



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

Report to the Police and Crime Panel

28th January 2022

Council Tax Precept 2022/23

Purpose of Report

1. To notify the Police and Crime Panel of my proposed council tax precept for 2022/23.
2. Full supporting documentation is provided in the attached Revenue Estimates report which was presented to and agreed at my public Performance and Accountability meeting with the Chief Constable on 19th January 2022.

Decisions Required

3. The Panel is asked to receive my proposed precept for 2022/23 and note:
 - That, subject to final taxbase notifications, the council tax requirement for 2022/23 be set at £226.286m.
 - 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 2022/23 be set at £241.28 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 £10, or 4.3%

Council tax 2022/23

Property Band	Relevant Proportion	PCC Element of the Council Tax £
A	6/9	160.85
B	7/9	187.66
C	8/9	214.47
D	9/9	241.28
E	11/9	294.90
F	13/9	348.52
G	15/9	402.13
H	18/9	482.56

Conclusions

4. The revenue budget is fully balanced in 2022/23 with a 4.3% (£10 for band D) increase in council tax. This is in-line with my Annual Financial Strategy for 2022/23.

5. The Home is providing an additional £14.4m in core grants and the ring-fenced grant to fund the recruitment of an extra 231 (plus 13 for SEROCU) police officers by March 2023. This is in addition to the 183 extra officers in 2020/21 and 174 in the current financial year giving a 3-year total of 588 extra officers.
6. The increase in council tax precept this year will raise more than £13.5m to help fund key improvements to fight crime, bring more criminals to justice and protect our communities. The additional funding, along with the proposals in the medium term plan will enable Thames Valley Police to:
 - Improvements in forensics which will improve the majority of investigations across the force, speed up the time it takes to process samples and evidence, enabling offenders to be brought to justice quicker, increased victim satisfaction and improve public safety.
 - Development of a Specialist Rape and Sexual Offences (RASO) team which will help to bring more offenders to justice
 - Improving custody management and capacity, including the creation of dedicated teams to fast track cases thereby reducing delays for victims and creating capacity for frontline officers
 - Improving technology and mobile data collection, through in-car ANPR and camera recording, to help identify and disrupt criminal networks, bringing more offenders to justice
 - Enhancing our public protection units with additional officers and improving data analytics and reporting to support investigations will deliver more effective management of sex offenders reducing the likelihood of reoffending, more rapid identification and targeting of offenders and better protection for vulnerable people and children in society
 - Additional investment in the Contact Management Platform and the Pronto system will provide improved communications with the public reducing waiting times, enhanced identification of vulnerable individuals and quicker response and deployment to emergencies, faster and more accurate information for frontline officers, improving public safety and ensuring incidents are dealt with efficiently and quicker
 - Improving service delivery by investing in essential ICT infrastructure and, system developments to provide enhanced protection of police data, improve the interoperability with partners and improve frontline communications.
 - Recruitment of more officers beyond the Home Office funded uplift programme.
 - The continuation of projects such as the Rural Crime Taskforce and the Drug Focus Taskforce by ensuring sustainable funding for frontline operational policing.
 - Plans to increase the number taser-trained officers to better protect police officers and tackle violent criminals.
7. Attached at Appendix 1 is a letter from the Chief Constable which provides more information on the operational benefits to be obtained from the additional investment in 2022/23

8. A short 4-week public consultation on council tax and policing priorities was undertaken between 23rd December and 18th January. We received 1,996 complete responses of which 1,424 (70%) supported a council tax increase of £10.
9. The revenue budget is balanced in 2022/23 but there are still significant shortfalls in later years of the medium term financial plan (i.e. 2023/24 to 2025/26) which will need to be addressed during the next budget cycle
10. 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
11. The current Medium Term Financial Plan requires revenue savings of at £16m over the next four years, including £2.2m in 2022/23. This is over and above the £113m of cash savings already removed from the base budget in the last eleven years (i.e. 2010/11 to 2021/22) meaning that, over the fifteen year period, in excess of £129m will have been taken out of the base revenue budget.

Matthew Barber
Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley