

Precept Consultation Results 2025/2026

Background

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act states that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) must make arrangements for obtaining the views of the people in that police area, and the relevant ratepayers' representatives, on their proposals for expenditure in that financial year.

Cleveland OPCC undertook a public consultation exercise from 2nd December 2024 to 19th January 2025, focusing on two themes in relation to police funding:

- How much additional funding people would be prepared to pay towards their police precept
- How they would like an increased investment in policing to be used

Online survey

The consultation included an online survey, which was shared via various methods, including:

- PCC social media channels - including paid advertisement on Facebook
- Direct email to elected members and MP's, across all four local authority areas
- Voluntary Development Agencies
- Direct email engagement with partner organisations, stakeholders and commissioned services
- Promoted via Cleveland Police's internal communication channels

Our total Facebook advertising spend for the consultation period came to a total of £154.84. This helped the advert reach 31,008 people and resulted in 2,282 clicks to the online survey.

Face-to-face engagement

OPCC staff also held face-to-face engagement stalls in community locations using a counter-based methodology, where members of the public could place a counter to indicate what level of increased precept they would be willing to support.

In the first two weeks of January 2025, the OPCC team hosted stalls in five locations across the Cleveland area, collecting the views of 184 residents.

Due to an unfortunate administrative error, all but 20 of these responses were accidentally destroyed. As a result, the team conducted further stall exercises during the week commencing 13th January 2025.

Stalls took place at the below locations. The results of those events highlighted in red were unfortunately destroyed and as a result, are not counted in the final results:

- Thursday 9th January – Hartlepool Civic Centre
- Friday 10th January – Stockton Central Library
- Monday 13th January – Morrisons Supermarket, Redcar
- Monday 13th January – Morrisons Supermarket, Guisborough

Precept Consultation Results 2025/2026

- Tuesday 14th January – Hill Street Shopping Centre, Middlesbrough
- Thursday 16th January – Hartlepool Civic Centre
- Thursday 16th January – Stockton Central Library
- Friday 17th January – Morrisons Supermarket, Redcar

After conducting further stall exercises a total of 156 views were collated from residents.

Consultation boxes

To reach those communities who may be digitally excluded, the OPCC launched a new initiative, locating paper versions of the survey and consultation boxes in 27 community hubs and libraries across Cleveland.

Locations of the consultation boxes	
Redcar & Cleveland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dormanstown Family Hub • Grangetown Family Hub • Loftus Family Hub • Skelton Family Hub
Middlesbrough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acklam Hub • Easterside Hub • Grove Hill Hub • Hemlington Hub • Marton Hub • My Place • North Ormesby Hub • Thorntree Hub
Stockton on Tees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stockton Central Library and Customer Service Centre • Billingham Library and Customer Service Centre, • Fairfield Library • Ingleby Barwick Library • Norton Library • Roseworth Library, Redhill Family Hub • Thornaby Central Library and Customer Service Centre • Thornaby Library • Yarm Library
Hartlepool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Hub Central • Community Hub South • Headland Library • Local & Family History Centre • Hartlepool Borough Council, • Customer Services, Civic Centre

Demographics

Precept Consultation Results 2025/2026

In total 524 people participated in the consultation. The OPCC team engaged with 156 people in face-to-face engagements, with 368 people completing the online and printed surveys.

The level of response varied across the four local policing areas, with equal respondents from the Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar and Cleveland areas, as follows:








- Hartlepool responses – 19.5%
- Middlesbrough responses – 24.2%
- Redcar and Cleveland responses - 28.1%
- Stockton-on-Tees responses – 28.2%

The online and paper surveys collected additional demographics around disability, age, and race. It was optional for respondents to answer these equality questions.

Of those who completed the online and paper surveys 21.50% of participants considered themselves to have a disability.

The largest age group among respondents was 55-64 (23.33%), with the lowest number of responses from the 18-24 age group (4.36%).

A full age breakdown of respondents is as below:

Answer Choices	Responses
18-24	 4.35%
25-34	 14.07%
35-44	 17.39%
45-54	 19.44%
55-64	 23.53%
65-75	 14.32%
76+	 6.91%

The majority of respondents (92.17%) identified as White British. There were a very small number of responses from people who identified as Asian, Black, Mixed Heritage or Other Ethnic Groups, but the majority of respondents who did not identify as White British chose not to disclose their race.

Views on Funding

How much more would you be willing to pay towards local policing?

Precept Consultation Results 2025/2026

Respondents were asked how much more they would be willing to pay every month towards their local policing.

