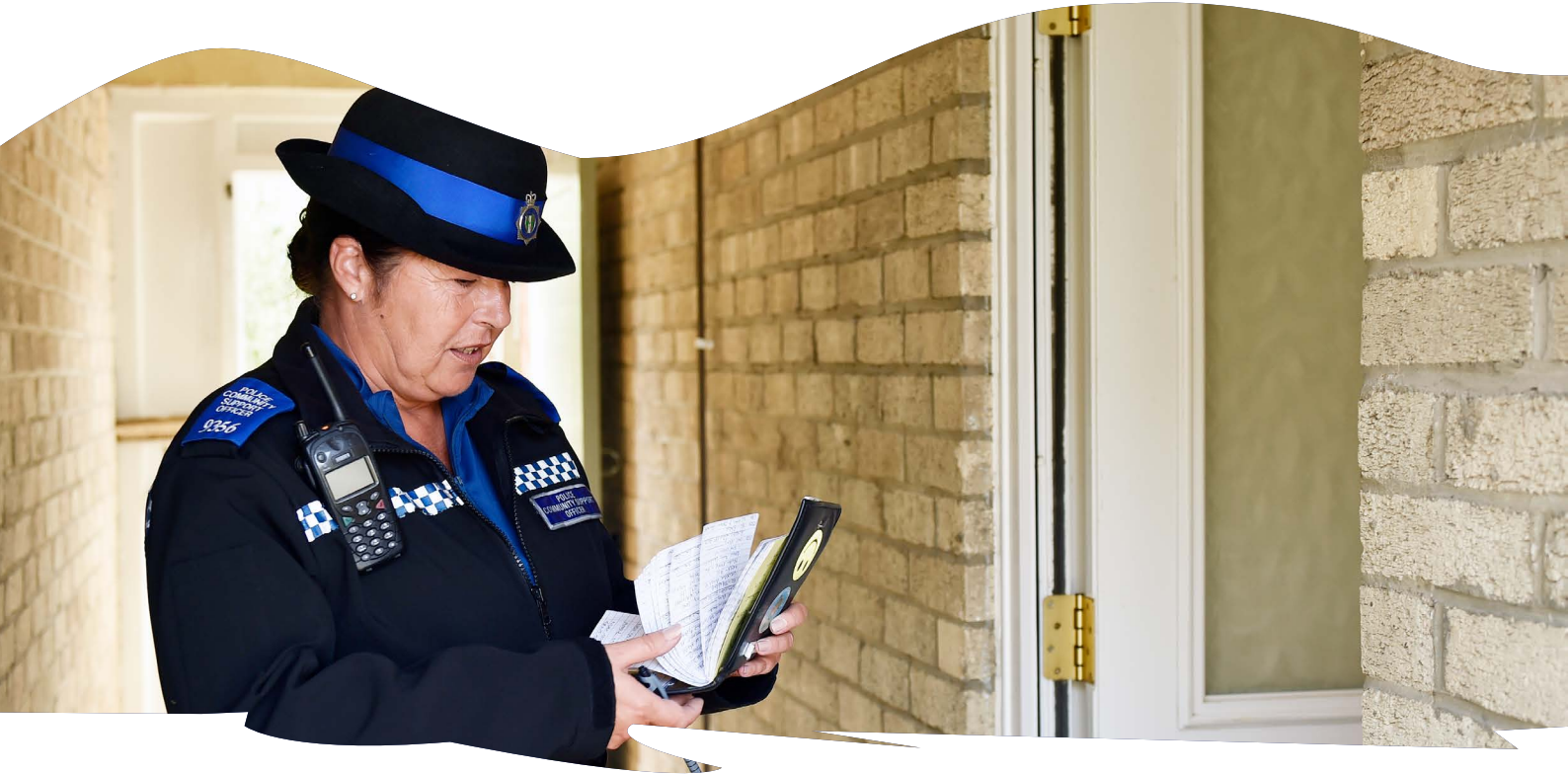


# COUNCIL TAX 2023/2024



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



**Matthew Barber**  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
for Thames Valley

# ► Your PCC



As your Police & Crime Commissioner, I am determined to restore confidence in policing across Thames Valley. Policing is an increasingly complex business but we must ensure that crimefighting remains at the heart of our mission to keep the public safe. My focus will be on delivering proactive community policing focussed on crime prevention to make every community even safer.

