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## **Police and Crime Commissioner's Introduction to 2020/21 Precept Recommendations**

I am pleased to introduce this Budget Report to the Police and Crime Panel, which sets out my plan to continue the journey begun last year to deliver increased numbers at the frontline and greater effectiveness and visibility of policing across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

### **Strong foundations**

Your support of my decision last year to raise the council tax precept to support policing has put Hampshire Constabulary in a good position today.

It enabled the key investment to recruit 210 new officers and 65 police investigators, who are now out in our communities working to keep people safer.

It delivered vital investments in officer wellbeing and digital technology.

And it supported the development of the new, nationally leading, Contact Management Platform.

Last year's decision means that today, we can take full advantage of the government's funding for 156 additional officers in Hampshire and deliver the greater visibility and reduction in crime that the public want to see.

### **More visible, better equipped**

My proposed Budget for 2020/21 will:

- enable recruitment of 156 additional officers funded by the government
- invest in new technology to fight crime, allowing police officers to spend more time in their communities
- improve public contact with the police; enabling 999 and 101 calls to be handled more effectively;
- give all officers the equipment, skills and support they need to fight crime

The Chief Constable has told me that this will deliver more frontline police officers and staff to provide a visible presence, prevent crime and investigate incidents when they occur.

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## My commitment to the public

Last year I anticipated a need to increase the council tax precept in 2020/21 to sustain the growth in numbers over the last twelve months. This remains necessary and continues to attract public support. Their support has been confirmed in the survey with the public that I have undertaken since the policing settlement was announced, with 74% supporting a £10 increase per year in the precept.

I endorse the recommendations 1 to 5 of the attached report and recognise this as the baseline to inform the actions and decisions of Police and Crime Commissioner for the year 2020/21.

If my recommendations are supported by the Police and Crime Panel, **my intention is to invest all of the precept increase in support of local policing that will keep our communities SAFER.**

*Michael Lane*

**Michael Lane**  
**Police & Crime Commissioner**  
Serving Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton