

Dear Police and Crime Commissioner,

As you know, when developing bids for you to consider, as to the necessity or otherwise of a precept increase, TVP go through an detailed and developed assessment process in the Autumn of every year. This process is done in conjunction with the Hampshire and IOW Constabulary in order to minimise the cost of bids and maximise the efficiency of delivery, should the funding be approved. We also share best practice.

As is often the case, finalised bids for 2022/23 fall into two broad categories: ICT and technology bids that provide the vital infrastructure of a modern networked police service and bids more obviously linked to improving the service TVP provides to the public .

Therefore in addition to the detailed budget papers produced as part of the MTFP, I thought it would be useful to share with you a breakdown of the various areas for which we seek funding and the more direct benefit to the public. In simple terms what the additional funding from an increased precept would be used for.

Additional precept funding would allow for enhanced provision and ensure improved performance in the following areas:

### **Improving our response to Violence against Women and Girls.**

As it is for you, this is a vital operational priority for Thames Valley Police and we have identified a number of ways to build on the current provision in this area.

- Additional staff to investigate rape and sexual assault.
- Additional staff to increase the monitoring of the potentially criminal and predatory behaviours of Registered Sex Offenders (RSO)
- Additional staff to improve the Force's response to stalking and harassment

### **Improving our response to Major Crime investigations**

We have seen an unwelcome and tragic increase in murder investigations over recent years. The Major Crime Team are very successful in achieving justice for victims and their families. Effective intelligence and analytical capability is vital in ensuring those convictions and maximising the efficiency of investigations. Moreover effective analysis is a vital component of murder prevention strategies for the future.

- Additional intelligence officers
- Additional analytical capability

### **Improving our Forensic Service Capability**

An effective Forensic Service is essential in supporting investigations, getting justice for victims, exonerating the innocent and ensuring that justice is delivered swiftly in the

interests of all. In simple terms demand is out stripping capacity. Moreover the nature of that demand has changed with digital forensics becoming part of most enquiries.

- Additional forensic staff to match the demand presented ensuring quicker turnaround and reducing backlogs.
- Additional digital capability to process evidence and manage the support to investigations.
- Data triage tools to minimise impact of phone and other IT seizure from victims and offenders, particularly sexual assault victims.
- Increased networking capability to share the assessment of evidence across borders and build resilience.
- Effective case management systems to meet requirements of accreditation regime and evidential requirements within the court system.
- Fire Investigation forensic accreditation

### **Improving Public Confidence and Legitimacy**

Responding quickly to the public and understanding where we can do better is an important part of any public service. To do that we need effective Call Management and victim/caller satisfaction information. Moreover when dealing with the public directly e.g Stop and Search or in Custody, TVP needs to ensure that its interactions are professional and seen as legitimate.

- Make permanent and where possible increase the Call Handling resources that have seen such a welcome improvement in 101 call handling.
- Staff to further develop the use and capability of our Call handling and Contact Management Platform (CMP).
- Develop Digital 101 in line with national guidelines, to offer more channels for the public to access policing in manner of their choosing.
- Develop a Video Relay capability to enable deaf and hard of hearing members of the public to better access TVP.
- Develop better victim satisfaction data and information with some additional staff to support, analyse and improve the service to the public.
- Increase our Digital Evidence Management storage capability to ensure Body Worn Video is effectively stored, managed and available for evidence and scrutiny.
- Additional staff to meet ever increasing FOI requests and Subject Access Requests
- Upgrades to Force vetting systems to ensure continued compliance and well developed vetting processes.
- Increase Detention Officer staffing within Custody Suites to ensure that the welfare and wellbeing of detainees is maintained at the highest level and effectively supporting investigating officers and minimising custody delays.

### **Maximising Operational Effectiveness**

Doing all that we can to ensure our staff have as much time and the necessary capability, to deliver operational policing to the best of their ability is a key priority. Moreover ensuring their safety as they perform their duties is a key responsibility for us all.

- Develop a Central Redaction Unit to minimise the significant impact of recent disclosure changes within the CJ system, ensuring effective prosecution and freeing up patrol and investigative time.
- As part of a national requirement, train and equip our Armed Response Teams to respond when the weapon of choice of the criminal or terrorist is chemical or biological.(CBRN)
- Recognising the year on year increase in officer assaults, increase our safety training capability to meet national requirements and better protect staff.
- Maintain and develop our in vehicle ANPR capability to better identify criminality using the road network.
- Replace and maintain police radios that are non GPS compliant.
- Develop the next phase of the Pronto App that supports officers in their day to day patrol activity and keeps them on the streets of the Thames Valley, minimising their return to Police stations and maximising their visibility.

### **Other Investment in Technology**

As mentioned, a number of the budget bids are related to the necessary maintenance or development of current systems. These technical bids whilst a necessary part of the TVP infrastructure do have also have some specific benefits for the public summarised below:

- Enhanced protection of personal data for members of public.
- Enhanced protection of police data against cyber attacks.
- Improvements in frontline communications and improve interoperability with partners.
- Improved and increased data storage – better access to and management of data.

### **Long Term Operational Stability**

Taken as a whole the precept increase along with this year's budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan will further enable the Force to continue and develop its operational capabilities in order to drive down crime:

- Recruitment of more police 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.
- Analytical support for neighbourhood policing teams to help tackle anti-social behaviour

I hope this assists in any decision making.



John Campbell

Chief Constable

Thames Valley Police

20/01/22