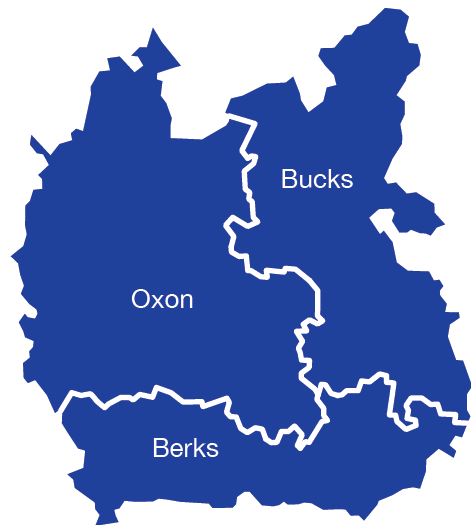


Agenda

Date: Friday, 10 September 2021

Time: 11.00 am

Venue: Paralympic Meeting Room,
Buckinghamshire Council,
Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury,
Bucks HP19 8FF



Map and Directions

The Briefing Meeting for Members will be held at 10am. There should be sufficient space in the car park at the Council Offices.

[Buckinghamshire Council, Gateway Road, Aylesbury](#)

Please note that meetings are currently taking place in-person (not virtually) with social distancing at the venue. Meetings will continue to be live-streamed and those who wish to view them are strongly encouraged to do so online to minimise the risk of Covid-19 infection.

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [LINK TO MEETING](#)

However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Places at the meetings are very limited due to the requirements of social distancing. If you still wish to attend this meeting in person, you must contact the Scrutiny Officer to the Panel by 9am four working days before the meeting and they will advise if you can be accommodated at this meeting and of the detailed Covid-19 safety requirements for all attendees.

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 14) (11.00am)

To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2021.

4. Public Question Time (11.00am)

Anyone who works or lives in the Thames Valley can ask a question at meetings of the Police and Crime Panel, at which a 20 minute session will be designated for hearing from the public.

If you'd like to participate, please read the Public Question Time Scheme and submit your questions by email to khalid.ahmed@oxfordshire.gov.uk at least three working days in advance of the meeting.

5. Themed Item - Rural Crime (Pages 15 - 24) (11.05am)

The Panel will be looking to scrutinise and gain information on what the PCC is doing in holding the Chief Constable account in tackling rural crime and whether this is successful.

The PCC has submitted a report which provides an outline of key activity being undertaken or planned by TVP in relation to tackling rural crime and supporting Thames Valley's rural communities.

6. HMICFRS Inspection Report - Roads Policing (Pages 25 - 26) (11.50am)

At a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 20 November 2020, the PCC was requested to report back to the Panel on the outcomes arising out of the recommendations contained in the HMICFRS report on Roads Policing as they are applied to Thames Valley Police.

The PCC has submitted a report providing a summary of the HMICFRS findings together with a response to relevant recommendations to TVP.

7. Update on Average Speed Cameras (Pages 27 - 34) (12.00pm)

The PCC has submitted a report providing an update on the use of Average Speed Cameras which was discussed at a Panel meeting in November 2020.

8. Update on Community Speedwatch (Pages 35 - 36) (12.10pm)

An update report is provided by the PCC on Community Speedwatch in Thames Valley.

9. PCC Community Safety Fund (Pages 37 - 38) (12.20pm)

The PCC has provided a report informing the Panel of his review of

annual grant allocations to local authority Community Safety Partnerships.

10. Joint Independent Audit Committee Annual Assurance Report 2020 (Pages 39 - 54) (12.35pm)

Attached is the Annual Assurance Report 2020 from the Joint Independent Audit Committee to the PCC for Thames Valley and the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police.

11. Updates from Chair of the Panel and PCC / Topical Issues (Pages 55 - 62) (12.45pm)

To receive updates from the Chair of the Panel and the PCC. In addition, a report of the Scrutiny Officer to the Panel is attached providing information on topical issues.

12. Work Programme (Pages 63 - 66) (12.55pm)

For Panel Members to put forward items for the Work Programme including ideas for themed meetings.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Panel is **RECOMMENDED** that the public be excluded for the duration of item 13 in the Agenda since it is likely that if they were present during this item there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and specified in relation to the respective items in the Agenda and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of each case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

PART II

13. Conclusion of the Contractual Arrangements regarding the Enterprise Resource Planning (Equip) system (Pages 67 - 72) (13.00pm)

Attached for the Panel's information is a decision notice issued by the Office of the PCC on 23 December 2020 in relation to the conclusion of the Contractual Arrangements regarding the Enterprise Resource Planning (Equip) system. **This decision notice does not contain exempt information and is available to the public.**

The public should be excluded during discussion on this item because its discussion would be likely to lead to the disclosure to members of the public present of information in the following prescribed category:

3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Date of next meeting: 19 November 2021

Membership

Councillor Marilyn Davies (West Oxfordshire District Council) (Chair), Councillor Barrie Patman (Wokingham Borough Council) (Vice-Chair), Councillor Balvinder Bains (Slough Borough Council), Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward (Reading Borough Council), Councillor Robin Bradburn (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor David Cannon (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Councillor David Carroll (Buckinghamshire Council), Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye (South Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor Emily Culverhouse (Buckinghamshire Council - Co-Opted Member), Councillor Neil Fawcett (Vale of White Horse District Council), Councillor John Harrison (Bracknell Forest Council), Liz Jones (Independent Member), Councillor Andrew McHugh (Cherwell District Council), Phillip Morrice (Independent Member), Councillor Richard Newcombe (Buckinghamshire Council - Co-Opted Member), Councillor Richard Rouse (Buckinghamshire Council - Co-Opted Member), Councillor Claire Rowles (West Berkshire Council), Councillor Dr Louise Upton (Oxford City Council), Councillor Richard Webber (Oxfordshire County Council) and Councillor Mark Winn (Buckinghamshire Council - Co-Opted Member).

