



— David Lloyd —
**Police and Crime
Commissioner**
for Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire's Policing Budget Proposal

Each year as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, I have written to the public ahead of setting the police element of the Council Tax precept, to explain my thoughts on the level of precept and gather feedback from the public on my proposals.

For the last six years, I have not had to raise the police precept for Council Tax due to a well-developed efficiency programme in place to meet the savings targets whilst protecting frontline local policing, and had prudently built up substantial reserves to support that process. However, this year has presented a set of new challenges. The amount of money we receive from government has reduced by £1.5 million. We had planned to make up the shortfall from savings delivered through our regional IT collaboration programme, but delays in implementation has meant that our savings may not be realised for a number of years.

The Chief Constable has set out alternate savings plans but tells me he can only reach the target by reducing local policing teams as this constitutes nearly fifty per cent of our budget. You will know that maintaining the local policing model lies at the heart of my Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan for Hertfordshire (2017-2022), and is the very bedrock of effective policing. The public have told me consistently that they value the Hertfordshire way of policing because it improves visibility and contact with the public and the Chief Constable tells me it is the best way to cut crime.

Last month I undertook a public consultation (full details are contained in Annex A) in order to understand the thoughts of the public on the principles I outlined in my Open Letter, that I will only take from the public what is absolutely required for policing in order to deliver my five-year plan, provide the level of service needed to protect the style of local policing in Hertfordshire, and to invest in new and emerging areas of crime. I am grateful to the 261 respondents who took the time to provide detailed responses. Of those who responded, three quarters (196) would be willing to pay the increased level of precept. The majority of those in favour cited the considered approach to taxation over the last six years as part of their reasoning for favouring an increase. Of those 196 who were in favour of the rise,

nearly a third said they would be in favour of paying more than the £5.00 increase in future years.

Taking this into account, I am proposing to make up the shortfall through an increase in the police element of the Council Tax for a Band D property equivalent, by £5.00 per annum, a 3.4 per cent increase, to a figure of £152.00 per annum. An increase in the precept would mean that the vast majority of households would pay between 6 and 10 pence per week more than in 2016/17. Even with this increase Hertfordshire will still continue to be in the lowest quartile for Council Tax across the country. Increasing the precept will generate an additional of £2.182m¹ of income in 2017/18, enabling us to maintain and protect strong local policing teams whilst delivering an improvement in our capacity and capability to meet new demands, including those around safeguarding and cybercrime.

In summary, given the delays in savings being achieved from a regional IT collaboration and the threat to maintaining local policing, I am proposing to increase the police element of the precept in 2017/18. I will continue to ensure that we develop our capacity and capability to reinvest in new areas of demand.



David Lloyd
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire

¹ NB: The figure of £2.182 million is amended from the original £2.175 million outlined in the Open Letter to reflect the increase in the Council Tax base following updates from district and borough councils.