

COUNCIL TAX 2026/2027



- **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire**



► Your PCC



As your Police and Crime Commissioner, it is my responsibility to ensure that Thames Valley Police has sufficient resources to effectively prevent and investigate crime, support victims and protect communities.

In December 2025, the Government announced the police funding settlement which for Thames Valley Police was £9m less than expected. The funding from central Government barely covers the costs of inflation and pay increases and, in a further announcement just days before setting the budget, the Home Office made clear that they would only fund around 40% of the cost of new officers.

I am acutely aware of the financial pressures households are under, however due to this challenging economic environment, I have made the decision to increase Council Tax contributions by 29p per week for a Band D property. This increase will ensure the force can maintain policing levels, keep communities safe and address the policing priorities of residents identified through my ongoing local crime survey.

The force continues to make productivity and efficiency improvements in order to balance the local policing budget, with £15m of savings delivered over the last year with a further £16m of savings planned over the coming four years.

Thames Valley Police will deliver 53 more neighbourhood police officers this coming year – on top of the 218 extra officers delivered in the last three years. This will be alongside the launch of a dedicated Roads Policing Unit Tasking Team that will work to make our roads safer.

Through last year's budget, we have seen a number of improvements including the use of AI-powered technology to offer help, support, advice, and guidance to members of the public via the Thames Valley Police website.

Residents rightly expect an exceptional service from Thames Valley Police, and my role is to ensure that this year's policing budget can deliver this by addressing local concerns and priorities and achieving value for money for taxpayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Barber'.

Matthew Barber
Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner

► Budget 2026/27

The net revenue budget for 2026/27 is £622 million, representing an annual increase of £27 million or 4.5%.

In accordance with Government recommendations, the Police and Crime Commissioner has increased his element of Council Tax by £15 a year or 29p per week for a Band D household for the year.

This increase will provide for inflation, support increased neighbourhood police officers and ensure strong local policing.

2025/2026		2026/27
£313m	Government Grant	£321m
£282m	Council Tax	£301m
£595m	Total Funding	£622m

Band	2026/27 £	Band	2026/27 £
A	198.85	E	364.56
B	232.00	F	430.85
C	265.14	G	497.13
D	298.28	H	596.56

► Police and Crime Plan

A blueprint for policing, community safety and criminal justice in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire was published by Matthew Barber in July 2024.

The Police and Crime Plan (2024-2029) sets out the priorities for Thames Valley Police over the coming years, with a focus on three key pillars – **Protecting Communities**, **Protecting People** and **Protecting Property**:



To find out more about the Police and Crime Plan (2024-2029), visit www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan.

► Savings

Thames Valley Police has a proven track record of delivering productivity savings and using these to reinvest in frontline policing and balance annual budgets.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) reports that Thames Valley Police "makes the best use of the finance it has available, and its financial plans are well thought out and sustainable".

Policing is affected by increasing cost pressures and faces a difficult time to fund vital services. This year's policing budget is set against a demanding economic environment. Central Government funding increases are set below inflation with police forces expected to make efficiency savings. It is more important than ever that prudent financial management is used to continually review, challenge and improve our services.

Over the next four years, a further £16 million is planned to be saved from the base revenue budget, to ensure policing across Thames Valley is as efficient as possible.



► Public consultation

Before implementing this Council Tax increase, the PCC consulted local taxpayers. In order to reach as many people as possible, it was sent to:

- All users of Thames Valley Alert (58,651 users)
- Councillors from county, unitary and district councils
- Community buildings and spaces via digital leaflets and posters
- Media contacts across the Thames Valley
- Members of the public subscribed to the PCC's e-newsletter
- Social media updates via X, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Nextdoor (including paid advertising on Facebook)
- Town and parish councils

Over 4,800 residents responded to the ongoing local crime survey (4 January 2025 to 2 January 2026). Participants were asked 'If Council Tax increases, which areas would you most like to see your contribution used for?' The following five areas were selected the most times:

- Neighbourhood Policing
- Crime Prevention
- Drug Offences
- Road Safety
- Response Times

To be notified of future consultations in your area, sign up to our newsletter at www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/newsletter.



► About us

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

In respect of the 2026/27 Council Tax precept, you will find the full reports submitted to the PCC's Performance and Accountability Meeting and the accompanying appendices.

For further information about the PCC, his Police and Crime Plan, the budget or how you can get involved, get in touch using the contact details below:

Email: pcc@thamesvalley.police.uk

Write to us: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, The Farmhouse, Force Headquarters, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 2NX

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tvopcc>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tvopcc/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/tvopcc/>

X: https://x.com/TV_PCC