Minutes

Minutes of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel held on Friday, 25 June 2021 in Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA, commencing at 11.00 am and concluding at 1.20 pm

Members Present

Councillor Balvinder Bains (Slough Borough Council), Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward (Reading Borough Council), Councillor Robin Bradburn (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor David Cannon (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Councillor David Carroll (Buckinghamshire Council), Councillor Emily Culverhouse (Buckinghamshire Council – Co-Opted Member), Councillor Merilyn Davies (West Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor Neil Fawcett (Vale of White Horse District Council), Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers (South Oxfordshire District Council – Substitute Member), Councillor John Harrison (Bracknell Forest Council), Liz Jones (Independent Member), Councillor Andrew McHugh (Cherwell District Council), Phillip Morrice (Independent Member), Councillor Richard Newcombe (Buckinghamshire Council – Co-Opted Member), Councillor Barrie Patman (Wokingham Borough Council), Councillor Simon Rouse (Buckinghamshire Council – Co-Opted Member), Councillor Dr Louise Upton (Oxford City Council), Councillor Richard Webber (Oxfordshire County Council) and Councillor Mark Winn (Buckinghamshire Council – Co-Opted Member).

Officers Present

Khalid Ahmed (Scrutiny Officer)

Others Present

Matthew Barber (Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner), John Campbell (Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police – (Virtual)), Paul Hammond (Chief Executive Officer of PCC (Virtual)) and Ian Thompson (Chief Finance Officer of PCC (Virtual)).

Apologies

Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye (South Oxfordshire District Council) (Substitute Member - Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers) and Councillor Claire Rowles (West Berkshire Council).

If you have a query please contact Khalid Ahmed, Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel Scrutiny Officer (Tel: 07990 368048; Email: khalid.ahmed@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

19/21

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL

That Councillor Merilyn Davies be elected as Chair of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

Councillor Merilyn Davies took the Chair

20/21

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL

That Councillor Barrie Patman be appointed Vice-Chair of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chair welcomed the following new Members of the Panel to their first meeting:

Councillor Balvinder Bains (Slough Borough Council)

Cllr Richard Newcombe (Co-opted Member, Buckinghamshire Council) (See Min No.27/21)

Cllr Simon Rouse (Co-opted Member, Buckinghamshire Council) (See Min No.27/21)

Councillor Richard Webber (Oxfordshire County Council)

Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers (South Oxfordshire District Council – Substitute Member)

21/21

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye (South Oxfordshire District Council) (Councillor Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers substituting) and Councillor Claire Rowles (West Berkshire Council).

22/21

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 26 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

23/21

THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S POLICE & CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLAN 2021-2025

Matthew Barber, Thames Valley's newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner attended the meeting to present his draft Police and Criminal Justice Plan 2021-2025.

The Panel was informed that the Chief Constable and PCC staff had been briefed on the content prior to a draft of the Plan being circulated for comment to over 120 key stakeholders, which included MPs, Council Leaders and Chief Executives, NHS partners, criminal justice agencies and to Members of the Police and Crime Panel. As a result of these consultations, modifications had been made to the draft plan before its submission to the Panel.

The Panel was informed that the Police and Criminal Justice Plan had been titled that way to demonstrate the significant role that the PCC had in the wider criminal justice system.

The PCC reported that his plan had five main strategic priorities which would be developed further during his term of office. The five strategic priorities were:

- Strong Local Policing
- Fighting Serious Organised Crime
- Fighting Cyber-Crime and Fraud

- Improving the Criminal Justice System
- Tackling Illegal Encampments

Strong Local Policing – This would be recruiting more police officers, supporting neighbourhood policing and focussing on driving down the crimes which matter most to the public.

Fighting Serious Organised Crime – Cracking down on the threat from “county lines” drugs gangs to protect children from exploitation and abuse.

Fighting Cybercrime and Fraud – Crime was changing and there would be investments in technology and resources the police need to protect the public online.

Improving the Criminal Justice System – Supporting victims of crime, bringing more criminals to justice and reducing reoffending.

Tackling Illegal Encampments – Ensuring a fair but firm response to illegal encampments and reducing the effect on communities.

Reference was made to the other strategies which would be developed which included: - police officer and staff recruitment and retention; Community Safety Partnership funding; improving contact management; specialist capabilities; Police Officer welfare; Emergency Services Collaboration; fly-tipping and environmental crime and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR).

Performance against the Plan and other areas of work would be monitored at fortnightly Liaison meetings with the Chief Constable and at public bi-monthly Performance and Accountability meetings.

Members Questions

(1) What criminality data has the PCC got to justify having Tackling Illegal Encampments as a strategic priority in his Plan, rather than Rural Crime, and what are Thames Valley Police going to do in relation to this, particularly when it is the responsibility of local authorities to deal with illegal encampments.

[The PCC acknowledged that having Tackling Illegal Encampments as one of his Strategic Priorities was perhaps controversial. Rural Crime was important; however, this was captured by the Strong Local Policing Strategic Priority. Rural areas needed strong neighbourhood policing as did urban areas.]

Rural Crime was not a separate Strategic Priority as the PCC was developing a Plan for the whole of the Thames Valley. There were challenges regarding data, with disparities between what is held by command and control and crimes reported in relation to illegal encampments. In addition, the Police did not capture data such as the costs of clearing up sites which were borne by local authorities and the individuals who were responsible. More focus could then be given on these individuals rather than travellers as a whole.

Local Authorities did have the lead role on illegal encampments. There was a joint protocol across the Thames Valley to ensure a consistent approach when dealing with illegal encampments. However, there could be more done in this area. Reference was made to the need for transit sites. There would be reconvening of the Joint Working Group between the PCC, Thames Valley Police and local authorities to look at making further improvements on how illegal encampments are dealt with.

There were elements of prejudice in society against travellers and this would also be covered as part of the Strategic Priority.]

- (2) Reference was made to urban areas such as Reading not having the space or land for transit sites for travellers and that there needed to be a Thames Valley approach to this issue. Neighbouring boroughs with the land needed to cooperate.

[The PCC commented that this was why he believed the PCC should be getting involved in these kinds of issues strategically. There were nuances around the legislation on travellers being asked to move outside of one local authority area to a transit site in a neighbouring borough.]

- (3) With the increase in the number of IT scams, how would a resident report a phishing email scam to Action Fraud as this did not seem to be covered on their website?

[In relation to phishing email scams, Members were informed that these should be forwarded to report@phishing.gov.uk. The PCC agreed that there were too many agencies involved in fraud at a national level and this would be something he would be raising on a national level.]

- (4) In relation to Serious Organised Crime, reference was made to an Area Local Police Commander who had imposed Closure Orders on premises to stop the selling of drugs and the PCC was asked to encourage the use of Closure Orders on the selling of illicit tobacco.

