

COUNCIL TAX Information 2016-17



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER
for Leicestershire**

Your voice in Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

As a tax payer you have the right to know how your money is being spent and to be confident in the people spending it.

And when you are being asked to pay more for a service, you should expect it to improve and deliver more for you too.

In my final months as your Police and Crime Commissioner, I have received overwhelming support from the public and the Police and Crime Panel in setting a budget that will ensure a strong and resilient police service in the coming years.

It has meant asking you to pay a little more over the next year towards the cost of policing - an additional 7p a week for a Band D Council Tax payer. On its own, that doesn't sound a lot.

But collectively, it contributes to an additional £2.280 million in extra funding which can be spent on policing over the next 12 months, compared to the previous year.

That money is crucial because, when added to the rest of Leicestershire Police's funding, it gives the force a £170.840m budget which puts it on a sound financial footing.

Thanks to your increased contribution, over the next 12 months Leicestershire Police will benefit from a further 38 Police Officers – meaning there will be more people available to tackle hugely important issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Child and Adult Abuse, Rape, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence.

Also, there will be 28 additional permanent PCSOs who will be deployed by the Chief Constable towards enhancing neighbourhood

policing, preventing harm and helping to safeguard local people.

The responsibility for keeping our communities safe does not lie solely with the police. The key to finding long term, sustainable solutions lies in forging effective working arrangements with our partner agencies.

This year we will build on the success of work by partners in identifying joint partnership solutions to these issues and I have made a further £0.5m available to help this happen.

Since you elected me as your first Commissioner we have seen substantial reductions in many areas of crime, with more than 6,000 fewer offences in 2014 -15 compared to 2011-12 – a reduction of some 8.1%. The number of antisocial behaviour incidents is also down significantly. In congratulating the Chief Constable on these improvements I should point out that they have been delivered at a time when the issues confronting the service are becoming ever more complex.

Thank you for supporting them and for the support you have given me. It has been an honour to serve as your Police and Crime Commissioner.

Sir Clive Loader
*Leicestershire Police and
Crime Commissioner*



MEETING EXPECTATIONS

When I was elected I was determined to put people first, not just in terms of policing but across all areas of criminal justice and community safety. It is why my Police and Crime Plan made clear my resolve to reduce offending and reoffending, to support victims and witnesses, to make our neighbourhoods and communities safer, and to protect the most vulnerable.

And, with the Police and our partners, a great deal has been achieved.

People suffering mental health issues can be assured of a sensitive, appropriate service, provided by carefully trained staff. New arrangements are in place with our partners working in health to ensure people in crisis are no longer transported in police vehicles. And, thanks to Leicestershire's trailblazing Mental Health Triage Car Service, the number of people with mental health problems taken into police custody has dropped by an astonishing 63 per cent in the space of two years.

Another example is our new Victim First service. It is a service built around the principle that people have different needs if they are to cope with, and recover from, their ordeal. Victims of crime (and certain levels of ASB) now have a voice and will be heard.

Moving forward, tackling the despicable crime that is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) must be a key priority – and it must be resourced. Last year I made funding available which has led to a coalition of organisations committed to eradicating the appalling sexual exploitation of children under the banner of CEASE.

Alongside the excellent reductions in crime and ASB since 2011-12, I'm pleased to see that the work to reduce youth reoffending for priority offenders, has seen rates plummet by 66%.

Working closely with Leicestershire Police, my office has overseen the delivery of savings well in excess of the £20m set out in the Police and Crime Plan in 2013. This has been accompanied by workforce modernisation and restructuring projects, all designed to balance demand with resource.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION

In setting the budget this year, my priority was to provide the Chief Constable with an appropriate level of resource to enhance further public safety in the future, to build on work already underway, and to enable new and emerging policing challenges to be tackled effectively.