In setting this year's budget for Thames Valley Police, I am acutely aware of the increasing cost of living impacting so many families locally. Of course, the police are not immune from rising costs and we see the impact of inflation, particularly in energy and fuel costs, despite increased funding from central government.

By keeping the rise to your council tax for policing to less than 29p per week\* I can ensure that we strengthen local community policing to make everyone feel safer. The clear strategy is to improve telephone and online contact with the police to make it much easier to report concerns and crimes where you live, and to ensure the police have the resources locally to be proactive in tackling neighbourhood crime, anti-social behaviour and violence.

Previous investment, alongside the hard work of police officers, special constables, PCSOs and staff, has led to Thames Valley now having one of the lowest levels of serious violence of anywhere in the country. Headline operations have been implemented to help tackle knife crime, target sexual predators in the night time economy and to break up illegal car meets.

We now have more police officers in Thames Valley than ever before. We have exceeded the target set by the Home Office for police officer recruitment, and more officers will be deployed into visible community policing. I am also delivering on my pledge to continue recruitment to ensure Thames Valley Police continues to grow as our population increases. If you are considering a career in policing, visit <https://www.tvpcareers.co.uk>.

A handwritten signature in green ink, which appears to read 'Matthew Barber'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Matthew Barber  
Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner

\*(for the average Band D household)

# ► Budget 2023/24

The net revenue budget for 2023/24 is £524 million, representing an annual increase of £19 million or 3.8%.

In accordance with Government recommendations, the Police and Crime Commissioner has increased his element of council tax by £15 a year or just less than 29p per week for a Band D household for the year.

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

2022/2023			2023/24	
Total £m	per head £		Total £m	per head £
555.06	226.11	Gross expenditure	604.58	245.37
-53.13	-21.64	Income	-75.88	-30.80
3.08	1.25	Contribution to/ from (-) reserves	-4.48	-1.82
<b>505.61</b>	<b>205.72</b>	<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>524.21</b>	<b>212.75</b>
		Less:		
-88.43	-36.02	Formula grant	-88.74	-36.01
-173.43	-70.55	Police grant	-174.03	-70.63
-15.28	-6.22	Legacy council tax grants	-15.28	-6.20
-1.58	-0.65	Council tax from previous years	-1.00	-0.41
<b>226.29</b>	<b>92.18</b>	<b>Precept</b>	<b>245.16</b>	<b>99.50</b>

Band	2023/24 £	Band	2023/24 £
A	170.85	E	313.23
B	199.33	F	370.18
C	227.80	G	427.13
D	256.28	H	512.56

# ► 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:



Strengthen local community policing to tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour



Develop a Thames Valley-wide CCTV Partnership



Embedding crime prevention with a focus on hotspot patrols and tackling known offenders



Recruit and support more special constables and other police volunteers



Recruitment of additional officers beyond the Home Office funded recruitment programme



Reduce 101 wait times and improve digital contact between public and police



Tackling online child abuse



Improving work to tackle domestic abuse and ensure the safety of women and girls

# ► Savings

Thames Valley Police has a proven track record of delivering productivity savings and using these to balance annual budgets or reinvest in frontline policing - a strategy that has been praised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) during various inspections and reports.

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 three years (2023/24 to 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 (86,917 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 Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Nextdoor
- Town and parish councils

Over 7,100 residents completed the ongoing local crime survey (15 November to 13 January). 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.go.uk/get-involved/newsletter](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.go.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](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk).**

In respect of the 2023/24 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](mailto: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>

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

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/TV\\_PCC](https://twitter.com/TV_PCC)

