



Policing Precept 2025/26

Overview

- The Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for setting the Durham Constabulary budget each year.
- Policing is funded from 2 main sources:
 - Central Government grant – approximately 71%.
 - Precept – approximately 29%.
- Government cap on precept for 2025-26 is £14 (£13 in 2024-25).



Precept

- Calculation: $\text{Income} = \text{Tax Base} * \text{Band D Precept}$.
- Every additional £1 precept generates approximately £0.18m income for the police service in Durham and Darlington.
- The band D precept for 2024-25 was £268 an increase of £14 would cost Band D Council Tax payers £282 per annum (additional 27p per week).
- In 2024-25 the majority of forces increased by maximum precept.



Precept

Area	2024-25 Band D Precept	2025-26 Band D Precept (assuming £14 uplift)
National Average (Exc. Wales)	274.92	288.92
Durham	268.24	282.24
Other Areas		
Northumbria	181.84	195.84
Cleveland	303.73	317.73
North Yorkshire	306.86	320.86
Cumbria	310.05	324.05



Challenges

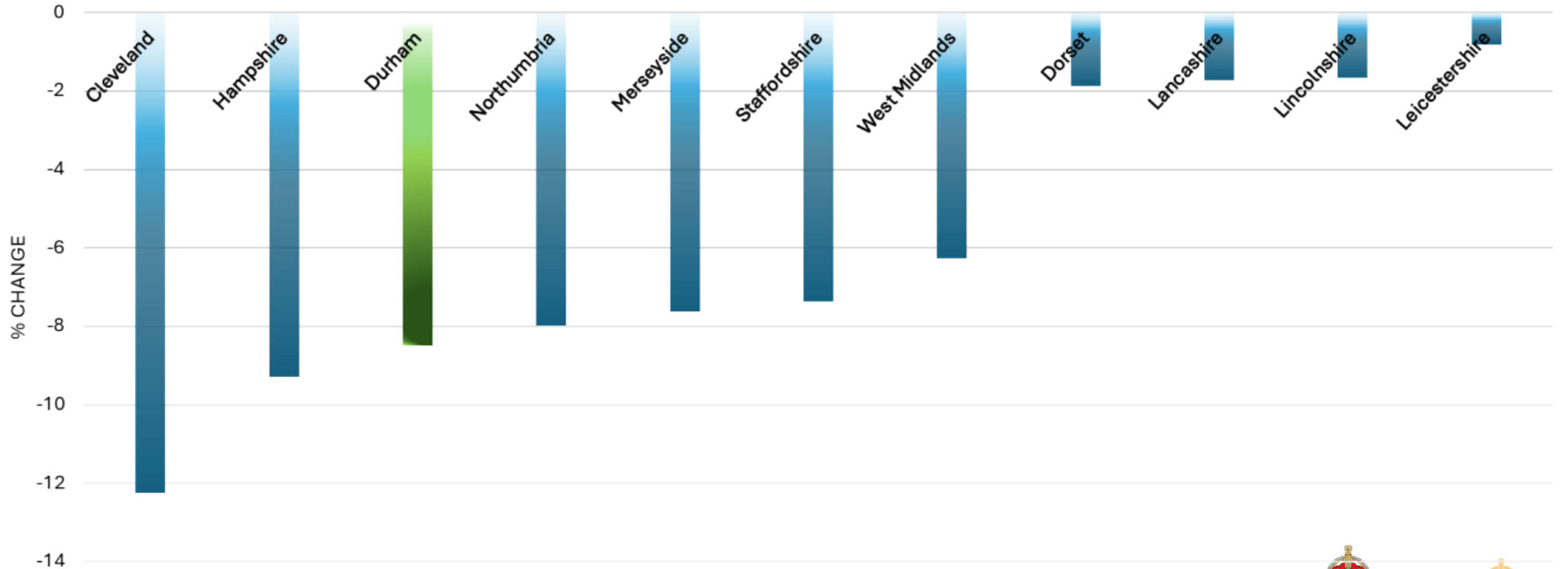
- Fair funding – the way that precept is calculated means that income raised varies from area to area:

Every 1% increase in precept raises £490k for Durham compared to £970k for North Yorkshire and £1.7m in Surrey.

- Provisional police settlement 2025-26 shows an overall increase in grant but in reality the increase does not cover the impact of the 24-25 pay award.
- Police officer numbers – Durham are still one of eleven forces with fewer police officers than in 2010.



