

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Topical Issues

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Author: Khalid Ahmed, Scrutiny
Officer, Thames Valley Police
& Crime Panel



Slough Council's CCTV transfer to Thames Valley Police

<https://www.sloughobserver.co.uk/news/23356667.slough-councils-cctv-transfer-thames-valley-police-flawed/>

Slough Borough Council leader and his cabinet defended their plan for the police to take responsibility for the town's CCTV from next January.

This is part of the Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber's ambition to bring together all of the Thames Valley area's CCTV coverage under one roof and back into the hands of TVP.

It is said that this transfer will save the council £105,000 for this year but will bring a one-off £473,000 cost to fund the service between April and December 2023.

But the move was not welcomed by everyone. Conservative leader Dexter Smith said at a cabinet meeting that this plan was "seriously flawed" and urged senior councillors to not go ahead with it.

Speaking on Monday, February 27, Cllr Smith said there's a "great risk" that this plan won't improve community safety as staff with "no experience" will monitor CCTV covering parks, highways, and facilities, which will remain with the council.

"If we get this wrong, it will seriously go wrong," he told cabinet members, adding it could cost the council thousands of pounds to rectify this if they "rush" into this "bad plan".

Home Office data shows drastic drop in Thames Valley Police PCSOs

<https://www.bracknellnews.co.uk/news/23303035.police-see-drastic-drop-community-policing-according-analysis/>

In an analysis of new Home Office statistics from the House of Commons, it has been found that in the past eight years there are 171 fewer PCSOs in Thames Valley. The drop is a decrease of 37.3 per cent.

In 2015, 459 community officers were employed to join the force in stark contrast to the 288 that were recorded in September 2022.

According to Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, one of his main objectives this year is to improve visible policing and to ensure members of the public feel confident in their police force. However, with many community officers moving over into full-time policing, it has put a strain on the remaining dedicated patrol in different areas.

Thames Valley Police boss backs biggest ever neighbourhood watch recruitment campaign

<https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/news/people/thames-valley-police-boss-backs-biggest-ever-neighbourhood-watch-recruitment-campaign-4054006>

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Matthew Barber has allocated funding to a new national neighbourhood watch recruitment scheme.

The PCC hopes the initiative will lead hundreds of new Neighbourhood Watch volunteers covering the Thames Valley. Called, A Better Place to Live, the scheme was launched nationally on 6 March and is the Neighbourhood Watch's biggest recruitment drive in recent years. It is hoped if more officers are on the streets it will reduce both the fear and likelihood of crime.

Police in Thames Valley issued more than 150,000 speeding tickets over a two-year period, the third highest number issued in the country

<https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/news/crime/police-in-thames-valley-issued-more-than-150000-speeding-tickets-over-a-two-year-period-4046136>

A quarter of knife crime offenders jailed in Thames Valley

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/a-quarter-of-knife-crime-offenders-jailed-in-thames-valley/ar-AA17hWS>

Anti-knife crime charity the Ben Kinsella Trust said further investment in the court system is needed to help it keep up with rising knife crime across the England and Wales.

Ministry of Justice figures show 136 offenders in Thames Valley were given an immediate sentence in the year to September – accounting for 24% of knife crime offenders who went through the criminal justice system.

This was in line with the proportion of offenders handed an immediate sentence in 2020-21, but below the proportion two years prior (29%).

Overall, about 21% of the 573 offenders in Thames Valley who went through the criminal justice system were cautioned, 25% were given community sentences and 21% were suspended sentences.

Across England and Wales, nearly 19,400 knife and offensive weapon offences were formally dealt with – a decrease of 5% since the year ending September 2021.

This is despite separate figures showing an 11% increase in knife crime over the course of the same period.

54 people charged in one week by Thames Valley Police during county line drugs crackdown

<https://www.bucksherald.co.uk/news/crime/54-people-charged-in-one-week-by-thames-valley-police-during-county-line-drugs-crackdown-4057086>

<https://www.bracknellnews.co.uk/news/23373807.thames-valley-vulnerable-children-involved-drug-dealing/>

Victims of stalking to receive specialist support through a new Thames Valley-wide service

The Police and Crime Commissioner has announced a new service to improve the support available to victims of stalking. The Thames Valley Stalking Service will provide specialist support to victims of stalking across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

The Thames Valley Stalking Service is being delivered by charity Aurora New Dawn. The service provides emotional and practical support and advocacy to victims of stalking, supporting victims who have experienced any stalking behaviours, not just stalking from ex-intimate partners.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has awarded Aurora New Dawn £120,000 a year until March 2025 to deliver the service across the Thames Valley.

Victims First is working with the Thames Valley Stalking Service to manage referrals into the service. Victims First Officers will work with the victim to carry out an assessment and determine the best support to meet their needs.

Berkshire's vehicle crime hotspots as 5,992 incidents reported to police in 2022

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/berkshires-vehicle-crime-hotspots-as-5992-incidents-reported-to-police-in-2022/ar-AA17APmX>

Anti-social behaviour hotspots across Berkshire as Thames Valley Police receive more than 8,000 reports

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/anti-social-behaviour-hotspots-across-berkshire-as-thames-valley-police-receive-more-than-8-000-reports/ar-AA17H0rD>

Thames Valley Police announce state-of-the-art forensics centre

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/thames-valley-police-announce-state-of-the-art-forensics-centre/ar-AA17kngO>

Thames Valley organisations awarded over £105,000 to support policing priorities

Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, and the Chief Constable, awarded voluntary and community organisations £105,520 in the first round of this year's Community Fund.

The [Community Fund](#) provides biannual funding to voluntary and community groups that help to achieve the objectives of the PCC's [Police and Criminal Justice Plan](#). The money for the scheme comes from the sale of stolen property that cannot be returned to its rightful owners.

Over 190 organisations applied to the latest round of the Community Fund, with 39 organisations successful in receiving funding to support the PCC's [Police and Criminal Justice Plan](#) priorities to reduce crime.