- Up to £12 a year more (£1.00 per month), an increase of 3.95%: This would raise £2 million, however, is below the organisations inflationary level and would likely lead to reductions in current levels of service delivery.
- Up to £14 a year more (£1.17 per month), an increase of 4.61%: This would raise £2.3 million, is broadly in line with inflation levels, and would lead to no reductions in the police service delivered.
- Up to £18 a year more (£1.50 per month), an increase of 5.93%: This would raise £2.9 million, is likely to be higher than the organisations inflationary pressures, and could allow some investment into policing in Cleveland.
- Up to £24 a year more (£2.00 per month), an increase of 7.90%: This would raise around £3.9 million, will be much higher than the organisations inflationary pressures, and would allow even further investment into policing in Cleveland

The following options are based on an average Band D property currently paying £303.73 each year for policing.

Across the whole consultation, covering both the surveys and the counter exercise, **55% of respondents indicated that they would be willing to pay at least £14 per year more for policing in their area (for a Band D property).**

45% of respondents selected the lowest level increase of £12 per year – or £1 extra per month.

	£1	£1.17	£1.50	£2
Face-to-face	59.6%	2.6%	7.1%	30.8%
Survey	38.9%	17.9%	13.0%	30.2%
Cleveland	45.0%	13.4%	11.3%	30.3%

Whereas online and printed survey respondents opted for the lowest option at 38.86% closely followed by 30.16% of respondents to increase to the highest option.

When comparing results between the different Local Policing Areas, Hartlepool had the highest appetite for the lowest funding levels, with 61.8% of respondents choosing the £24 per year option. However, it is worth noting that Redcar and Cleveland had opted for the lowest funding levels, with 40.8% closely followed by opting for the highest level with 47.6%.

Precept Consultation Results 2025/2026

Combined responses	£1	£1.17	£1.50	£2
Hartlepool	61.8%	8.8%	7.8%	21.6%
Middlesbrough	36.2%	20.5%	18.9%	24.4%
Redcar	40.8%	4.1%	7.5%	47.6%
Stockton	45.3%	19.6%	10.8%	24.3%
Cleveland	45.0%	13.4%	11.3%	30.3%

Views on how additional funding should be spent

Residents were asked about the most important primary one issue they would like to see Cleveland Police or/and other local agencies address.

Precept Consultation Results 2025/2026

With 27.6% of the overall vote, **antisocial behaviour** was clearly identified as the key concern affecting residents in Cleveland – a largely consistent result across each of Cleveland’s local authority areas.

The next most common response was other, which accounted for 25.0% of all responses and then followed by drug-related crime (16.8%).

Concern	All responses	Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Redcar and Cleveland	Stockton
Violence	7.4%	7.3%	8.7%	3.4%	10.7%
Antisocial behaviour	27.6%	20.3%	32.6%	28.0%	28.3%
Drug-related crime	16.8%	19.5%	19.6%	13.7%	15.7%
Road-related crime)	4.4%	5.7%	4.3%	4.6%	3.1%
Residential burglary	3.5%	3.3%	3.6%	1.7%	5.7%
Shoplifting	3.9%	1.6%	5.8%	3.4%	4.4%
Better support for victims of crime	3.0%	4.1%	5.1%	0.6%	3.1%
Domestic abuse	3.4%	0.8%	5.1%	3.4%	3.8%
Sexual abuse	1.8%	0.8%	3.6%	0.6%	2.5%
Vehicle theft/damage	2.4%	0.8%	2.2%	3.4%	2.5%
Hate crime	0.8%	0.8%	2.2%	0.0%	0.6%
Other	25.0%	35.0%	7.2%	37.1%	19.5%

Hate crime was the least common answer from respondents with just five people across the respondents (0.8%) selecting this as their primary concern.

Some residents felt that there were other issues not offered as an option that wanted to be addressed by police officers. These were collected and are shown in the table below:

Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Redcar and Cleveland	Stockton
All options (respondent could not select just one)	You never see police patrols Better welfare for police officers/	All options (respondent could not select just one) More police visibility and return	All options (respondent could not select just one)

Precept Consultation Results 2025/2026

I don't want to pay more	staff and volunteers.	to opening all of the local police stations	Corruption in the police
Online safety for young people	All options (respondent could not select just one)	Tougher and longer sentencing is required.	More police presence
Corruption in the police		I don't want to pay more	The police should decide where the funds should be allocated.
More police visibility and foot patrols		All crimes relate to drug-related crimes	I don't want to pay more
		Vandalism	Fraud
			Improve safety for women and girls