

Frequently Asked Questions – Budget and Precept 2018-19

1. How much does £1 on the Precept raise?

For 2018/19 each £1 of precept raises £616,000.

2. How much does the Precept raise in total?

Next year £102.1 million

This year £93.216 million (£8.919 million more than last year)

3. How much will I pay?

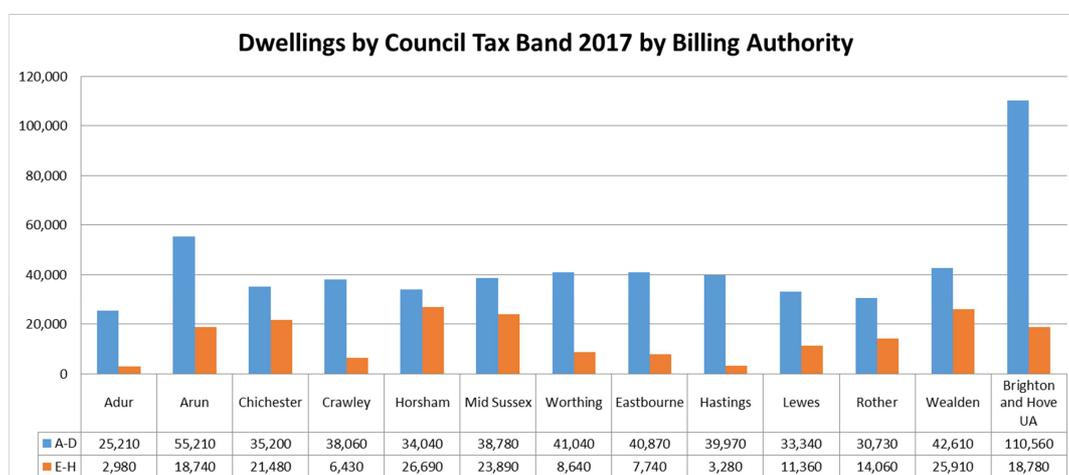
That will depend on a number of things, the council tax band of your dwelling and how many people live in the property.

In addition you may be eligible for a discount, for example, because you are the only adult in the dwelling or because you can obtain an exemption.

75% of dwellings in Sussex are in a Band D property or below so the majority of people will pay £165.91 or less (£12 or less of the increase) for Policing.

****THIS IS ONLY THE PCC ELEMENT****

Precept by Band		FINAL	FINAL	FINAL	DRAFT							
Band	Band Calc	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	18/19 Increase		Total payable after Single Person Discount	Single Person Discount increase	% of Dwellings in Band 2017 est	% of Dwellings in Band 2017 est	
								25%				
A	Band D *6/9	£95.94	£99.27	£102.61	£110.61	£8.00	7.80%	£82.96	£6.00	12.0%		
B	Band D *7/9	£111.93	£115.82	£119.71	£129.04	£9.33	7.80%	£96.78	£7.00	17.1%		
C	Band D *8/9	£127.92	£132.36	£136.81	£147.48	£10.67	7.80%	£110.61	£8.00	26.2%		
D	Band D	£143.91	£148.91	£153.91	£165.91	£12.00	7.80%	£124.43	£9.00	19.5%	74.8%	
E	Band D *11/9	£175.89	£182.00	£188.11	£202.78	£14.67	7.80%	£152.08	£11.00	12.4%		
F	Band D *13/9	£207.87	£215.09	£222.31	£239.65	£17.33	7.80%	£179.74	£13.00	7.2%		
G	Band D *15/9	£239.85	£248.18	£256.52	£276.52	£20.00	7.80%	£207.39	£15.00	5.0%		
H	Band D *18/9	£287.82	£297.82	£307.82	£331.82	£24.00	7.80%	£248.87	£18.00	0.6%	25.2%	



The following schedule sets out the level of Band D council tax in Sussex since 2010/11. Note that the precept was frozen for four years from 2010/11 to 2013/14:

Year	Band D Council Tax
2017/18	£153.91
2016/17	£148.91
2015/16	£143.91
2014/15	£141.12
2013/14	£138.42
2012/13	£138.42
2011/12	£138.42
2010/11	£138.42

You can check your band at; www.gov.uk/council-tax-bands.gov

4. Why did you not consult on a £12 increase?

The Governments Policing Grant announcement on 19 December 2017 included a surprise announcement that enabled Police & Crime Commissioners to raise the police precept by £12. We had expected the increase would be the same as last year at £5 so sought views on an increase that was double that - £10.