It is true that the police grant was better than expected, but total central Government funding to policing will still be reduced by 1.3% over four years. Therefore, in order to protect the force from further budget reductions which could impact on the initiatives to tackle child sexual exploitation, cyber-crime, domestic abuse, sexual offences and the work to counteract extremism and terrorism, the amount of council tax paid towards policing will increase by 1.99%.

The overall budget for Leicestershire Police in 2016-17 has been set at £170.840m, which is an increase of £2.280m over the 2015-16 net budget of £168.560m. The 1.99% increase in the amount of council tax paid towards policing in 2016-17 equates to £3.58 per annum for a Band D property, taking the total yearly figure to £183.58.

This budget will give Leicestershire Police the resources it needs to fulfil its operational capabilities, while also ensuring the force is on a sound financial footing for the future.



A STRATEGIC APPROACH

Work is currently underway, with our colleagues in Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire, to prepare a detailed business case to form a Strategic Alliance across the three force areas. This will help each force protect the quality of local policing services by consolidating many support areas of work.

The first phase will look at early alignment across the contact management functions, and if the detailed business case proves viable, a full Alliance could be in place by 2020.

The Budget Requirement is set out below:

	14-15	15-16	16-17
Budget Requirement	£m	£m	£m
Gross Spending	182.9	180.8	184.2
Less income	-10.3	-12.3	-13.4
Total Budget Requirement	172.6	168.5	170.8
Where the Money Comes From (Funding)	£m	£m	£m
Police Grant	70.0	65.7	65.3
Revenue Support Grant/ Business Rates	41.3	39.9	39.7
Council Tax Support and Freeze Grants*	8.9	8.9	8.9
Victims and Restorative Justice Funding	0.5	-	-
Collection Fund Surplus	0.8	0.8	1.2
From the Tax Payer	51.1	53.2	55.7
Total Funding	172.6	168.5	170.8
Band D Council Tax	£176.48	£180.00	£183.58

*Council Tax Support and Freeze Grants maintained at previous levels, no freeze grant applicable for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

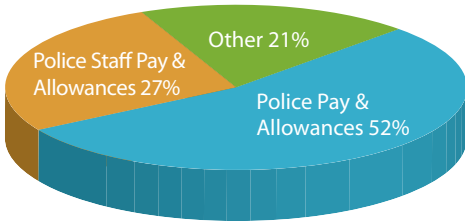


The increase in the Budget Requirement is due to the following:

	£m
Pay and Price Increases	5.9
Pay Increments	1.3
Increase in Specific Grants	-
Increase in use of Reserves	-0.1
Efficiency Savings	-8.6
Revenue Contribution to Capital Expenditure	0.8
Reinvestment into Policing	2.9
Net Increase	2.2

The Police and Crime Commissioner owns assets valued at £62.0m. The external debt outstanding is £14.2m.

HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT



The budget allows for 1,764 police officers at March 2017 and 251 PCSOs.

CAPITAL SPENDING

	£m
Property	2.8
Vehicles	1.0
IT and Other	4.8
Total	8.6
Funded from	
Borrowing	5.8
Capital Grant	0.8
Other Grants and receipts	2.0
Total	8.6



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ABOUT THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Publicly elected, Police and Crime Commissioners (usually known as PCCs) champion the interests of local people, setting local priorities for policing, commissioning services to improve community safety, and ensuring that victims have access to appropriate levels of support. Responsible for the police budget, they ensure that local people are consulted on their priorities for policing. Amongst many other tasks, they are the people who appoint, and if necessary fire, Chief Constables.

The PCC also holds the Police to account on behalf of local residents, while operational policing decisions remain the responsibility of the Chief Constable.

Sir Clive Loader was elected as Leicestershire's first PCC in 2012. In July last year he announced his intention not to stand at the forthcoming election to be held on 5 May 2016.

You can find out more about the elections on the website at www.leics-pcc.police.uk. Don't forget to make sure you are registered to vote.

If you need more information or want to contact the PCC's office:

www.leics-pcc.police.uk

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or write to:

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