



Message from Vera Baird QC, Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

“Neighbourhood policing is at the heart of everything we do, I know how much you value the work of your neighbourhood police teams. During the recent consultation regarding the council tax precept, comment after comment mentioned how good our neighbourhood policing teams are, they are our eyes and ears of the community, the teams help prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour and are a re-assuring presence, improving the quality of life for residents. These neighbourhood officers also gather vital intelligence to help counter the most serious crime.

Since 2010, we have seen Northumbria’s budget cut by more than £108 million, this has resulted in the loss of 861 police officers and 940 specialist police staff. We’re also expecting Government to continue to “top slice” police budgets, to pay for national policing priorities. To deal with these financial pressures, tough funding decisions have had to be taken. We have re-located police officers out of expensive to maintain, inaccessible police stations to new community hubs, based in the heart of the community – all savings have been reinvested back into policing.

When calculating the overall policing budget, the Government has anticipated that the police precept element of the council tax would rise by £5. If we want to maintain our vital neighbourhood policing services, we have to accept this decision. Through my prudent financial planning and increased efficiency, combined with this increase – which works out at about 1p per day for most homes, has allowed us to protect the services that matter to you the most. We will ensure that police officers are able to offer support to vulnerable people and tackle new emerging crimes such as cyber fraud and child sexual exploitation.

Northumbria Police continues to be recognised as a force that delivers for local communities, I will also ensure that the Chief Constable ensures that your priorities are the priorities of Northumbria Police”.

All the reports relating to the precept decision can be found on my website at the following link <http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/finance/financial-info/precept-2016-17/>