



## OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

### Report to the Police and Crime Panel

29<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### Council Tax Precept 2016/17

#### Purpose of Report

1. To notify the Police and Crime Panel of my proposed council tax precept for 2016/17.
2. Full supporting documentation is provided in the attached Revenue Estimates report which was presented to and agreed at my Policy, Planning and Performance meeting with the Chief Constable on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

#### Decisions Required

3. The Panel is asked to receive my proposed precept for 2016/17 and note:
  - That, subject to final taxbase notifications, the council tax requirement for 2016/17 be set at £143.327m
  - That the police element of the council tax for 2016/17 be set at £166.96 for properties in Band D, with the charge for other bands as set out below. This represents an annual increase of 1.99%

#### Council tax 2016/17

| Property Band | Relevant Proportion | PCC Element of the Council Tax<br>£ |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A             | 6/9                 | 111.31                              |
| B             | 7/9                 | 129.86                              |
| C             | 8/9                 | 148.41                              |
| <b>D</b>      | <b>9/9</b>          | <b>166.96</b>                       |
| E             | 11/9                | 204.06                              |
| F             | 13/9                | 241.16                              |
| G             | 15/9                | 278.27                              |
| H             | 18/9                | 333.92                              |

#### **Conclusions**

4. On 26<sup>th</sup> November the Chancellor announced the outcome of the Spending Review 2015. In his speech he addressed police funding and said: *"now is not the time for further police cuts, now is the time to back our police and give them the tools to do the job."*
5. The provisional Police Finance Settlement for 2016/17 was announced on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015. In her letter to PCC's the Home Secretary stated *'I have decided to ensure that direct funding for every PCC can be maintained at current cash levels when precept is taken into account'*.

6. All PCC's have suffered a 0.6% reduction in formula funding. However, when combined with the maximum 1.99% increase in precept, as advocated by the Home Secretary, the cash increase in external funding for Thames Valley is £4m or 1.1%.
7. Although the grant settlement was better than expected, significant budget cuts are required to fund the increase in employers National Insurance (£6.4m), higher paybill arising from the Bear Scotland legal ruling (£1.0m) and increased TVP contribution for national IT systems (£0.65m). In total these three items add up to over £8m. A further £1.0m will be required in 2017/18 to fund the new Apprenticeship levy.
8. The budget requires an increase in council tax of 1.99%. This is in accordance with my pre-election manifesto commitment to increase council tax by 2% per annum in order to protect frontline operational policing, the annual financial strategy for 2016/17 which I approved at my level 1 Policy, Planning and Performance meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and the Chancellor's recent pronouncements on police funding.
9. The key headlines from the proposed budget package for 2016/17 are:
  - It protects frontline policing and supports delivery of my Police and Crime Plan
  - It includes cash savings of £15.6m through the Force's Productivity Strategy
  - It provides growth of 7 FTE posts for the Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Service Hub
  - It includes provision over the four year period of £5.88m for the redeployment of 168 FTE police officer posts, which have been released through the productivity savings plan, back to priority operational growth areas. The first call on these redeployed posts will be to increase, jointly with Hampshire, the number of Armed Response Vehicles/Officers across the Joint Operations Unit. Other priorities include increasing Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) resources.
  - To reflect the growing complexity of investigations and the change in the mix of crime types and investigation techniques, alongside the significant reduction in capital funding, additional investment in priority services and new innovative delivery methods is provided for.
  - Additional growth of 28 FTE Officers/Staff for the increase in demand within the Child Abuse Investigation Unit.
  - To support the additional work and licences required within the Contact Management Programme, additional growth of £0.3m has been included to support these revenue Implications.
  - The approved 5 year ICT transformation strategy included additional revenue growth for infrastructure at £3.2m, together with one-off funding of £4.8m over 3 years for rationalisation of systems and licences, which is being funded through an appropriation from reserves.
  - It includes an appropriate level of funding to implement the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project.
  - It includes direct revenue financing to capital of £0.7m, with a further £0.3m in 2017/18, to help offset the 40% reduction in Home Office capital grant.
  - It supports an appropriate level of capital investment over the next four years
  - The medium term financial plan is fully funded through the identification of over £36m of cash savings

Anthony Stansfeld  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley