



# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

## REPORT TO THE POLICE & CRIME PANEL POLICE PRECEPT 2024-25

### 1. Introduction

1.1 My proposals for the Police Precept 2024-25 reflect the priorities set in my *Make Notts Safe Plan 2021 – 2025*:

- Preventing crime and protecting people from harm;
- Responding efficiently and effectively to community needs and;
- Supporting victims and survivors, witnesses and communities

1.2 The opportunity for the people of Nottinghamshire to engage in budget consultation has been via four separate streams, ongoing consultation, focus groups, and, at pop up events and an online survey in December/January. This reflects my commitment to consult more widely on the precept. The outcome of all of this is analysed in Appendix B attached. My precept proposal for 2024-25 reflects careful consideration of the views expressed in response to my consultations.

### 2. Government Grant

2.1 The Provisional Police Grant Report accompanied by a Written Ministerial Statement was laid before Parliament on 14 December 2023.

2.2 The core grant for Nottinghamshire is now £163.2m, an increase of £3.3m. In addition, a ringfenced allocation of £7.6m is available to Nottinghamshire upon maintaining the uplift officers target number of 2,378. There is a further recruitment top up grant of £1.4m for maintaining an additional 30 officers to 2,408. The pensions grant allocation has been increased to £6.9m in 2024-25 from £2m in previous years, and Legacy Council Tax Grants of £9.7m have been maintained.

2.3 The Minister confirmed the precept referendum limit to allow an increase up to an additional £13 per annum for a Band D property, without the need to call for a local referendum. This was previously announced to be £10 but was increased in the Provisional Police Grant Report, saying *'the Government remains committed to ensuring the police are properly funded without placing an excessive burden on local taxpayers'*.

2.4 The Minister's statement sets out the national priorities for 2024-25 which include:

- investing in flagship crime programmes which are helping to keep our streets safe;
- a focus on driving innovation and accelerating the delivery of priority capabilities into policing e.g development of a 'digital front counter';
- and delivering a range of Major Law Enforcement Programmes to replace and improve essential national technology systems and improving the quality and the use of police data.

2.5 Following the cessation of capital grant funding to PCCs in 2022-23 there is no capital grant allocated to PCCs in 2024-25, the £128.7m budget available will be redistributed as part of wider reallocations including police aviation and police technology programmes.

2.6 The Minister's statement does not refer specifically to the timing of the Core Grant Distribution Review (funding formula review), although it is my hope that this work is continuing. The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) therefore includes a prudent estimate of what additional core grant funding could be allocated to Nottinghamshire from 2026.

2.7 The provisional settlement was subject to consultation, and I have written to the Home Secretary and the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire expressing my views on the provisional grant settlement.

### 3. Council Tax

3.1 Council Tax receipts are based upon a 1.2% increase in the Council Tax base, this reflects the position received to date from the City and District Councils, our budget assumption had been 1.5% so the actual is below the forecast. This assumption may be reconsidered for the final MTFP.

3.2 The government published its approach relating to Council Tax referendum principles for 2024-25 as part of its Spending Review in October 2021. In all three years from 2022-23 PCCs were to be allowed to increase band D bills by as much as £10. In the Provisional Grant Report in December 2023 this was increased from £10 to £13. In considering the additional precept flexibility, I am mindful that this places further burden on taxpayers particularly when households are already facing financial pressures. The outcome of the various budget consultation exercises has helped to inform my decision.

3.3 Due to the pressure on the budget and informed by the views of local people, I propose an increase in the police precept of £12.96 for 2024-25. More detailed information is included in the precept report at appendix A. The precepts for Band A and Band B (collectively representing some 60% of the tax base) would be:

- Band A £188.10; an increase of £8.64 per annum
- Band B £219.45; an increase of £10.08 per annum

3.4 The MTFP is based upon annual council tax increases of 3% per annum in 2025-26 onwards.

#### 4. Total Income and Funding

4.1 Total income included in the draft budget and projections for the subsequent four years are shown in **Table 1** below.

Core Income & Funding	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Assumptions
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Core Police Grant <i>(restated for 2023/24)</i>	159.9	163.2	175.6	179.2	182.7	186.4	PUP grant added to core in 2025-26 with 2% inflation and 2% thereafter
PUP Grant	4.9	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Legacy CT Grant	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	Fixed Amount
Pensions Grant	2.0	6.9	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	Fixed Amount
Special Grant	0	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.1	0.0	Op Perth
Funding Formula Review	0	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.0	5.0	Gains phased - Floors & Ceilings
Precept <i>(incl CF surplus in 23/24 &amp; 24/25)</i>	89.7	95.6	99.1	103.7	108.4	113.3	£10, then 3% increases, tax base 1.5% p.a. increase
Transfer from Reserves	1.5	3.3	2.1	2.6	1.9	0.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>267.8</b>	<b>289.7</b>	<b>294.9</b>	<b>305.3</b>	<b>314.2</b>	<b>320.8</b>	

**Table 1**

#### 5. Expenditure Plans

5.1 Total spending in 2024-25 has increased in the face of internal and external cost pressures.

5.2 The budget is summarised in Table 2 and described below.

Net Revenue Expenditure	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Assumptions
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Pay <i>(restated 23/24 for pay award)</i>	214.2	234.6	241.2	249.2	254.5	259.6	2.5% pay award each year
Non-Pay	79.4	87.7	89.4	91.2	93.0	94.9	2.5% inflation for 2025-26 and 2% thereafter
Specific Income	-24.8	-32.3	-29.1	-29.7	-30.3	-30.9	2% p.a. and loss of commissioning income in 25/26
Use of Asset Reserve	-1.6	-0.3	1.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	Planned use to smooth replacement ICT cost
Direct Revenue Funding of Capital	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Reduces ongoing capital financing charges
<b>Total</b>	<b>267.8</b>	<b>289.7</b>	<b>302.8</b>	<b>311.3</b>	<b>317.2</b>	<b>323.6</b>	

**Table 2**

5.3 The draft 2024-25 budget has been compiled following a rigorous review by budget holders, a review of workforce plans, and assumptions built in for unknown factors such as pay awards. Some £35m of budget pressures were identified during the budget review, c£25m on staff related budgets including pay awards, increments, restructures and pension contribution rate changes, c£3m contract and insurance price increases, and c£2m relating to inflation. £2m has been included to meet demand/improve performance, and £3m of additional budget for NUH Maternity Investigation (Op Perth) that is forecast to be met by a combination of special grant funding and use of reserves.

5.4 Specific grants in the OPCC such as victims' services £1.3m, VRU £1m (Violence Reduction Unit), CADA £0.4m (Children Affected by Domestic Abuse), Safer Streets £0.4m, Immediate Justice (tackling anti-social behaviour) £1m, and Youth Endowment Fund of £0.3m plus others are included. The £4.2m budget has been maintained for Grants and Commissioning to continue the vital work to support victims and prevent crime, help people feel safe and protect them from becoming victims of crime. Development and commissioning of a new provision for out of court disposals aiming to reduce future offending.

5.5 The Chief Constable's 2024-25 budget includes £147.6m for police officer pay (including maintaining the uplift target number of officers at 2,408) and £6.5m for PCSO pay. The police staff establishment is budgeted for including a 4.75% vacancy factor. The Police Uplift Programme (PUP) was to increase police officer numbers by 20,000 nationally by March 2023, and then to maintain them. The ringfenced allocation of £7.6m is available to

Nottinghamshire upon maintaining the uplift officers target number of 2,378. There is a further recruitment top up grant of £1.4m for maintaining an additional 30 officers to 2,408. The force is in a good place having already achieved the target number and the budgeted work force plan ensures this is maintained through 2024-25.

## 6. Savings and Efficiencies

6.1 Some £5.2m of savings and efficiencies have been identified and included in the proposed budget (this is £0.5m higher than 2023/24):

- £2.0m of efficiencies due to service redesigns, removal of temporary posts and conclusion of fixed term contracts
- £2.5m has been identified from investment income and reduced interest paid on loans
- £0.7m arising through savings from premises, comms and computing, supplies and services and additional income.

