

Report to the Police and Crime Panel

14th February 2020

Council Tax Precept 2020/21

Purpose of Report

1. To notify the Police and Crime Panel of my proposed council tax precept for 2020/21.
2. Full supporting documentation is provided in the attached Revenue Estimates report which was presented to and agreed at my public Level 1 meeting with the Chief Constable on 4th February 2020.

Decisions Required

3. The Panel is asked to receive my proposed precept for 2020/21 and note:
 - That, subject to final taxbase notifications, the council tax requirement for 2020/21 be set at £198.84m.
 - That any variation in the final amount of council tax income be appropriated to or from General Balances
 - That the police element of the council tax for 2020/21 be set at £216.28 for properties in Band D, with the charge for other bands as set out in below. This represents an increase in the band D precept of £10, or 4.8%

Council tax 2019/20

Property Band	Relevant Proportion	PCC Element of the Council Tax £
A	6/9	144.19
B	7/9	168.22
C	8/9	192.25
D	9/9	216.28
E	11/9	264.34
F	13/9	312.40
G	15/9	360.47
H	18/9	432.56

Conclusions

4. The revenue budget is fully balanced in 2020/21 with a 4.8% (£10 for band D) increase in council tax. This is in-line with my Annual Financial Strategy for 2020/21.
5. The Home is providing an additional £16.2m in core grants plus a ring-fenced grant for additional police officers which is worth £5.1m should we meet our recruitment targets i.e. an extra 183 police officers by March 2021.
6. After identifying cashable efficiency savings of £3.5m the police grant settlement, coupled with the increase in council tax, enables me to invest around £37.6m in operational policing services. This includes:
 - **£13.5m for pay and price rises.** This additional cost does not relate to any direct increase in service provision but is required to maintain the existing base level of service. It includes provision of 2.5% for police officer and staff pay awards, £1.2m for the increase in police staff pension contributions and inflationary increases as appropriate for all other budget headings.
 - **£13.4m for additional police officers.** As part of the Governments drive to increase officer numbers by 20,000, TVP has been allocated 183 additional officers from the first allocation of 6,000 officers nationally. We will need to recruit, train and equip these officers before they are ready for operational deployment. The budget also incorporates provision for other infrastructure costs such as premises, ICT and transport.
 - **£5.7m for strategic investment funding.** A number of one-off initiatives have been identified that will improve operational policing. These include a mobile application for frontline officers, introduction of drones on local policing, and funds to aid the recruitment and retention of police officers and staff including wellbeing initiatives. It also includes £1.5m for technology investment through higher direct revenue financing of capital expenditure
 - **£5.0m for other growth pressures.** This includes: improved services to the public through contact management; additional debt charges to fund external borrowing for the capital programme; technology investment though direct revenue financing; increased cost of national ICT charges; higher costs for local ICT and technology programmes.
7. The revenue budget is balanced in 2020/21 but there are still significant variations in later years of the medium term financial plan i.e. 2021/22 to 2023/24. This is due to the number of risks and uncertainties regarding future funding and costs e.g. the number of additional officers from the National Uplift programme and the associated funding.
8. The Force continues to prioritise its work on the Productivity Strategy to ensure resources are directed to priority areas and that services are delivered in the most effective and efficient manner. This work focuses the drive for continuous improvement, improved efficiency and alignment of resources with demand. It will continue to release savings in future years in order to address future unquantified demands and provide additional resource to reinvest in priority policing areas

9. The current Medium Term Financial Plan requires revenue savings of at £14.4m over the next four years. This is over and above the £106m of cash savings already removed from the base budget in the last nine years (i.e. 2010/11 to 2019/20) meaning that, over the thirteen year period, in excess of £120m will have been taken out of the base revenue budget.

Anthony Stansfeld
Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley