

COUNCIL TAX 2025/2026



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



► Your PCC



My priorities for Thames Valley Police are cutting crime and catching criminals. As your Police and Crime Commissioner, it is my responsibility to ensure that the police have the resources they need to deliver on those priorities.

Setting the policing budget remains a complex process and is particularly challenging this year given the uncertainty of funding from the Home Office. This year, I will be setting the budget against the backdrop of an uncertain economic situation which is affecting households as well as police forces up and down the country.

Despite seeing a cash increase in central Government funding, due to inflationary pressures it falls short of the amount necessary to maintain current levels of policing, let alone deliver the increases that we would all want to see in the Thames Valley. A rise in employer national insurance and lack of central funding for police pay rises add to this challenge.

In order to maintain policing levels, keep communities safe and address the policing priorities of residents identified through my ongoing local crime survey, I have made the decision to increase Council Tax contributions by 27p per week* for a Band D property.

This increase will ensure that we can continue to put more police officers into frontline roles to protect communities, people and property across the Thames Valley.

Previous investment made through last year's policing budget has enabled us to recruit more frontline police officers across the Force, alongside the delivery of a Thames Valley wide programme to help tackle and deter young people from knife crime.

This investment has also supported the work taking place through my Retail Crime Strategy, where we have seen charges for shoplifting more than double in a year, as well as the delivery of a Thames Valley CCTV partnership which aims to deliver improved, sustainable CCTV provision to help detect and deter crime and keep the public safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing 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 2025/26

The net revenue budget for 2025/26 is £595 million, representing an annual increase of £38 million or 6.9%.

In accordance with Government recommendations, the Police and Crime Commissioner has increased his element of council tax by £14 a year or 27p per week for a Band D household for the year.

This increase will provide for inflation, support maintenance of increased neighbourhood police officers and ensure strong local policing.

2024/2025		2025/26
£294m	Government Grant	£313m
£263m	Council Tax	£282m
£557m	Total Funding	£595m

Band	2025/26 £	Band	2025/26 £
A	188.85	E	346.23
B	220.33	F	409.18
C	251.80	G	472.13
D	283.28	H	566.56

► Police and Crime Plan

A new blueprint for policing, community safety and criminal justice in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes was published by Matthew Barber in July 2024.

The Police and Crime Plan (2024-2029) sets out the priorities for Thames Valley Police over the coming years, with a focus on three key pillars – **Protecting Communities**, **Protecting People** and **Protecting Property**:



To find out more about the Police and Crime Plan (2024-2029), visit www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan.

► 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".

Policing is affected 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. Central Government funding increases are set below inflation with police forces expected to make efficiency savings. It is more important than ever that prudent financial management is used to continually review, challenge and improve our services.

Over the next year (2025/26) a further £15 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 (88,857 users)
- Councillors from county, unitary and district councils
- Community buildings and spaces via printed leaflets and posters
- Media contacts across the Thames Valley
- Members of the public subscribed to the PCC's e-newsletter
- Social media updates via X, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Nextdoor (including paid advertising on Facebook)
- Town and parish councils

Over 2,700 residents responded to the ongoing local crime survey (7 January 2024 to 3 January 2025). 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
- Road Safety

To be notified of future consultations 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 Crime Plan or finances, please visit our website at www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk.

In respect of the 2025/26 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 Crime 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/>

X: https://x.com/TV_PCC