## 7. Service Impact

7.1 The draft budget for 2024-25 shows a balanced budget, based upon a council tax increase of £12.96 per band D property, efficiency savings, assumptions on receiving special grant and some use of reserves. Final information on the collection fund surplus and deficits is not yet confirmed.

7.2 It is clear that use of reserves will continue to be necessary to balance the budget beyond 2024-25, i.e. in the MTFP. Efficiencies will also need to be identified to reduce the expenditure budget in the MTFP, and to an even greater extent if additional income is not forthcoming, e.g. from the formula funding review.

7.3 March 2025 sees the last of some of the specific grants awarded to PCCs such as for the VRP, Victim's Services, ISVA/IDVA/RSF and CADA<sup>1</sup>. Planning is about to start on how sustainable the funded activities are and how the specific earmarked reserve can help to phase the impact of the funds ceasing. The plan is to do a system wide approach to review all the activity that is grant funded in Nottinghamshire because there are so many crossovers with partners' service delivery.

7.4 Plans for 2024-25 include:

- No service reductions, where possible demand and performance improvement funding has been included.
- Maintaining Police officer numbers at 2,408, approximately one police officer for every 482 members of the public, and PCSOs at 150.
- A staff establishment at c1,400 with a 4.75% vacancy factor included.
- Increasing the number of neighbourhood PCs to 590, from 485. Increase of 15 Sergeants to enhance supervisory ratios at a time when the level of experience of officers has reduced following the Police Uplift Programme.

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<sup>1</sup> Independent Sexual Violence Advisors/Independent Domestic Violence Advisors/Rape Support Fund/Children Affected by Domestic Abuse

- Neighbourhoods policing to fully incorporate Op Reacher, giving better availability and skill mix to these teams.
- Promoting the force as an employer of choice to fill vacant posts/retain staff and thus deliver better services to the public.
- Safeguarding the £4.2m budget for OPCC Grants and Commissioning to continue the vital work to support victims and prevent crime, help people feel safe and protect them from becoming victims of crime.
- Force continues to attend all burglaries and has a dedicated lead for shop thefts.
- Improve prosecution rates through greater synergy in investigations.
- Maintaining a high-level response rate to 999 calls.
- Improvements to responding via rapid video response.
- Investing in capital projects to; ensure officers and staff have the right tools for the job e.g. appropriate ICT; ensure the vehicle fleet is fit for purpose; make provision for environmental projects to achieve a reduced carbon footprint (a review of opportunities has taken place and a plan has been drafted) and deliver on the net zero target.
- Continuing to maximise new funding opportunities to target specific activity and benefit as many people as possible.

7.4 Further detailed information on revenue and capital expenditure plans, and risks and reserves is within the attached annexes.

## 8. Council Tax Proposal

8.1 My proposed Council Tax increase for 2024-25 is £12.96. This is £282.15 for a Band D property. With this increase, Council Tax provides £4.3m more funding than in 2023-24 (excluding any increase in the tax base).

8.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner's share of council tax is shown in table 3 below. This illustrates the impact of a £12.96, 4.8% increase. The additional cost to some 60% of Nottinghamshire council taxpayers would be 19 pence per week or less.

Council Tax Band	Proportion of Band D	2023/24 Council Tax	£12.96 Annual Increase to Band D	Proposed 2024/25 Council tax	% increase	Pence per week increase
A	6/9	£179.46	£8.64	£188.10	4.8%	£0.17
B	7/9	£209.37	£10.08	£219.45	4.8%	£0.19
C	8/9	£239.28	£11.52	£250.80	4.8%	£0.22
D	9/9	£269.19	£12.96	£282.15	4.8%	£0.25
E	11/9	£329.01	£15.84	£344.85	4.8%	£0.30
F	13/9	£388.83	£18.72	£407.55	4.8%	£0.36
G	15/9	£448.65	£21.60	£470.25	4.8%	£0.42
H	18/9	£538.38	£25.92	£564.30	4.8%	£0.50

**Table 3**

Caroline Henry, The Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire

25 January 2024