



NEWS RELEASE

30 January 2019

PFCC asks for increase of £24 a year in policing part of council tax

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold is proposing an increase of around 50p a week towards the policing part of the council tax – £24 a year for a band D household - to fund improvements in policing in Northamptonshire.

This would be the second year in a row that the police budget has increased, giving an operational policing budget in 2019/20 of £130 million – up £11.6million since 2018/19 and almost £20m since 2017.

From this increase, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has asked that £3 million this year is specifically ring-fenced to improve police visibility and service in areas that the public have said are a priority.

The Police Fire and Crime Panel will consider the proposed increase when they meet on February 5.

If the increase is approved, PFCC Stephen Mold and Chief Constable Nick Adderley will announce detailed plans for investing the extra funding early in April.

These are expected to include:

- A significant investment in neighbourhood policing, including more dedicated police officers and staff
- An improved response for victims of burglary and a renewed focus on the prevention and detection of crimes
- Additional resources to tackle crime and bolster the rural crime teams to support policing in rural areas
- Greater focus on tackling street level drug dealing and anti-social behaviour

This increase builds on additional funding given in the previous two financial years that includes investment in the investigation of domestic abuse and sexual offences and the funding of an additional 50 frontline police officers and staff.

Despite the fact that 58% of people who responded to the PFCC's budget consultation said that they were willing to pay more for policing, Stephen Mold said the decision to levy the full amount of increase permitted by the Government was difficult.

“It is my duty to make sure that the Chief Constable has the resources to keep Northamptonshire safe and provide our residents with the service they rightly expect. A precept increase will allow the Force to invest in providing an additional level of service to focus on issues that people have told us are important to them.

Office of Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Telephone: 01604 888113 **Email:** Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk

Correspondence address: East House, Force Headquarters, Wootton Hall, Northampton, NN4 0JQ



“I must take this opportunity to increase the budget while I can, to provide a strong base for the future when we can’t be sure how much funding will be available.

“I do appreciate the support expressed by the public during our consultation and I have tried to provide more resources for operational policing by applying for grant funding - to tackle gang activity for example. I will make sure that this increase leads to a better service for local people and I will be working with the Chief Constable to demonstrate how improvements are being made.

“I still believe that the tax payers in Northamptonshire carry too much of the burden for police funding: they pay a greater proportion of the total than taxpayers in other parts of the country, where the government grant makes up more of the overall budget. I will continue to press the Government to address that through the comprehensive spending review that is now taking place.”

The Police, Fire and Crime Panel meets at 2pm on Thursday 5 February.

Ends

Notes:

The proposed increase is for £24 a year for a band D household. The increase is then levied proportionately across the other council tax bands

This would mean that each household pays less than £5 a week towards Northamptonshire Police from their council tax

For any further information, or for interview requests, please contact Deborah Denton on Deborah.denton@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk or call 07557 775998

Office of Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Telephone: 01604 888113 **Email:** Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk

Correspondence address: East House, Force Headquarters, Wootton Hall, Northampton, NN4 0JQ