[The PCC replied that using Closure Order was not an easy process but he would encourage the Police to use whatever tools they had at their disposal to deal with issues, which included the sale of illicit tobacco.]

- (5) Reference was made to the information detailed in the covering report on the PCC election that the PCC had received 313,000 votes which equated to a high mandate for this Plan. A Member commented that this was misleading as this included second preference votes so it was misleading to suggest the PCC had the level of support he had described.

[The PCC replied that the number of people who voted for him was relevant for the purpose of the Plan. There was no requirement to consult with the public on the Plan, although their views were important. The fact that thousands of people had voted for him in the knowledge of his Plan gave him and his Plan a mandate.]

- (6) How did the PCC choose the initial five Strategic Priorities, particularly with the large number of policing and crime issues which exist within Thames Valley? Why is Violence against Women and Girls not one of the key Strategic Priorities?

[The PCC reported that the Strategic Priorities had been developed over the years after conversations with the Force and stakeholders. That was why issues such as cybercrime and serious organised crime were in there. With regard to Violence against Women and Girls, the nature of this is varied. Misogamy, hate crime, coercive control etc are all on the spectrum of domestic abuse. Violence against Women and Girls was not included as one of the key Strategic Priorities as there was not a "one size fits all" approach for dealing with violence against women and girls.]

- (7) The PCC was asked for his views on how to deal with low level crime which involved the use of psychoactive substances, nitrous oxide canisters, E Scooters which were crimes which the public considered required strong local policing.

[The PCC replied that work should be done with local authorities on these anti-social crimes. The work of Community Safety Partnerships, working with neighbourhood policing teams, was important and should be looking at longer term issues.]

Police data indicated that anti-social behaviour had fallen, whereas local authority data indicated that it had increased. Was that because of where the public reported these crimes? There was a data project, 'Interact', which would draw on the data from the Police and local authorities which would create a dashboard to see what is going on.

There is an issue about confidence in the Police and the low-level crime was the types of crime which the public were most concerned about. Addressing these things will improve confidence.]

- (8) Did the consultation carried out on the Plan reach all areas of the Thames Valley and, as far as possible, were the responses, both positive and negative, received from groups and individuals from across the diverse population of the area.

[The PCC replied that he was confident that the consultation did reach right across the Thames Valley with lots of responses from Hospital Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups, CSPs, charities and local authorities. The PCC reported that this was a high-level strategic document with more detail to come, which would be subject to further consultation and engagement.]

- (9) There needed to be creativity and solutions found for illegal encampments, however, were travellers consulted on the Plan. In addition, there had been over 6,000 reported Hate Crimes which were a higher number than crimes caused by illegal encampments. How can the PCC justify not having Hate Crimes as one of his Strategic Priorities?

[The PCC agreed and referred to the need for the Police to take on board the public's complaints regarding a small minority of travellers who behaved anti-socially as the public sometimes felt that the Police did not take their complaints seriously. The Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) community were not directly consulted on the Plan,

however, discussions have taken place over the last few years with police officers within the GRT community and there had been a GRT Conference hosted by TVP.

Regarding the number of crimes as a result of illegal encampments, the PCC reported that in the year before Covid, there had been around 650 reported crimes.

On Hate Crimes, it was not listed as a specific Strategic Objective as the PCC's view on Hate Crime was that there were other offences for which Hate was an aggravated factor. There were a number of Hate incidents, but they were not crimes. When there are physical incidents which are clearer, these will be addressed. With limited resources it would be difficult to focus on these incidents.]

(10) Residents want the Police to catch criminals, so in relation to the strategic priority to improve the criminal justice system, will there be greater collaboration with other Forces, other agencies, CSPs and the criminal justice system to ensure there is joined up work in the fight against crime? Particular reference was made to the accelerated justice system in relation to domestic abuse which was piloted at Aylesbury Crown Court.

[The PCC replied that for him, the most important principle was not catching criminals, but reducing crime. Prevention of crime and strong local policing was important, which would free resources for other high harm issues. Collaborations are important with Thames Valley border Forces to ensure joined up work takes place. Discussions will take place with other PCCs to enable senior officers to talk about issues which cross borders.

In relation to the criminal justice system, it was important that there was a good partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service and the PCC had had a meeting with the temporary Chief Crown Prosecutor where the point was made that the accelerated justice system which was used in Aylesbury should be rolled out across the Thames Valley and the data from this could be used to justify rolling out this accelerated justice system.

Collaboration also included sharing data, of which the Local Criminal Justice system was key. With Covid, the court system had lots of useful data which could be shared and bring greater joint working going forward.]

(11) Could the PCC provide details of how the increase in the Police precept be utilised as residents are concerned at the gaps which exist in the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) ranks; which was an invaluable service to local communities.

[The PCC reported that there was a good Police Settlement, however, there were pressures such as the increase in Police Pensions, which were not visible to the public, but were necessary for Police Officers. Last year's increase would help fund the Rural Crime Task Force, which was being recruited to, filling the Police Community Support Service vacant posts, which were hugely valuable service. Unfortunately, vacancies did occur within the PCSO establishment because some PCSOs left to train to become Police Officers.]

- (12) In relation to speeding, there were two types of speeding, excessive speeding which was criminal and therefore the Police should enforce, and low-level speeding which often the Police explained they cannot enforce due to lack of resources. Could the PCC put forward a case to look at other ways of dealing with and enforcing low-level speeding?

[The PCC informed the Panel that speeding was an issue for all communities and there was a perception issue of speeding as well as reality. As Deputy PCC, a Community Speedwatch programme was launched which was mixed in terms of its success as it was reliant on the local inspector. There was an on-line support to Community Speedwatch.]

There were two trial groups of Community Speedwatch taking place in all three counties of the Thames Valley, with all sites agreed by TVP. Advice would be on-line for the volunteers. The PCC said that he wanted to see a growth in the number of Community Speedwatch schemes in the Thames Valley with TVP and the PCC providing support.

Should the pilot be successful, the PCC would look to roll it out throughout Thames Valley. As a result of this work, there would be more informed data available to assess whether there were problems of speeding in these areas.]

- (13) Trust in the Police and policing by consent has been strained during pandemic, particularly around the policing of the regulations. How damaged has this been in the Thames Valley and what will the PCC do to address this?

[The PCC replied that in relation to trust there was a clear divide, 50/50 in relation to the public's trust with the views that perhaps the Police were enjoying their powers under Covid regulations or they should be doing more. The PCC was looking at some of the fixed penalty notices issued by Thames Valley and was watching body worn video of TVP during policing Covid incidents. There were very few issues where TVP had acted inappropriately during a difficult period of policing.]

