourhood policing and visibility alongside road and traffic policing, community cohesion and safety.

Want to see more PCs managing our neighbourhoods and not one PC covering lots of combined areas which is unmanageable. Need more PCs who want to help long term and they need to be ring fenced to that role. It's no good if they are only here half the time

Feel there needs to be more traffic officers too

Once again, we need to see local police on foot in our neighbourhood

Police presence deters crime

Q The Police and Crime Commissioner has asked Lancashire Constabulary to make efficiency savings to reduce the overall ask of funding from council taxpayers. Do you agree this is the right approach?

Yes 56%

No 27%

Don't Know 17%

Demographics

What is your age?

18	0.25%
18-29	2.40%
30-39	8.36%
40-49	11.76%
50-59	16.87%
60-69	28.68%
70-79	25.78%
80+	5.91%

Which local authority area do you live in?

South Ribble	9.96%
Preston	9.91%
Lancaster	8.46%
Chorley	7.36%
West Lancs	7.16%
Wyre	7.11%
Blackburn with Darwen	7.06%
Fylde	6.96%
Burnley	6.86%

Blackpool	6.31%
Hyndburn	5.96%
Ribble Valley	5.91%
Rossendale	5.46%
Pendle	4.90%
I don't live in Lancashire	0.65%

What is your gender identity?

Male	47.20%
Female	47.55%
Non-binary	0.30%
Prefer not say	4.70%
Other	0.25%

What is your ethnic group?

White	89.39%
Asian / Asian British	1.95%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	0.55%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	1.15%
Prefer not to say	5.96%
Other	1.00%

Please share any other comments you have below

777 Free

text responses. Key themes around police visibility, trust and the need for proper funding.

We need our neighbourhood police back. They are the ones that over time know their communities. They need to have manageable areas and not covering numerous wards.

They need to be allowed to do their job. This is the only way you'll build up the confidence of the public again, get people on side and gain that trust.

Police presence - communities focus - get the courts and prisons sorted so that offenders are processed in days not months/years - give young people good places to socialise/learn/do good stuff - penalise parents of young ASB offenders

Policing has been underfunded for many years now - Government has responsibility to fix any shortfalls and increase funding to meet demand which has been increasingly more complex.

Communities need to see police in their streets both day and night. Policing has lost communities' trust.

If any increases are used to provide additional and enhanced services, I am prepared to pay significantly more. If any increases are used to allow central government funding to be reduced, then I object to paying more.

Greater priority needs to be given to traffic policing, and checking that vehicles/drivers are properly licensed, taxed and insured. Driving standards are appalling.

It is essential for police to have the financial resources they require

One of the main issues people have is they feel that when they are victims of a crime that they report it and nothing happens. Low-level crime (petty theft, car crime etc) seems to be deprioritised, but this is the kind of crime that most people are affected by, and so there is a loss of trust and support created. Police need to fund operational support to investigate (at least to some extent) into low-level crime and give both victims as sense that someone cares, and criminals a sense that there will be consequences even for low-level crime.

It would be a blessing to see more Police Officers on foot and bring back Neighbourhood Policing. PACT meetings need to be re-introduced within neighbourhoods and a drive on setting up more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes within the community.

Continue to help keep our streets and city centres safe from groups of youths on electric scooters and in parks and promenades.

Stop policing social media and harassing motorists. Zero tolerance to drug use and thieves including shoplifters.

We need accessible police who attend on the day of any crime

Faster response times and more visible and approachable police

If you want a visible police force, you have to pay for it.

We desperately need more police resources.