Officer Uplift Losers

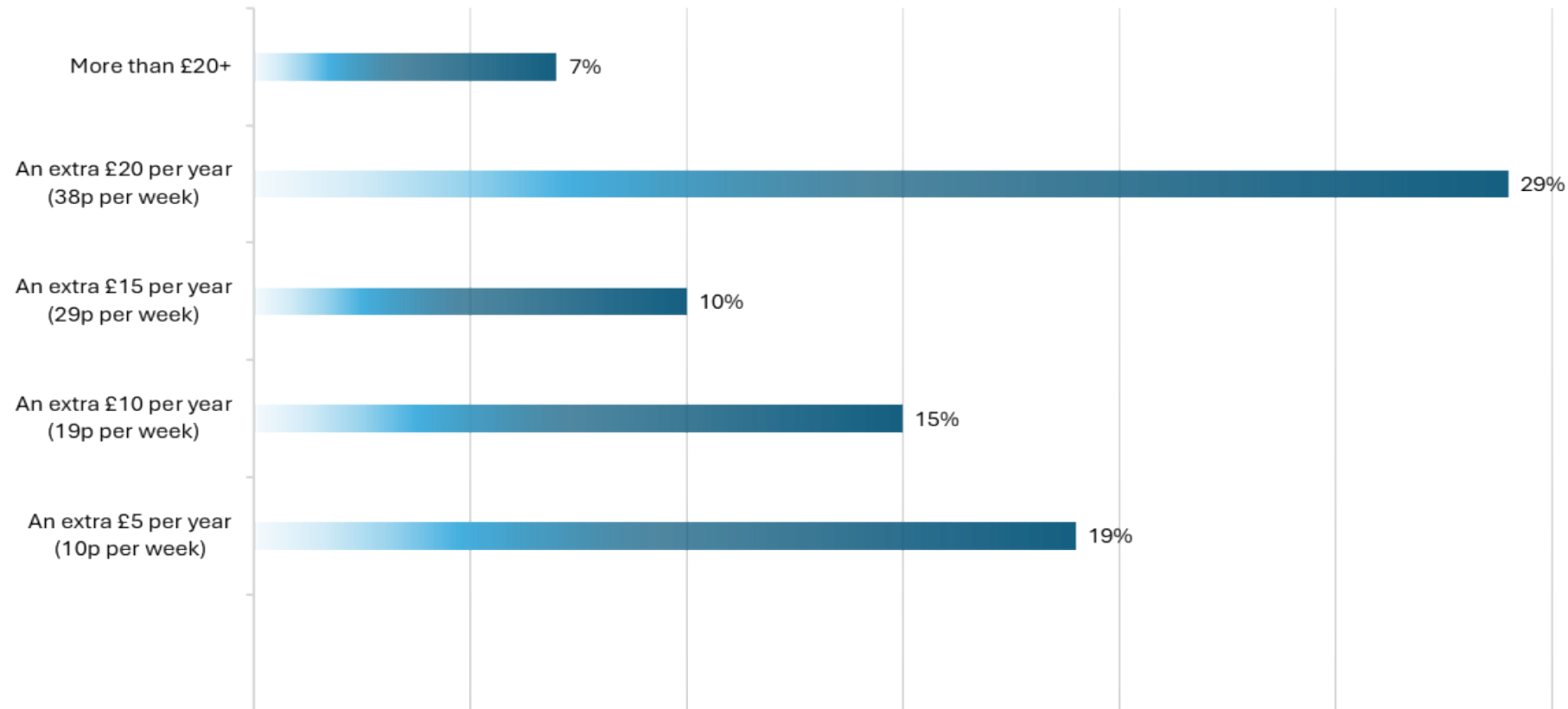


Challenges

- Inflation, other rising costs (NI/Living Wage) – funding is not keeping pace.
- No capital grant – estates, fleet and IT costs.
- Seeing increased use of reserves and increasing debt – not sustainable.



Results from Consultation – Precept Increase



* Remaining 20% replied 'Other'



What was precept used to deliver in 2024-25?

- Additional police officers
- Delivery of a new state of the art Custody Hub
- Delivery of new call handling telephone system and additional resource into the control room.
- Delivery of a Victim's portal
- Additional PCSOs into neighbourhoods
- Increase in special constables



What will a Precept Support to Deliver in 2025-26?

- Maintaining police officer numbers, increasing visibility on the streets, tackling drink and drug related crime and anti-social behaviour including off road bikes
- PCSO numbers maintained in neighbourhoods
- Safer roads to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads
- Further investment in information technology to move towards a more intelligence led, data driven, problem solving approach
- Investment into the estate and fleet



Budget

- Revenue Budget:
 - Balanced for 2025/26 with use of reserves
 - Deficits in future years
- No Government capital grant
- 2025-26 capital requirement:
 - ICT £3m
 - Fleet £1.4m
 - Estates £2m



Efficiency

- Efficiency and savings work ongoing
- Workforce planning
- National efficiency and productivity group
- High expectation for forces as national finances are limited



Questions

