

COUNCIL TAX 2024/2025



- ▶ **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire**



► Your PCC



As your Police and Crime Commissioner, 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. In order to continue to keep our communities safe and to address the policing priorities of residents identified through my ongoing local crime survey, I have made the decision to increase Council Tax contributions by 25p per week* for a Band D property. Through this, investment in policing will focus on the priorities that matter to residents with strengthened neighbourhood policing and crime prevention.

Previous investment, alongside the hard work of Police Officers, Special Constables, PCSOs and police staff, has led to year-to-date recorded knife crime being down by 13% across the Thames Valley over the past 12 months*². We've also seen positive results from our Rural Crime Taskforce in pursuing criminals and reducing rural crime. Through my Retail Crime Strategy, I will also be ensuring a more visible, targeted and robust

response to retail crime which will make a real difference to the security and confidence of local businesses and the safety of retail spaces.

Thames Valley has more police officers than ever before, exceeding the target set by the Home Office for police officer recruitment, with a further 150 additional officers now funded through this year's budget. This builds upon my pledge of recruiting additional police officers to ensure Thames Valley Police grows as our population increases.

In addition, the budget will allow for investment in other key areas. This will include nearly £1 million of funding to roll-out the Operation Deter youth engagement programme across the force area to help tackle knife crime, £500,000 allocated to support road safety activity, additional funding to tackle the rise in retail crime as well as the continuation of funding for services to reduce reoffending and support victims of crime.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Barber', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Barber
Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner

*(for the average Band D household)

*² (up to 30 November 2023)

► Budget 2024/25

The net revenue budget for 2024/25 is £558 million, representing an annual increase of £34 million or 6.4%.

In accordance with Government recommendations, the Police and Crime Commissioner has increased his element of council tax by £13 a year or 25p per week for a Band D household for the year.

This increase will enable investment in more police officers and strong local policing.

2023/2024		2024/25
Total £m		Total £m
524.2	Net Revenue Budget	557.9
-278.1	Central Government grants	-293.6
-1.0	Council Tax from previous years	-2.0
245.2	Funded from Council Tax Precept	262.3

Band	2024/25 £	Band	2024/25 £
A	179.52	E	329.12
B	209.44	F	388.96
C	239.36	G	448.80
D	269.28	H	538.56

► Investment

This year's policing budget will enable the Police and Crime Commissioner to invest for the medium-term, to ensure we recruit more police officers and specials and to give those officers the tools and resources they need to tackle the crimes that matter most to the public.

This year's policing budget will enable the following:



Funding for 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



Thames Valley-wide Operation Deter Youth programme to help tackle and deter young people from knife crime



Thames Valley-wide cyber awareness activity to help protect the public and businesses from cybercrime and fraud



New investment to tackle retail crime



Long-term investment in local community safety initiatives with local authorities



