A breakdown of your 2018/19 Council Tax Policing Precept

How our budget has changed £m
Net Budget 2016/17 184.1
Standstill Pressures 3.9
Investment 3.2
One-off Spending 0.2
Savings -1.2
Use of Reserves -0.6
One-Off Grants 0.6
Net budget 2018/19 190.2

Contacting Hertfordshire Constabulary
To report non-emergency crime and for live webchat visit: www.herts.police.uk or call 101.
Please use this number for general enquiries and to report a crime if there is no suspect nearby.
If you have a calling plan that offers free 01 numbers, you can also reach Hertfordshire Constabulary on 01707 354000.
Textphone: 01707 390990 In an emergency, always dial 999.
Each year I set a budget for policing in Hertfordshire. It is one of the most important functions of a Police and Crime Commissioner as it sets out how the Constabulary will spend its money over the next 12 months. It also underlines the strategy I have set for how we protect Hertfordshire and keep people safe.

The last 12 months saw a significant rise in the demand on Hertfordshire Constabulary. The horrific terrorist attacks in Manchester and London increased the national threat level resulting in Hertfordshire officers working around the clock performing additional duties. The public are consistently calling us more frequently – indeed the Force Control Room regularly receives the number of calls we used only to expect on New Year’s Eve – one of our busiest nights.

We’ve seen a significant increase in reports of offences involving vulnerable victims - domestic abuse, child abuse, trafficking and modern slavery. It is absolutely vital that we recognise their courage in coming forward by properly investigating these crimes and provide victims with high quality support. I am pleased to say that Hertfordshire is meeting this challenge but I also recognise that it represents a significant increase in pressure on the force’s limited resources.

In order to protect our neighbourhood policing model and strengthen the teams tackling burglary and other serious crimes, it will be necessary to raise additional funding from local people. The government has made it possible for me to increase the amount you pay towards policing by an additional £1 a month on the typical (Band D) property. Following a consultation with the public, who have been overwhelmingly supportive of that additional funding, I shall be applying that rise. This increase to the budget allows the Chief Constable to provide long-term security to our local policing teams as well as to invest to meet the demands on the force.

Practically, this will deliver more officers on the streets working in our neighbourhood teams and in specialist units like Operation Scorpion, Hertfordshire’s proactive crime-fighting unit which has reduced anti-social behaviour, burglary and drug dealing. With more calls coming in, it is necessary to invest more money in our Force Control Room, using additional resources to provide the excellent victim care you expect when you dial 999, 101 or log on to the website or app. Significantly more money will be invested to improve the response to victims at the first point of contact with the police and to assist with investigations.

Alongside this council tax increase, there will be further development of an enhanced Beacon – Hertfordshire’s dedicated Victim Care Centre. There’ll be greater and more specialised support to victims and outreach programmes to extend services to those victims who do not report to the police.

I also have a duty to ensure that the Constabulary is as efficient as possible and it has made significant savings since I first became your Police and Crime Commissioner. This budget plan will see its savings totals since 2010/11 exceed £50m. We are also making the best use of the resources we already have and I’ve committed to spend around 80% of our reserves over the next four years.

I would like to thank everybody who sent their comments to me. The decision to raise the council tax is not one I take lightly and my decision this year is based on how we can provide all the extra resources to help deal with the challenges we face in the years to come.

David Lloyd - Police and Crime Commissioner

Role of your Police and Crime Commissioner

Your Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd, was re-elected in May 2016 for a four year term of office to represent the people of Hertfordshire and to set the strategy for Hertfordshire Constabulary.

His role as commissioner also includes:
- Publishing a five year Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan (called ‘Everybody’s Business’) and deciding the policing priorities for Hertfordshire
- Setting the policing budget and the police element of council tax
- Holding the Chief Constable to account for operational policing
- Working with local partners to prevent crime and re-offending
- Commissioning support services for victims of crime
- Appointing and, if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable

Contacting the Commissioner

By email: your.views@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk
By phone: 01707 806100
By post: Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, Harpenden Police Station, 15 Vaughan Road, Harpenden, AL5 4GZ

You can follow the Commissioner on Twitter @hertsPCC and get updates on Facebook www.facebook.com/hertspcc www.hertscommissioner.org