- (14) In relation to the PCC's Strategic Objective relating to the criminal justice system and the relationship to the probation service, what does the PCC see as the biggest risk and threat to achieving an improvement in the criminal justice system and reducing reoffending?

[One of the biggest challenges had been around the probation dynamic framework for funding which has not been particularly good. Some of the concerns were regarding some of the local organisations who were doing good work with Community Rehabilitation Companies would lose out in the change in funding model.]

A bid of £1m was put into the Ministry of Justice for a Prisoners' Leaving Scheme, which had not been successful, but a further bid would be put in. The PCC reported that he had decided to go ahead with a review of this and look at how we deal with people coming out of prison.]

- (15) Anti-social behaviour makes people not feeling safe in their communities and if that is not responded to in an effective and robust way it makes people lose

confidence in policing. Part of the issue was the problems people had reporting such incidents to the Police through dialling 101 or reporting on-line. Could these reporting systems be looked at again, including the number of “blocked calls”, whereby people have just given up and hung up?

[The point on ASB was noted and improvements needed to be made on how to deal with this problem. Regarding 101 calls, this service had improved. The performance previously was not good; however, this had improved with calls in the last month being answered on average after 40 seconds. Priority was always given to 999 calls and they are answered in less than 5 seconds.]

Contact Management was a shared service with Hampshire Police and there needed to be improvements with this. A WhatsApp messaging service was being looked at to enable messages to be sent to the Police, an auto translation service was being looked at, Rural Crime Module, which allowed people to report rural crime on the website.]

(16) Reference was made to people who report crimes, but they did not get any feedback from the Police. Many households have CCTV to safeguard themselves, images are picked up and reported and no feedback is received from the Police on reported crimes and anti-social behaviour. Could the PCC look into this? Also, sometimes in ethnic minority households such as those found in Slough, Reading, High Wycombe, etc. victims find it very difficult to report domestic abuse. Could the PCC look at this?

[The PCC commented that all parts of the Thames Valley were important to the Police and all required strong local policing. In Slough, there needed to be a different approach to policing. Regarding feedback, there are often times when the Police cannot report back, however, there needed to be better communication. For example, there have been a number of recent bike thefts in Slough and people have been caught. This would be a good message to communicate to the public.]

(17) Reference was made to the Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act which was in place in Bletchley, Milton Keynes following stabbings and gang fights. The residents would be rather doubtful of illegal encampments being a priority when knife and gang crime was so prevalent. In the PCC’s foreword, specific mention is made in his vision for policing, of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes. Why has this vision singled out Milton Keynes?

[The PCC replied that knife crime was a priority and was in the document under both strong local policing and fighting serious organised crime. The work of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) was key to fighting knife crime. Additional funding had been received from the Home Office of £1.16m for the VRU. Milton Keynes was a large unitary authority and was separate to Buckinghamshire and that was why it was singled out in the foreword.]

(18) In relation to strong local policing, where does the closing of front counters in Police stations fit in with this priority? Is this purely financial and also could this be a job be carried out by a civilian?

[The PCC replied that if a front counter service was maintained in a rural area it would be difficult to be accessible and convenient for everyone. The PCC commented that even with more resources, he would rather the Police went out to the public as it would not be feasible to have front counters everywhere due to cost.]

Resources were being spent on more Police Officers and the public were being asked to report incidents on-line.]

(19) A Member commented that the Police and Criminal Justice Plan seemed to be a Plan for rural areas, rather than urban areas. On the point of PCSOs, some of them had secondary specialisms which meant they were pulled away from community policing. Could the PCC champion that PCSOs were their primary roles?

[The PCC disagreed that his Police and Criminal Justice Plan focused on rural areas as the list of priorities applied to all areas of the Thames Valley. Neighbourhood policing applied to all areas, serious and organised crime applied to urban areas.]

Regarding the neighbourhood teams, there will always be emergency incidents which pull PCSOs from their areas but he agreed that this should be a specialism.]

(20) In relation to speeding, could the PCC lobby for local authorities to enforce low level speeding which the Police cannot enforce?

[The PCC said he would welcome this and could not see this as an issue of local authorities taking on enforcement of lower levels of speeding, which the Police could not enforce.]

(21) There is no reference in the Plan on the issues around the Night-Time economy such as violence which occurs. Anti-social behaviour which occurs in town centres, CSPs have some good ideas and the PCC was asked to have discussions and development policies to alleviate these problems.

[The PCC agreed that CSPs were important in terms of working with TVP on developing strategies for combatting anti-social behaviour and crime in town centres and some good work was taking place in places such as Oxford. This work with CSPs would continue.]

(22) With the previous PCC having a Deputy, what plans are there to appoint a new Deputy PCC to help the PCC to carry out his role effectively across the large geographical area of Thames Valley?

[The PCC informed the Panel that at this stage there were no plans for him to have a Deputy, however, it could be that the Government make it mandatory that Deputy PCCs be appointed if fire service governance has to be taken on board.]

RESOLVED – That the Police and Criminal Justice Plan 2021-2025 be endorsed.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Consideration was given to the previous PCC's Annual Report for 2020/21 and reflects the work undertaken in meeting the following strategic priorities and Key Aims contained in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan for 2017-2021:-

- Vulnerability
- Prevention and early intervention
- Reducing re-offending
- Serious organised crime and terrorism
- Police ethics and reform

The report provided details of the progress made against the strategic priorities which were achieved during an unprecedented year because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Reference was made to the 32.6% Rape charge increase which was contrary to the national headlines of Rape convictions. The PCC was asked what Thames Valley Police was doing differently to achieve these results.

The PCC recognised that this figure was still too low but acknowledged this was to do with the work of the CPS. This was possibly an anomaly as there was still lots of work to do in this respect.

The PCC referred to the work of officers in the PCC Office who had put the report together and the Panel placed on record their thanks to officers of the PCC, together with the previous PCC, Anthony Stansfeld, for the work during his term of office.

RESOLVED – That the previous PCC's Annual Report for 2020/21 be received and noted.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS - PCC UPDATE REPORT

The Panel was provided with a report which outlined details of the funding provided by the PCC to local authority Community Safety Partnerships in the Thames Valley.