Of those prepared to pay more, two thirds (66%) would be prepared to pay an additional £10 a year and one fifth (20%) would be prepared to pay an additional £5 a year. The remaining 14% answered that they would be prepared to pay an additional 'Any other amount'. These respondents were then asked to specify an amount, with the most common response being £50 a year.

5. Why do you consult?

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 places a duty to consult with residents within Sussex on the proposals of the PCC for expenditure (including capital expenditure) and the precept in that financial year.

The PCC has completed an annual consultation in each of the past four years using a range of public engagement channels including broadcast, print, social media and direct email.

It is important to note that the consultation is not a referendum but an opportunity for respondents to make their views known.

The consultation result forms one of the many sources of information that the PCC uses in order to make the annual budget and precept decision.

6. Following the consultation, do you simply just increase the precept irrespective of the views received?

The public consultation is a gauge of public opinion and is just one element of the information considered when determining the precept.

Under Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Commissioner must report her decision to the Police & Crime Panel who are asked to consider the proposed precept and make recommendations.

If the Panel does not accept the proposed precept, the power of veto is provided under this Schedule. The power of veto can only be exercised with a two thirds majority, at least, of the current Panel membership, i.e. 13 members or more, voting in favour of a veto.

In the event of a veto, the Commissioner must produce a revised precept and an additional meeting is convened for the Panel to meet to consider this revised precept and make reports to the Commissioner. The Panel does not have the power of veto over the revised precept.

7. How many people took part in the public consultation?

A total of 4,559 responses were received which is a statistically significant sample of Sussex households as it means that had we received a response from every household in Sussex, the results would be the same plus or minus one percent.

8. Where was the consultation advertised? I do not have the internet so I was unaware of the consultation.

The PCC ran an online consultation from November 9th 2017 to January 5th 2018. This was widely publicised in the media, and by partner organisations across the county.

Hard copies of the consultation were available by contacting the office and shared by the Commissioner at numerous public meetings and engagements.

9. How much money does Sussex Police receive from Government?

Sussex Police receive a core grant for the day to day running expenses and this is £162.8 million. They also receive other specific grants for specialist activities which is £6.9 million.

10. How does the Government determine how much money it gives to Sussex Police?

The Police Funding Formula divides up how much money each police force receives from the overall central government funds. It takes into account a number of factors to assess demand in each area.

Earlier this year, the Home Office and police partners engaged on potential changes to the police funding formula. However, in the context of changing demand, the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service has said that providing funding certainty over the next two years to enable the police to plan in an efficient way is his priority. Therefore, proposed changes to the funding formula will be revisited at the next Spending Review.

11. Why do you have so much money in reserves?

Reserves are held for four main purposes:

- A working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoids unnecessary temporary borrowing – this forms part of general reserves;
- Funds to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies – this also forms part of general reserves;
- Funds for the purposes of managing risk e.g. insurance reserve; and

- A means of building up funds, often referred to as earmarked reserves, to meet known or predicted requirements; earmarked reserves are accounted for separately but remain legally part of the reserves.

The PCC has a reserves policy that sets out the use of each reserve and the financial report [here](#) provides the detail of the value and their use.

12. Is money raised through fines considered when setting council tax?

Sussex Police do not retain any money raised directly through fines, such as speeding or parking fines.

13. How much do you charge Gatwick Airport?

Gatwick Airport pay a grant of £12 million a year to Sussex Police.

14. Does Sussex Police charge for policing the Brighton & Hove Albion Football matches in Sussex?

Sussex Police can recover some of the costs of policing large public events and the methodology is agreed nationally.

15. I cannot afford to pay

The PCC recognises that any increase in taxation at any level will be challenging for some of our residents and it is therefore not a decision that has been taken lightly.

Please contact your local council who will be able to review your council tax liability and check to see if you can obtain a discount, exemption or other reduction to your bill. They can also sign post you to independent advice.

Helpful documents

- [Medium Term Financial Strategy](#)
- [HMICFRS PEEL Inspection](#)