

## **Report to the Police and Crime Panel**

**29<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

### **Council Tax Precept 2021/22**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To notify the Police and Crime Panel of my proposed council tax precept for 2021/22.
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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

#### **Decisions Required**

3. The Panel is asked to receive my proposed precept for 2021/22 and note:
  - That, subject to final taxbase notifications, the council tax requirement for 2021/22 be set at £213.162m.
  - That any variation in the final amount of council tax income be appropriated to or from General Balances or the earmarked reserve for Covid-19 support
  - That the police element of the council tax for 2021/22 be set at £231.28 for properties in Band D, with the charge for other bands as set out below. This represents an increase in the band D precept of £15, or 6.9%

#### **Council tax 2021/22**

Property Band	Relevant Proportion	PCC Element of the Council Tax £
A	$\frac{6}{9}$	154.19
B	$\frac{7}{9}$	179.88
C	$\frac{8}{9}$	205.58
D	$\frac{9}{9}$	231.28
E	$\frac{11}{9}$	282.68
F	$\frac{13}{9}$	334.07
G	$\frac{15}{9}$	385.47
H	$\frac{18}{9}$	462.56

#### **Conclusions**

4. The revenue budget is fully balanced in 2021/22 with a 6.9% (£15 for band D) increase in council tax. This is in-line with my Annual Financial Strategy for 2021/22.

5. The Home is providing an additional £12.5m in core grants and the ring-fenced grant to fund the recruitment of an extra 179 (including 8 for SEROCU) police officers by March 2022. This is in addition to the 183 being recruited this year which gives a 2 year total of 362 extra officers.
6. The increase in council tax precept this year will raise more than £13m to help fund key improvements to fight crime, bring more criminals to justice and protect our communities. This additional funding will enable Thames Valley Police to:
  - Ensure that neighbourhood policing is strengthened, not just through police officer recruitment but by ensuring PCSOs remain at the heart of local policing.
  - Establish a Rural Crime Task Force to improve visibility and bring more offenders to justice.
  - Ensure increased visibility in our major urban areas
  - Support dedicated teams to fight County Drugs Line (CDL) that exploit children and supply drugs on our streets
  - Increase the Force's capacity to deal with domestic abuse and protect victims and their families
  - Invest in prevention and investigation of fraud and cyber-crime which is a threat to us all
  - Improve service delivery by investing in key areas such as forensic services and digital investigations, safeguarding and operational end-user devices (such as better storage for body worn video).
7. A public consultation on the proposed £15 precept increase was undertaken between 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January. We received 4,372 responses, of 2,814 (64.4%) supported the increase.
8. The revenue budget is balanced in 2021/22 but there are still significant variations in later years of the medium term financial plan (i.e. 2023/24 and 2024/25) due to uncertainty over future funding levels in the absence of a multi-year spending review.
9. 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
10. The current Medium Term Financial Plan requires revenue savings of at £16m over the next four years. This is over and above the £109m of cash savings already removed from the base budget in the last ten years (i.e. 2010/11 to 2020/21) meaning that, over the fourteen year period, in excess of £125m will have been taken out of the base revenue budget.

Anthony Stansfeld  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley