

Council Tax 2019/20



Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

**POLICE
& CRIME**
COMMISSIONER
THAMES VALLEY

PCC Foreword

Over £100 million has been cut from Thames Valley Police's annual budget over the last 8 years. Whilst the Force continues to prioritise its work and make efficiency savings, there was significant concern that any further budget pressures would lead to unacceptable reductions in resources which would impact frontline policing and result in a service less able to respond to increases in demand.

The 2019/20 government police funding settlement has allowed us to avoid a reduction in resource and I am pleased to be able to agree a budget which enables Thames Valley Police to invest in operational policing to help protect our communities.

It is important to recognise, however that more than half of the funding in the Government's 2019/20 settlement (£509m) available nationally to Police and Crime Commissioners is expected to come from local taxpayers by increasing the police portion of the Council Tax.

Before I made a decision on the level of Council Tax, I sought views of the residents of the Thames Valley. Of the 8,031 people who completed the online survey, 69.7% agreed to an increase of £24 for a band D council tax property to help fund local policing. I am therefore proposing an increase in the police portion of the Council Tax in 2019/20 of £24 for a Band D property (the increases for other property bands are provided elsewhere in this leaflet).

Treasury changes to pension rules have resulted in police officer pensions costing an extra £9.5m next year. This uses all the additional Home Office core policing grant (£4.5m) and the new pension's grant (£4.3m) that we will receive for 2019/20 and still requires £0.7m from council tax.

After funding pay and price rises, inescapable growth commitments and the shortfall in police officer pension costs, the increase in council tax in 2019/20 will enable Thames Valley Police to invest £8.5m in the following priority policing areas:

- £2.5m to recruit additional police officers and staff for local policing to respond to increasing crime demand and complexity;
- £1.3m to improve services to the public through contact management by investment in 101 call handling;
- £2.2m to improve investigative capacity and process for complex crime by recruiting more investigators, and
- £2.5m to increase our digital development programmes to improve productivity and efficiency.

I am confident that this budget proposed protects our communities today and plans for the future. Over the next four years, Thames Valley Police will need to continue to make efficiency savings of over £15m with demand on services expected to continue to increase through increased reporting of complex crime and the growing challenge from serious organised crime networks.



Anthony Stansfeld
Police and Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley



**“I am delighted
to have appointed
John Campbell as
the next Thames
Valley Police
Chief Constable”**

Anthony Stansfeld
Police and Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley

Budget 2019/20

The net revenue budget for 2019/20 is **£419.914 million which represents an increase of £28.443 million or 7.3%.**

Following public consultation the Police and Crime Commissioner has increased his element of the council tax by £24 for a band D household.

This equates to 13.2%. This increase will enable the PCC to invest in high priority policing services.

The budget also incorporates £4.8 million of cashable efficiency savings.

2018/19			2019/20	
Total £m	per head £		Total £m	per head £
436.37	180.25	Gross expenditure	464.94	191.59
-42.50	-17.56	Income	-43.83	-18.06
-2.40	-0.99	Contribution to / from (-) reserves	-1.20	-0.50
391.47	161.70	Net expenditure	419.91	173.03
		Less:		
-72.85	-30.09	Formula grant	-74.28	-30.61
-139.25	-57.52	Police grant	-142.27	-58.63
-15.28	-6.31	Legacy council tax grants	-15.28	-6.29
-1.77	-0.73	Council tax from previous years	-1.52	-0.63
162.32	67.05	Precept	186.56	76.87

The police precept for each council tax band is:

Band	2019/20 £	Band	2019/20 £
A	137.52	E	252.12
B	160.44	F	297.96
C	183.36	G	343.80
D	206.28	H	412.56

COUNCIL TAX INCREASE*

£24

A YEAR

*FOR A BAND D HOUSEHOLD
= EXTRA 46p PER WEEK

SAVINGS

£4.8m

REMOVED FROM THE BASE
REVENUE BUDGET IN 2019/20

INVESTMENT

£7.2m

TO INCREASE LOCAL
FRONT LINE POLICING,
RECRUIT MORE INVESTIGATORS
AND INCREASE OUR
DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT.