The PCC had a community safety budget of £3 million, of which £2.7 million was allocated to county and unitary councils in the Thames Valley area in the form of grants, and £0.3 million is retained by the Office of the PCC (OPCC) to fund Force-wide initiatives.

The PCC was asked about the £144,000 funding to CSPs which had been unallocated and whether this funding could have been provided elsewhere to deliver other community safety initiatives. The PCC replied that a review would be taking place into the funding of CSPs as the funding formula was outdated. CSPs would be asked for clearer plans on what their spend would be and funding would be released quarterly upon delivering part of their plan.

In response to a question about achievements and performance of CSPs in relation to the funding allocated, the PCC reported that part of the review would be looking at the allocation of funding more strategically. An example was given of CSPs providing funding for domestic abuse whereas the PCC received significant funding from the

Ministry of Justice for domestic abuse which ended up with duplication. Performance information to justify the funding would be worked into the process.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

26/21 **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

The Panel's Annual Report for 2020/21 was submitted and Members placed on record their appreciation of the work of Councillor Kieron Mallon, the previous Chairman of the Panel.

RESOLVED - That the Annual Report be adopted and published and that Panel Members submit the Annual Report to their respective local authorities for information.

27/21 **REVIEW OF POLICE AND CRIME PANEL'S RULES OF PROCEDURE, COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE, PANEL MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT TO SUB-COMMITTEES AND TASK GROUPS**

For the first meeting of the Municipal Year, the Police and Crime Panel reviews its Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements. Consideration of the Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements also reminds Panel Members, particularly new Members, of the role and functions of the Panel.

The report also requested consideration of an updated Complaints Handling Procedure as it applied to the Panel's Complaints Sub-Committee which considers Non-Criminal Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner and his Deputy, where one is appointed.

Appointments were required to the Panel's Complaints Sub-Committee, its Budget Task and Finish Group and other Task and Finish Groups if established.

The Panel were reminded that in accordance with the Panel Arrangements (paragraph 3.15), Co-opted Members were subject to interview before confirming their appointment.

For this Municipal Year, two of the newly appointed Co-opted Members from Buckinghamshire Council were not existing Members of the Panel, so their appointments were subject to these rules. Informal interviews had taken place, but the appointments had to be confirmed by all Panel Members before they were officially appointed.

Discussion took place on the process for the four Co-Opted Members from Buckinghamshire Council. The Panel was reminded that a decision was taken at the Panel meeting in November 2019 which updated the Rules of Procedure to include the appointment of four Co-Opted Members from Buckinghamshire Council due to local government reorganisation in Buckinghamshire.

The four Co-Opted members were in addition to the one Member nomination to the Panel from Buckinghamshire Council. The changes were required in order to satisfy the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and produce a balanced panel.

The representative from Milton Keynes Council expressed concern at these arrangements and referred to the changing populations around Thames Valley, particularly in relation to Milton Keynes (population 250,000) who had one Member representative on the Panel and Buckinghamshire (population 535,000), who had one Member representative and four Co-Opted Member representatives.

It was agreed that a Task and Finish Group be set up to examine the representation on the Panel, in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, and after consultation with the Home Office.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Panel’s Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements (Appendices 1 and 2) be noted.

(2) That the Panel reconfirms the decision to hold future meetings of the Panel at Buckinghamshire Council’s Gateway House in Aylesbury.

(3) That approval be given to the Protocol for the Informal Resolution Procedure regarding Complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner and his Deputy, where one is appointed (Appendix 3).

(4) That approval of the memberships of the Panel’s Complaints Sub-Committee and the Budget Task and Finish Group be delegated to the Chair in consultation with the Panel’s Scrutiny Officer.

[Subsequent to the meeting the memberships were agreed as follows:

Complaints Sub-Committee (7) – Cllr Bains, Cllr Culverhouse, Cllr Davies, Liz Jones, Cllr McHugh, Phillip Morrice and Cllr Webber.

Budget Task and Finish Group (5) – Cllr Bradburn, Cllr McHugh, Cllr Newcombe, Cllr Patman and Cllr Rouse.]

(5) That the established Sub-Committee and Task Group be agreed with no changes to their terms of reference for the following year (subject to any legislative changes).

(6) That the appointments of Councillor Richard Newcombe and Councillor Simon Rouse as Co-Opted Members of Buckinghamshire Council be confirmed.

(7) That a Task and Finish Group looking at the Panel Membership be established, with the membership agreed by the Chair, in consultation with the Panel’s Scrutiny Officer and a draft scoping report be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel for discussion and approval.

[Subsequent to the meeting the membership was agreed as follows:

Task and Finish Group on Panel Membership (7) – Cllr Bains, Cllr Barnett-Ward, Cllr Bradburn, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Newcombe and Cllr Winn.]

28/21 **PROTOCOL DEFINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AND THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY**

The Panel was informed that the aim of the Protocol was to provide clarity of the roles and expectations of the Panel and the Commissioner for the benefit of all involved in the process of policing and crime accountability.

The Protocol was agreed by both the Panel and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

29/21 **CHAIRMAN AND PCC UPDATES**

The PCC informed the Panel that his Office was recruiting new members of his team to vacancies which exist. A Head of Victims Services, a Head of Partnerships and Community Safety and a Corporate Accountant to replace Judi Banks who was leaving after 17 years' service in the Office of the PCC and the former Police Authority.

30/21 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Discussion took place on the Panel's work programme for the forthcoming Municipal Year and Members were asked to send in their views and ideas to the Panel's Scrutiny Officer.

Reference was made for the need for performance data to be reported to the Panel to measure the PCC's performance in relation to his Strategic Priorities

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

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OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel meeting on 10 September 2021

Rural Crime

Introduction

This is a high level briefing providing an outline of key activity being undertaken or planned by TVP in relation to tackling rural crime and supporting our rural communities.

