



A SAFE & RESILIENT NORFOLK BUDGET CONSULTATION 2020/21

A message from Norfolk's Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), Lorne Green

I am now in the fourth year of delivering my ambitious Police and Crime Plan for Norfolk, in which I made a commitment to:

- Improve the effectiveness of policing in our county
- Increase the visibility of our police in our communities
- Introduce modern technology to help keep our officers and us safe and keep up with the challenges of policing in the 21st century
- Tackle abuse and support victims, and
- Prevent crime by tackling its causes.

I am required by law to set the budget for Norfolk Constabulary and, as part of this, decide how much you contribute through Council Tax (the police precept). To inform this decision, each year I have consulted with people across the county and, in doing so, have set out the challenges the police face in keeping you safe from harm and new opportunities to support you and your families. I have always provided options, ranging from no increase in the police precept to the maximum increase possible, and set out clearly the consequences of each.

Every year, a large majority of you have supported an increase in the police precept to ensure Norfolk Constabulary can continue to provide a high-quality service, investing in the future of policing and ensuring it remains fit for purpose in the face of increasing demand and complexity.

Based on the needs set out by the Chief Constable for Norfolk, and with the support of residents, I have continued to raise the police precept to invest in those areas that you have told me are a priority:

Increasing the number and visibility of uniformed officers on the frontline of policing our county

- By supporting the implementation of the Norfolk 2020 policing model, we now have 138 more officers.

The rollout of 21st century technology

- Bodyworn cameras have been issued to keep our officers safe, improve evidence and secure convictions to get justice for victims
- The introduction and extension of the use of drone technology has enhanced



the police's ability to maintain safety at big events, find vulnerable missing people and pursue people committing crime

- Expanding the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology through Operation Moonshot teams to disrupt criminals on Norfolk's road network has meant hundreds of thousands of pounds of stolen property has been recovered. Nearly 1,500 people have been arrested, with offenders facing a total of 412 years of disqualification from driving and 44 years of imprisonment.

Policing and crime prevention in rural areas

- Rural Crime Officers are conducting hare coursing and metal theft operations to tackle the impact that these crimes have on rural communities
- Increased Constabulary engagement with rural communities is helping to address the biggest priorities in the countryside
- Through Operation Randall, crimes such as theft from farms and rural businesses are being targeted
- The 'Raise the Alarm' campaign has resulted in significant reductions in church lead thefts protecting some of our most treasured rural heritage sites.

Tackling abuse

- There has been investment in detective capability, alongside implementation of plans to bring together investigations and safeguarding teams to further enhance their capability and capacity.
- Work has started on the Swaffham investigation hub, with plans for the second hub at Broadland Gate continuing to be progressed. Both hubs will maximise efficiency and effectiveness by co-locating detectives and investigators in purpose-built premises with the most appropriate equipment, facilities and resources to successfully investigate crime.
- **Increasing support for all victims, including services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assaults**
 - Funding has provided specialist advocacy workers in the police control room to ensure the right support is provided to victims of abuse from the moment their call is received
 - Services available at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) have been extended so that the right support is in place when victims need it most
 - The recent growth in police officer numbers has also allowed the Constabulary to prioritise attendance at domestic incidents so that the risk to victims is reduced.

Through Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMICFRS), I am provided with external assurance that Norfolk continues to have a high performing, effective, well managed police force, and dedicated officers and staff of whom we should all be proud.

The Force has been assessed as Outstanding for Efficiency by HMICFRS and is one of only three forces in the country to achieve this. The most recent national data shows that, when compared to the national average, Norfolk has a lower crime rate per 1,000 population in all but one offence type. The area where Norfolk is higher than the national average is drug offences, which is considered to be a positive indicator of the proactive work undertaken to discover and disrupt 'County Lines' drug dealing.

High performance has been maintained despite having to make significant savings over the last five years and meet the changing demands of our county and policing in the 21st century. Challenges have included a rise in levels of crime that are both difficult and complex to prevent and solve and require new and bold solutions that must be delivered in partnership with other police agencies and partners.

The growth in some of the most abhorrent and harmful crimes - including reported sex offences, child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation - has left officers undertaking complex investigations on a frequent basis. In one month in the last year there were more sexual offences reported to police than there were burglaries across the whole county. This fundamentally changes how the police need to do their business.

Looking ahead to the next five years, the risks in our communities and the pressures on Norfolk Constabulary will continue to be very challenging for the police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) and a range of criminal justice, local authority and health agencies which all have a role to play in keeping our communities safe.

Government investment in more police officers has to be welcomed, as does a focus on and funding to tackle knife crime, county lines drug dealing and acquisitive crime such as shoplifting, robbery and burglary. However, sufficient resourcing for the police locally and long-term steps to make our communities and future generations more resilient are necessary to keep our county safe and create a hostile environment for criminals who seek to harm our economy and exploit the most vulnerable in our society, especially children and the elderly.

Having considered this information from Norfolk's PCC Lorne Green, please spare a few minutes to take part in the budget consultation 2020/21 - details of which are provided overleaf. The consultation will close on Friday 17 January 2020.



CONSULTATION

This precept consultation is taking place at a unique time, starting four days after a general election. As a result, we do not know the level of funding that will be received from central government for policing for 2020/21 and the specific impact this will have locally. Neither do we know the limit on the policing element of Council Tax.

In anticipation of this situation arising, I have reviewed the financial position of the OPCCN and Norfolk Constabulary. This has helped me to understand more broadly the impact on policing services of a number of scenarios and the options available to address those impacts through the precept.

This review has been fully supported by Chief Constable Simon Bailey, who has set out clearly the implications of different funding scenarios for the police from an operational perspective.

Assuming the government increases funding for Norfolk, the impact of different precept options are set out in the following table.

As you can see, there are some very difficult decisions to make, and this consultation will help to inform these.

Raising local taxation is a decision no-one wants to take, particularly at a time when, for many, incomes are stretched and people are working hard to make ends meet. However, we are faced with some stark choices and I need to fully understand how supportive you are of the different options available to keep Norfolk safe and build long-term resilience.

SCENARIO	IMPACT
No increase in precept	The Constabulary would be required to make further cuts to its budget to enable it to fund the growing cost of providing policing services. Following a decade of real term reductions in police funding and having been assessed as outstanding for efficiency, there is no opportunity to make savings without an impact on frontline service.
An inflation level (around 2%) increase in precept	The Constabulary would be 'treading water only' to meet inflation-related cost pressures.
An increase in precept above 2%	This would make the following possible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in long-term crime prevention in the areas of domestic abuse, sexual violence, county lines drug dealing, programmes for children and young people to prevent them becoming victims or involved in crime • An improved service for the public when reporting crime to our control room • 21st century technology, including further ANPR capabilities to support the successful Operation Moonshot teams leading to more arrests and prosecutions • Increased investigative capacity to help further improve the quality of some of our frontline investigations and bring offenders to justice • Developing the skills of the workforce to meet the challenges of policing in the 21st century.

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