

## PCC sets Police Budget for 2015/16:

# Police Council Tax precept increases by 2% (equivalent to £4 per year at Band D)

**Setting the police budget and, with it, the amount Norfolk's tax payers contribute through their Council Tax is one of Police and Crime Commissioner Stephen Bett's key responsibilities.**

"It's one of the most important decisions I have to make as PCC", Stephen said. "I have set the Chief Constable a number of objectives based on what the people of Norfolk tell me matters most to them, but if he is going to deliver in those key areas, including burglary, violence and sexual abuse, he has to have the resource.

"The financial position remains bleak. It looks like austerity will be with us until at least 2020, and the Government is showing no sign of protecting policing.

"We will have to continue to bridge the gap and that means tough decisions if we are going to minimise, to some extent, the impact of cuts on frontline services and allow our police force to do right by victims of crime, both in terms of investigation and support."



Having listened to public opinion during a month-long consultation and looked at options with the Chief Constable, Stephen took his budget proposals, including a 2% increase in the Council Tax precept, to the Police and Crime Panel on 3 February.

"Before I made any decision, I wanted to know what Norfolk's communities thought. I launched an online survey to explore views on whether the precept should be frozen or increased, and held public meetings so people could come and hear from the Chief Constable about the challenges and pressures on policing in Norfolk.

**"We had more than 1100 responses to our consultation, with 64% supporting an increase of 2%."**

"Taking my proposal to the Police and Crime Panel in February, I was delighted that the votes of the members echoed the support shown by Norfolk's communities - with 9 out of 10 votes in favour of the increase.

"Though not an easy decision, I do believe the increase is the right thing to do for Norfolk's frontline. It doesn't mean we're out of the woods financially - we've got many more hurdles to jump - but it will help us protect our frontline services to some degree from the most recent Government funding cuts."

Council Tax is collected by District Councils who are also responsible for Council Tax benefit, discounts and exemptions.

For specific information about Council Tax, like banding, tax benefits or paying your Council Tax, please contact your local council.

Council Tax bills will be going out to Norfolk's households over the coming weeks showing an increase in the policing element you pay. The tables below outline where the money which makes up Norfolk's policing budget comes from, and give an indication of how the budget will be spent.

### Why spending will increase in 2015/16

	£m	£m
<b>Budget 2014/15</b>		<b>148.0</b>
Inflation - pay and prices increases		1.8
Ongoing commitments		
Change Programme growth 2015/16	0.9	
Capital Financing costs	0.5	
Other changes and commitments	2.9	
		4.3
Savings		
Change Programme - Norfolk Policing Model 2015/16	-1.6	
Change Programme - Other savings 2015/16	-2.1	
Other savings	-3.3	
		-7.0
Use of reserves		
Additional contribution from reserves		-0.4
<b>Budget 2015/16</b>		<b>146.8</b>

### Where does the money come from?

	2014/15	2015/16
	£m	£m
Government funding	93.0	88.8
Council Tax	55.0	58.0
<b>Approved budget</b>	<b>148.0</b>	<b>146.8</b>



## How the money is spent

	2014/15	2015/16
	£m	£m
Police and Crime Commissioner		
• Office of the PCC	1.3	1.0
• Commissioning	1.0	1.0
Operational Policing (delegated to the Chief Constable)	146.6	143.8
Capital Financing	2.6	3.1
Use of Budget Support Reserve	-3.2	-2.1
Contribution to other Reserves	-0.3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>148.0</b>	<b>146.8</b>