£1.3m

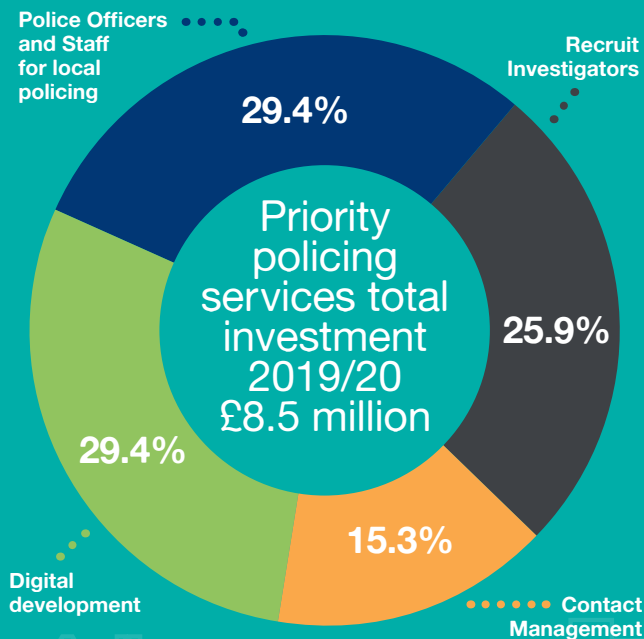
TO REDUCE 101 CALL HANDLING TIMES

Investing for the future

Treasury changes to pension rules have resulted in police officer pensions costing an extra £9.5m next year. This uses all the additional Home Office core policing grant (£4.5m) and the new pension's grant (£4.3m) that we will receive in 2019/20 and still requires £0.7m from council tax.

After funding pay and price rises, inescapable growth commitments and the shortfall in police officer pension costs, the increase in council tax in 2019/20 will enable Thames Valley Police to invest around £8.5 million in the following priority policing services:

- £1.3 million to reduce 101 call handling times by improving contact management services by recruiting additional staff
- £2.5 million to increase local front line policing and service delivery by recruiting additional police officers and staff to respond to increasing crime demand and complexity, particularly in the areas of mental health and children's safeguarding
- £2.2 million to recruit more investigators and invest in appropriate technology and tools to improve our investigative capacity and process for complex crimes
- £2.5 million to increase our digital development programmes to improve our efficiency and effectiveness.



Public consultation

On 13th December 2018 the Home Secretary announced additional investment in local policing by up to £813 million in 2019-20. However, this level of income is dependent on all PCCs increasing their precept for all households (equivalent of £24 a year for a Band D property) which, nationally, will raise around £509 million.

In Thames Valley a £24 increase in council tax equates to a just over 13%. Before implementing this level of increase the PCC decided to consult local council taxpayers. A short on-line survey was launched on 19th December with a closing date of 9th January. In order to reach as many people as possible, it was sent to:

- All users of Thames Valley Alert – 82,787 residents
- All town and parish councils
- All councillors from county, unitary and district councils
- All media in the Thames Valley area
- Regular social media updates via Twitter

YES:

69.7%

***5,599 PEOPLE**

**DO YOU THINK AN EXTRA
£24 PER YEAR
IN COUNCIL TAX, FOR A
BAND D PROPERTY,
TO PROTECT OPERATIONAL
POLICING WOULD BE
MONEY WELL SPENT?**

***TOTAL OF 8,031 PEOPLE RESPONDED**

NO:

30.3%

***2,432 PEOPLE**

Savings

Thames Valley Police has a long history of delivering productivity savings and using these to balance annual budgets or reinvesting them in frontline policing, a strategy that has been widely scrutinised and praised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) during various inspections and reports.

The financial and operational demands facing the Force mean that it is more important than ever that we continue to review, challenge and improve our services to ensure we focus our resources on priority areas.

£101 million has already been removed from the base revenue budget since 2010/11 and plans are in place to remove at least another £15 million over the next four years (2019/20 to 2022/23), including £4.8 million in 2019/20.

Total cash savings therefore amount to £116 million, which equates to 28% of the net revenue budget in 2019/20.

2019/20 savings identified include:

- Rationalisation of the Joint Operations Unit with Hampshire Constabulary
- Review of the Force Intelligence and Specialist Operations Unit
- Review of the Joint ICT Unit with Hampshire

Further details of all productivity savings can be found in the Budget Book for 2019/20 which is posted on the [website](#).



About us

For further information about the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2017-21 or finances please visit our website at www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk

For further information about the PCC, his plan, the budget or how you can get involved, get in touch with us using the contact details provided below.

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