Continued investment in Thames Valley-wide CCTV partnership



Road safety initiatives across the Thames Valley



Preventing reoffending through the Restart programme



Continued investment in the forensic improvement programme



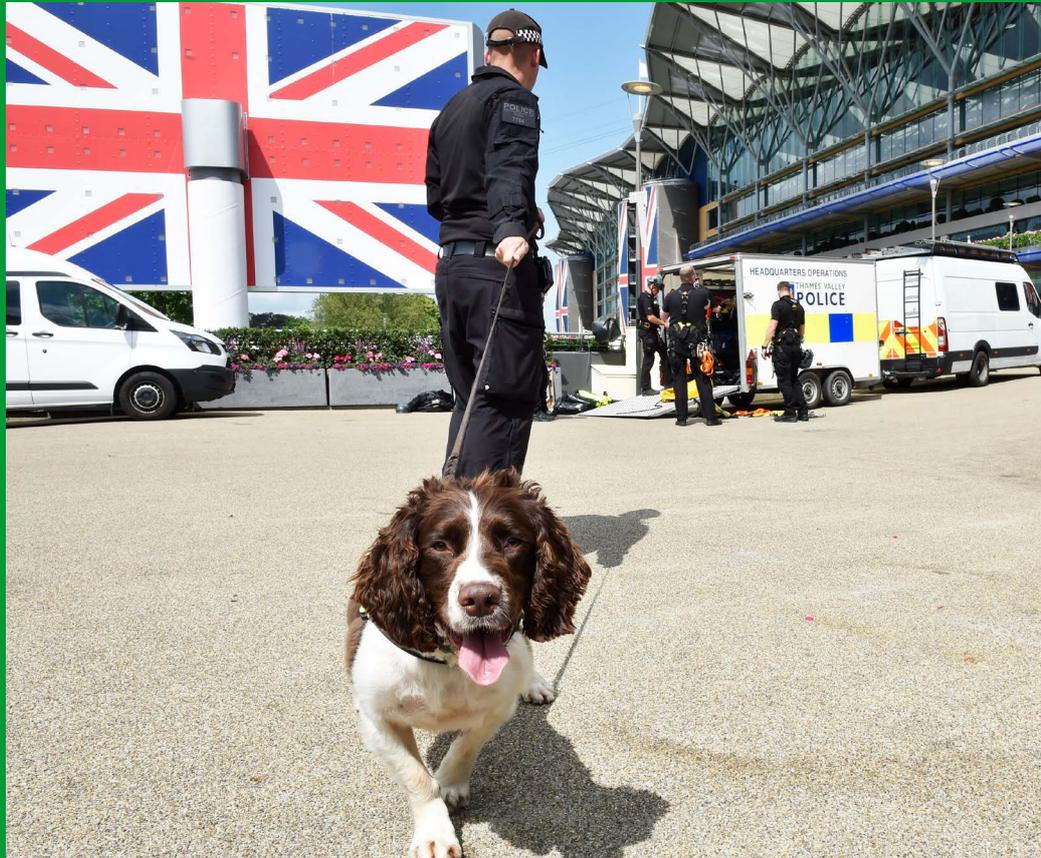
Long-term investment in technology and infrastructure

► Savings

Thames Valley Police has a proven track record of delivering productivity savings and using these to reinvest in frontline policing and balance annual budgets. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) reports that Thames Valley Police "makes the best use of the finance it has available, and its financial plans are well thought out and sustainable".

Despite funding received through central government, policing isn't unaffected by increasing cost pressures and faces a difficult time to fund vital services. This year's policing budget is set against a demanding economic environment with rising inflation, utilities, pay and fuel costs. Therefore, it is more important than ever that prudent financial management is used to continually review, challenge and improve our services.

Over the next two years (2024/25 and 2025/26) a further £20 million is planned to be saved from the base revenue budget, to ensure policing across Thames Valley is as efficient as possible.



► Public consultation

Before implementing this council tax increase, the PCC consulted local taxpayers. In order to reach as many people as possible, it was sent to:

- All users of Thames Valley Alert (87,496 users)
- Councillors from county, unitary and district councils
- Media contacts across the Thames Valley
- Members of the public subscribed to the PCC's e-newsletter
- Regular social media updates via 'X' (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Nextdoor (including paid-for advertising on Facebook and Instagram)
- Town and parish councils

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?' The following five areas were selected the most times:

- Neighbourhood Policing
- Crime Prevention
- Police Investigation
- Response Times
- Drug Offences

To be notified of future consultations about policing and crime in your area, sign up to our newsletter at www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/newsletter.



► About us

For further information about the PCC's Police and Criminal Justice Plan or finances, please visit our website at www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk.

In respect of the 2024/25 council tax precept, you will find the full reports submitted to the PCC's Performance and Accountability Meeting and the accompanying appendices.

For further information about the PCC, his Police and Criminal Justice Plan, the budget or how you can get involved, get in touch using the contact details below:

Email: pcc@thamesvalley.police.uk

Write to us: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, The Farmhouse, Force Headquarters, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 2NX

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tvopcc/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tvopcc/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/tvopcc/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/TV_PCC