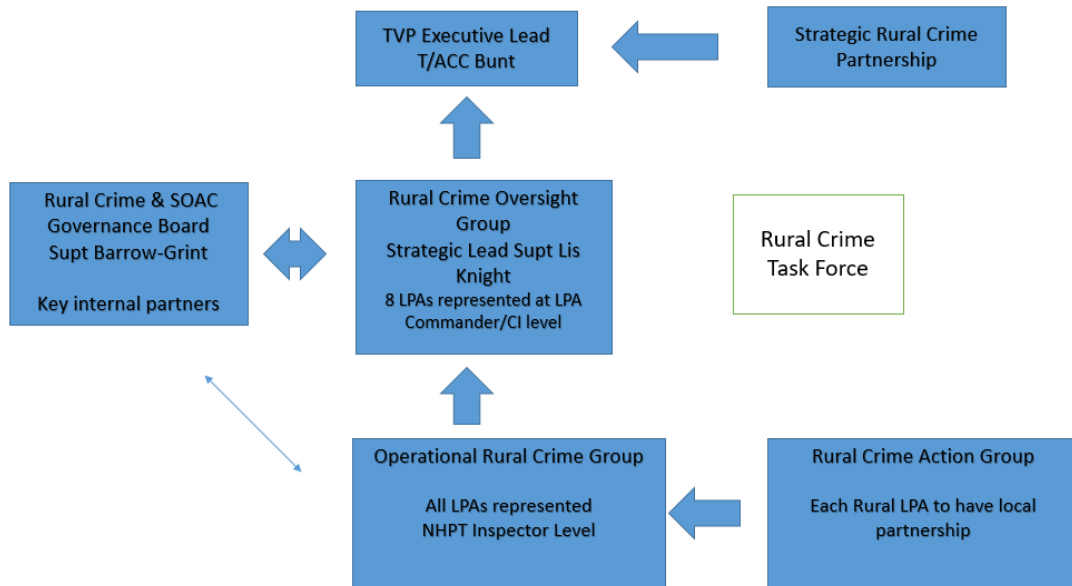
In the last 12 months there has been a significant re-focus on rural crime by the force, endorsed and supported by the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable. Key highlights include:

- The introduction of a dedicated team of officers to tackle rural crime – the rural crime taskforce. This is a significant investment from the force and clear statement of intent in relation to tackling more serious and organised criminality impacting our rural communities. The uniform team will be supported by a dedicated intelligence officer and analyst. This is a significant investment for the force and will include associated costs of equipment and training (including 4x4 capability, ANPR and drones)
- Revised and enhanced force governance to ensure appropriate strategic, tactical and operational oversight and direction.
- The introduction of a revised rural crime strategy
- The introduction of a revised force definition for rural crime to improve recording, data and analysis
- Rural crime training for our call centre and control room staff
- The introduction of a new rural crime communication strategy. Central to this will be a new rural crime newsletter which has been put together at the request of key rural stakeholders.

ACC Local policing is the chief officer lead for rural crime and chairs the rural crime partnership. The PCC is a key member of this group. The Chief Constable holds the ACC to account through existing force governance structures including CCMT and force performance group.

Rural crime Governance

Rural Crime Governance Arrangements



Rural Crime Partnership meeting – Chaired by ACC Bunt

Rural crime strategic oversight group – Chaired by Superintendent Knight

Rural crime operational group – Chaired by Chief Inspector Shaladan

Rural crime Partnership meeting Terms of reference

Aims of the Partnership

- Bring together relevant representatives and organisations to provide coordination and strategic leadership in tackling rural crime issues across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire
- Contribute to reducing rural crime and the fear of rural crime in Thames Valley

Role of the Partnership

- To engage with rural communities, enterprises and wider stakeholders to prioritise rural crime issues
- To identify good practice and expertise at local, regional and national level for implementation
- To encourage Partnership members to own specific priority issues, utilising specialist skills to develop plans focussing on prevention, intelligence and enforcement measures
- To influence and develop themes and projects to tackle rural crime issues

Rural Crime Task Force

The rural crime taskforce has been agreed at CCMT level.

Whilst rural crime has been a priority for the force for a number of years, it is often overlooked and under resourced for other more pressing issues. The geography and demographics of TVP and its large urban conurbation and rural mix can mean that force resources are concentrated into the urban areas to meet demand, threat and risk that are associated with the high volume centres of population. Whilst we have some excellent rural Neighbourhood Officers, who are highly valued by the rural community, we often struggle to provide the critical mass of Officers with the appropriate knowledge and understanding of rural crime issues to support rural policing. This means that all too often officers find themselves being reactive rather than proactive, impacting upon both our efficiency and effectiveness in tackling this crime type. It is well known within FISO and Neighbourhood teams that the deficit in rural crime intelligence and significant under reporting combined with inaccuracies around recording, make tackling rural crime offenders and OCGs extremely challenging.

Objective of the taskforce

The Rural Crime Taskforce will provide an exciting opportunity to re-energise and re focus efforts in tackling rural crime. The dedicated team will enhance the operational response to rural crime and support rural neighbourhood teams in their engagement with the community. The revised rural crime strategy and force wide governance providing consistency, focus and partnership working will enable the Task Force to target key rural crime offenders through the development of intelligence by a dedicated intelligence team.

The Task Force will:

- Provide a statement of intent to our rural communities in tackling rural crime issues, building both trust and confidence.
- Provide dedicated, proactive, specialist resource to enhance our operational capability in tackling rural crime
- Provide specialist resources to support rural neighbourhood teams in engaging with their communities thereby increasing the visibility of patrols
- Focus on gathering and developing rural crime intelligence ensuring that the team are targeting and focussing on those who cause the rural community most harm
- Effectively tackle cross border criminality through working with our neighbouring forces and co-ordinating our response across the Thames Valley
- Provide Detective capability to help tackle cross border crime series, focussing on serious and organised rural crime and bringing more offenders to justice.

Task Force Resource

1 x Insp; 2 x Sgt; 18 x PC; 2 x DC

Inspector Stuart Hutchings is now in post and PC's, a researcher and an intelligence development officer are currently being recruited to the team.

Going forward the rural crime taskforce will be deployed via a level 2 bidding process.

The task force are not (at this stage) going to manage investigations.

Operating Model

The full operating model and shift patterns have yet to be decided, however it is anticipated that the Task Force's greatest asset will be its flexibility and adaptability, ensuring that it works as a team as a whole or in parts as and when necessary. Split into two East/West teams under the leadership of two Sergeants and an Inspector, coverage will be 7 days a week, days and nights and the teams will have geographic focus in order to understand the crime types and criminals they are tackling. The Rural Crime Co-ordinator will ensure cross border links are made, crime series are identified and developed through the intelligence cell and ownership is allocated to the Task Force appropriately. They will work hand in hand with the LPAs ensuring clear communication and will support local Neighbourhood teams in enhancing their visibility, engagement and partnership working.

