

# COUNCIL TAX FOR POLICING 2016 -17



## Building a Safer Bedfordshire

### Police Officer numbers still

# TOO LOW

The overall budget for policing Bedfordshire in 2016-17 is £101.483M. This includes an increase of around £3 in the average householder's annual contribution following overwhelming support from local people during consultation.

The Chancellor's 'no cuts to policing' pledge, which is reliant upon a local increase in the amount of council tax paid towards policing, does little to help Bedfordshire Police afford the 300 extra police officers it needs. As it stands, the Government's Police Grant to Bedfordshire is down by £400,000 compared with last year, and the force anticipates having to make £11M more savings in the next four years.

Changes that include joint working with other forces have saved the force £25M since 2010. In that time officer numbers have fallen by 178 (14%) - due to Government funding cuts - despite Bedfordshire having the fourth highest level of gun crime, fifth highest serious acquisitive crime, seventh in knife crime, and being at high risk for terrorism and organised crime.

Savings plans include merging the Force Control Room, closing police station front counters and reducing PCSOs – decisions that should help to maintain or slightly increase police officer numbers which are currently just 169 per 100,000 population compared to the national average of 232.



# What it will cost

Band	Total annual amount	Increase from 2015-16
A	£108.57	£2.12
B	£126.66	£2.47
C	£144.76	£2.53
<b>D</b>	<b>£162.85</b>	<b>£3.18</b>
E	£199.04	£3.89
F	£235.23	£4.60
G	£271.42	£5.30
H	£325.70	£6.36



## Building a Safer Bedfordshire



## Of your total council tax bill, approximately **10%** goes towards policing

The Commissioner has set a budget of £101.483M, of which £32.578M comes from local people and the remainder is funded by the Government.

## Overstretched and Underfunded

**Financial reductions and cost pressures continue to stretch Bedfordshire Police's thin blue line. If the amount of council tax paid towards policing did not increase this year, it would mean a further budget cut at a time when we are still having to make efficiencies in response to the last round of austerity measures.**

New cost pressures such as inflation, wage rises and National Insurance changes also have to be met. To afford the extra 300 officers the Chief Constable is calling for would require £8M to £12M a year and changes to the Government's funding

formula. Bedfordshire has been underfunded for many years compared with other forces – a fact that has been recognised in Parliament.

The force has worked very hard to try to fill the gap, and has achieved considerable savings through its joint working with other police forces – particularly with Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. By 2018-19 around £10M will have been found for Bedfordshire through this tri-force collaboration. Bedfordshire is generally a low-cost force and recognised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary as having the third lowest non-staff costs in 2014-15 and below average officer costs.

## Getting in touch with your PCC

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**E:** [pcc@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)  
**T:** 01234 842064  
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**[www.bedsppcc.org](http://www.bedsppcc.org)**

# Reducing Crime Together

## ● Beds Alert

**This crime and community information messaging system is run by Bedfordshire Police in partnership with other organisations and offers residents details about crime and other news in their local area.**

The service, which is free, also provides crime reduction advice and help to tackle crime in their neighbourhoods.

**You can find out more and join Beds Alert by going to:  
[www.bedsalert.co.uk](http://www.bedsalert.co.uk)**

## ● Specials

**Bedfordshire Police is fortunate in having a team of volunteer Special Constables who give their time to help keep their communities safe. More recruits are now wanted to join them.**

The Specials have the same powers as regular officers. In Bedfordshire last year they made more than 500 arrests and stopped more than 2,000 vehicles. Some Specials help to support areas like the force's Football Unit, Scientific Services and Roads Policing.

**If you would like to find out more about becoming part of the Special Constabulary, please go to the recruitment section at:  
[www.bedfordshire.police.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk)**



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