



Report of the Police and Crime Panel

Report title: Council Tax Precept 2024/25

Date: 26/01/2024

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Purpose of the report: To notify the Police and Crime Panel of the council tax precept I propose to issue for 2024/25

Recommendations: That the Police and Crime Panel recommend my proposed precept be issued

Executive Summary

- I propose that the police element of the council tax precept for 2024/25 be set at £269.28 for properties in Band D (an annual increase of £13), with the charge for other bands as set out in Table 1:

Table 1 – Council Tax 2024/25

Property Band	Relevant proportion	Proposed Precept
A	6/9	£179.52
B	7/9	£209.44
C	8/9	£239.36
D	9/9	£269.28
E	11/9	£329.12
F	13/9	£388.96
G	15/9	£448.80
H	18/9	£528.56

- Subject to final tax base notifications, the council tax requirement for 2024/25 is set at £262,294,520. Any variation in the final amount of council tax income will be appropriated to or from the Improvement & Performance Reserve.
- Full supporting documentation is provided in the attached set of reports which was presented to and agreed at my public Performance and Accountability meeting with the Chief Constable on 18 January 2024.

Budget Proposal

- It is my responsibility to ensure that Thames Valley Police has the resources to effectively prevent and investigate crime, support victims and protect communities from harm. I am conscious of the current cost of living pressures on households. However, alongside this, economic pressures such as high utility, fuel, and vehicle costs are also continuing to significantly impact policing budgets despite a rise in government funding.



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5. Investment in policing will focus on the priorities that matter to residents with strengthened neighbourhood policing and crime prevention. The budget includes investment in an additional 150 police officers across the force, including neighbourhood officers; priority crime teams to tackle burglaries, theft and shoplifting; and an increase in the Rural Crime Taskforce.
6. These plans allow continued investment in programmes to improve forensics, crime investigation, safeguarding and the training of new officers. The capital plan provides funding for long-term investment in technology and infrastructure, with sustainable funding support.
7. The revenue plan is balanced over the four year timeframe. This is maintained through the ongoing Force Productivity Plan saving £20m in the first two years of the plan, with the bulk of the savings coming through the Force Review project. Savings of £7m in 2024/25 have been identified in detail. The £13m savings target for 2025/26 has largely been identified at an outline level by department, and detailed plans are being worked through with external expert support.

Public Consultation

8. Over 3,500 residents responded to the ongoing local crime survey (6 April 2023 to 6 January 2024). Participants were asked 'If council tax increases, which areas would you most like to see your contribution used for?' Table 2 demonstrates which areas were selected the most times:

Table 2 – Consultation Responses

Area you would like to see your contribution used for	Responses
Neighbourhood Policing – increase uniformed visibility in the community	2,181
Crime Prevention – work at community level to support local efforts to reduce neighbourhood crimes	1,724
Police Investigation – improve the quality of police investigations with better outcomes and improved satisfaction amongst victims	1,639
Response times – Improve response times and meet increased demand for policing service	1,625
Drug Offences – disrupt drug markets and county lines	1,606
Road Safety – roads policing (tackling drink/drug driving and speeding), improve ways for residents to send evidence of dangerous driving such as dash cam footage, community speedwatch	1,471
Serious and Organised Crime – ensure the police force has the necessary resources to respond to serious and organised crime threats (firearms, drugs, child criminal exploitation, fraud, economic crime, cyber, modern slavery and human trafficking)	1,422
Safety of women and girls – specific investment to tackle violence against women and girls	1,369
Fraud/Online crime – cyber-crime and digital investigation capabilities	1,256



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Reporting crime – make it easier to report crime on 101 or online and enhance call handling capacity	1,215
Technology – modern technology to enable front line policing to respond more efficiently and effectively to crime and to calls for help	1,181
Business Crime (including shoplifting) – more work with local businesses such as providing targeted crime prevention advice	1,161
Victims Services – increased support for victims of personal and high harm crimes such as rape and sexual assault	1,071
Rural Crime – work to understand and respond to the specific needs of rural communities	1,010
Counter Terrorism – more activity to pursue, prevent, protect and prepare for counter terrorism incidents	884
Special Constabulary/police volunteers – providing better equipment and enhanced training and support for Citizens in Policing	881
Police buildings – buildings and equipment to ensure they are fit for purpose	875
Hate Crime – prevention work and encouraging / supporting the reporting of all forms of hate crime	863