Equipment and Training

The setting up of this new, operationally active team will incur costs most notably with regards to vehicles. In order to ensure that the Task Force is visible, targeted and intelligence led it is critical that the team are supported with the appropriate equipment in order to maximise their effectiveness. TVP are building a large Task Force who will focus on offenders many of whom will not live within the Force.

As a *minimum* the Task Force are likely to require full use of the following;

- 4x4 vehicles x 4
- Unmarked enquiry cars x 2
- Mobile ANPR
- Vivaro Van for prisoner transport and operational equipment
- Drone capability x 2
- Night vision equipment
- Mobile phones with WhatsApp functionality

Scoping will take place around the potential for corporate sponsorship and utilising LPA Vehicles but this is expected to be minimal given that that are already heavily in use.

Change in the Rural Crime Definition

On 1st April TVP changed their rural crime definition. Our definition is now more in line with other leading forces in Rural Crime and was developed by practitioners to reflect the diverse nature of rural crime offences. Contact Management have received training in the identification and new definition of rural crime and our Intranet pages have been updated. All rural crimes will be flagged so that the force can better understand the rural crime picture.

The new definition was written following consultation and agreement with key stakeholders and partners.

The new definition is as follows:

Offences that relate to farms, agriculture, wildlife, the environment and heritage sites where they are targeted due to their isolation or rural location.

- Agricultural crime constitutes any statutory or common law offence which may be committed against people in agricultural communities, their lands, businesses and property (property includes plant and agricultural machinery and animals such as livestock and horses). Agricultural communities are those who live within a rural area as defined by the Office of National Statistics 2011 Rural Urban Classification to Super Output level and are involved in the agriculture industry.
- Environmental crime constitutes an illegal act which directly harms the environment. This element of the strategy will be largely delivered by supporting partner agencies.
- Heritage crime constitutes any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings.
- Wildlife crime constitutes any unlawful act or omission, which affects any wild creature, plant or habitat

Recording of Rural Crimes

Training has been rolled out across contact management teams to ensure that rural crime is being correctly recorded and flagged. The SPOC for this is Alison Ashbolt.

Alison identified that rural crime was often being recorded incorrectly and that the number of crimes affecting rural communities were not reflective of the criminality occurring.

Alison created a training package for contact management that sought to ensure that rural crimes were being correctly;

- Recognised
- Recorded
- Responded to
- Resourced

Alison put forward a case to train all contact management staff and her package was successfully rolled out between Jan and April 2021.

Alison is now turning her training package into an online course so that it can be completed by all new staff to contact management and to allow those that joined post April 2021 to receive the training.

This training has received a lot of positive feedback and as a result 10 contact management staff have volunteered to be 'rural crime SPOC's'. These SPOC's are spread throughout the three control rooms and sit under Alison and 2 other rural crime specialists within contact management.

The SPOC's and specialists will go on attachments with Local policing to enhance their knowledge and maintain their CPD.

The long term goal is for this training to be shared with Hampshire.

A bespoke online rural crime reporting tool has also been developed and is due to go live imminently.

The rural crime co-ordinators are regularly providing feedback to Alison so that she can share it with contact management where crimes and incidents are not being correctly recorded.

This training and feedback is proving successful and rural crimes are on the whole being recorded correctly at the point of reporting.

Rural crime reported offences

Thames Valley Police data

LPA	Valid Recorded Crime		
	Aug 19 to Jul 20	Aug 20 to Jul 21	% Change
Bracknell Forest & Wokingham	81	79	-2%
Reading	3	5	67%
Slough	1	3	200%
West Berkshire	85	83	-2%
Windsor & Maidenhead	18	33	83%
Aylesbury Vale	125	126	1%
Chiltern & South Bucks	48	92	92%
Milton Keynes	27	24	-11%
Wycombe	32	58	81%
Cherwell & West Oxfordshire	111	128	15%
Oxford	2	4	100%
South & Vale	268	256	-4%
Not Assigned to LPA	7	6	-14%
Grand Total	808	897	11%

NFU Mutual

The recently published National Farmers Union Rural Crime report has identified from its claim statistics that rural theft has cost the UK £43.3m in 2020, a 20% decrease on the previous year. The NFU have linked this decrease to lockdown movement restrictions, police rural crime teams and beefed up farm security.

Unfortunately NFU could not provide specific Thames Valley data but the South East data was as follows;

	Cost in 2019	Cost in 2020	% change from 2019
South East	£8.7m	£7.1m	-18.6%

Initiatives for policing rural crime

Country watch messaging service

It was identified that there was a real gap in sharing fast time information and intelligence with our rural communities. The WhatsApp initiative was seen as a solution for information and intelligence to be shared quickly and effectively.

The WhatsApp groups are now up and running across all LPA's with rural communities. The groups are owned by the rural communities with police (rural crime specialists) embedded within each group. The groups are an accepted model with a code of conduct that all members will use appropriate language and behaviour and that the groups will not be a platform for reporting crime.

These groups have;

- Led to an increase in intelligence gathering opportunities
- Acted as an early warning to members to spot emerging issues

- Led to a better understanding of competing demands and helped manage unrealistic expectations
- Enabled more joined up partnership working
- Assisted in alleviating the feeling of isolation within rural communities
- Been used to share crime reduction messages
- Reunited loose livestock with farmers
- Been used to promote success stories by both TVP and partners
- Been used to promote TVP central publicity campaigns
- Used to support operational activity around missing persons.

Success story

PC Ian Kent (South and Vale rural crime co-ordinator) whilst reviewing WhatsApp messages saw that a gamekeeper had sent a message saying that his wife had seen a suspicious vehicle near to their field and that the driver had tampered with the gate. The presence of the gamekeeper's wife had scared off the vehicle so the gamekeeper just sent this message for the information of other members.

PC Kent called the gamekeeper and obtained descriptions of the vehicle, index and descriptions of the occupants. PC Kent submitted intel (43210349731/43210351333) and put a PNC marker on the vehicle (URN 2021 0805 1180).

The following day the vehicle was stopped by Surrey police and items including catapults, knives and other poaching paraphernalia were found.

This vehicle and the occupants are now in the national intelligence picture.

The Rural Crime calendar

It was identified that there was a gap in knowledge around when rural crime was occurring and how best we could direct our resources to tackle it.

Thames Valley Police together with Country Watch have put together a rural crime calendar which highlights month by month farming and rural activity and allows for operational planning around that activity. This calendar will be utilised by neighbourhood officers and the rural crime taskforce to ensure operational effectiveness.

Rural Crime Snap Guides

It was identified that there were knowledge gaps around rural crime and that all officers needed the information to hand so that they could deal effectively with any incident that they were sent to.

As such, rural crime snap guides were introduced. These provide easily accessed information and can be seen on officer's mobile phones.

Rural crime snap guides have now been uploaded onto force mobile phones to provide staff with direct access to legislation and tactics.

The guides developed so far include:

- Hunting with dogs
- Rural Crime Definition
- Stop, Search and Seizure
- Rural Crime Investigation

In development:

- Deer poaching
- Badger baiting
- Fly Tipping
- Live Stock Worrying

Mental Health Focus

A concerning link was made between mental health, suicide and the rural and farming communities. An initiative has been put in place in partnership with SCAS to raise awareness and provide support for those in our rural communities who may be, or may know someone who is struggling.

- Work has been carried out with various charities to create awareness posters
- SCAS and NHS are briefed and on hand to support anyone coming forward as a result of this initiative
- Funding has been secured for printing of posters
- Suicide locations across the force have been identified and posters will be placed in these areas.

This is due to go live in September 2021.

Communications strategy over the coming months.

Over the last 12 months a communications strategy has been developed to improve the way in which we get information to our rural communities.

Objective:

To build trust and confidence in rural communities

Actions:

- Develop and deliver internal communications approach – promotion of recruitment opportunities for the Taskforce (led by recruitment and retention comms)
- Develop support package for community members reporting crime and victims of rural crime
- Develop and deliver external communications approach – launching the first issue of the rural crime newsletter in Sept which will feature, successful case outcomes, prevention advice, updates on initiatives and links to support services.
- Taskforce Introduction. Soft launch Oct-21 – The Taskforce initial details will be included in the newsletter and internal comms will be issued at this point, however the full launch will not take place until the spring once the full Taskforce team is in post.
- Partnership Event (NFU) Apr-22. This may be part of the Taskforce launch depending on timings and recruitment.

Additionally, a rural crime newsletter will be produced and distributed amongst our rural communities. The first of these is due to go out in September 2021.

National work

Op Traverse – National operation to tackle the links between angling and SAOC. TVP are taking part in an angling training day with the Fisheries Enforcement Support Service on 27th September. The RCTF will also be trained. Inspector James Davies is leading on this.

Operation Re-unite – National operation in response to dog theft. TVP have provided a SPOC Jackie Murdock where dog theft Intel is collated and held at FIB under DI Steve Dixon.

TVP sit on the new Police National Dog theft Working Group (Operation Reunite) which is chaired by DCC Amanda Blakeman of Gwent force, who in turn is the NPCC Lead for SOAC and also sits on the governments Pet Theft Taskforce

Jackie Murdock ensures that officers are made aware of how to record dog thefts correctly so there is some consistency and offences can be identified – this has been done in conjunction with the Force Crime Registry. Also advice around outside agencies to contact, microchip companies and support to victims is put into each crime OEL.

Op Reunite has published media messaging in line with National Strategy that TVP media team are aware of. This has been shared with our media team and TVP are compliant.

Intelligence around illegal breeding is being collated and shared. We have worked with Trading Standards, Kent police (covering Dover), South Wales Police (leading on illegal breeding) and animal charities.

Anything of cross border relevance will be fed into OP Opal (held by West Mercia) to feed the national intelligence picture around dog theft.

Numbers of thefts for 2021 to date are still low.

Operation Gallilao – National response to hare coursing. TVP are feeding into the national intelligence picture due to the travelling nature of hare coursers. This intel is regularly being derived from the WhatsApp groups.

National wildlife network – DCC Debbie Ford from Northumbria has taken over the National lead for Wildlife and Rural crime and is redeveloping the national strategy. TVP historically have not been involved in any work under this lead but Inspector Stuart Hutchings from the rural crime task force is the new TVP SPOC and will be attending the next meeting and future meetings going forward.

Operation Cobb – National response to Badger culling is being run throughout September and October 2021. This affects South and Vale, West Berkshire and Cherwell and West. Silver commander for this is Chief Inspector Ade Hall.

Cross border work

Many of the Rural LPA's are linking in with neighbouring forces to join forces in tackling rural crime.

Example

PCSO Thomas Walcott-Smith based at Wantage has strong links with PC Marc Jackson from Wiltshire Police.

Cross boarder work includes;

- Wilts Pol are included in the TVP WhatsApp group and intelligence is shared between both forces with the rural communities.
- Op Massey and Op Migrate were both joint operations with Wilts Police.
- A joint operation is currently being planned with Wilts Police to tackle rural burglaries.

Appendix

Good work examples

Below are some examples to provide a flavour of some of the positive activity and proactive work that has been carried out across the force. Further examples and information around those listed are available if required.

Operation Jeep – Cherwell & West 43210117365

Operation Jeep is the LPA operational response to Rural Crime. The deployments are high visibility patrols in locations identified by crime data and intelligence and where possible will link in with similar operation from neighbouring LPA's (S&V) and forces (Glos Pol).

The operation has deployed once a month over a 5 month period. The two day deployment involved landowners and game keepers as part of the resources. Using their local knowledge to enhance the patrol plan and encouraging partnership working this resulted in numerous stop checks of individuals and vehicles within the patrol area. The operation attracted positive feedback from the participating landowners who are happy to support future operations when commitments will allow.

Future operation Jeep dates are in the planning stage at this time.

Aylesbury WhatsApp group

The WhatsApp group provided intel that led to the arrest of three persons for hare coursing (Occ: 43210243332).

Op Agility

The creation of Op Agility (5xNH Resources) has allowed for an effective response to emerging problems. This team is a uniformed resource that is not responsible for any particular geographic area and increase the effectiveness of the LPA response to community/LPA priorities. This is evidenced by a Robbery/Theft/ASB series that developed in Buckingham. Op Agility (guided by PCT) were able to respond quickly to reports with visible disruption resulting in weapons being seized and suspects being disrupted. This investigations (managed by PCT) resulted in the arrest of 17 suspects. 10 were subject to youth disposals (2 charged) for offences including: possession of imitation firearm, robbery, assault, possession of offensive weapon, and violent disorder (Lead occurrence: 43200365990). The investigation team received a High Sheriff's award.



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel meeting on 12 September 2021

Thames Valley Police response to HMICFRS Roads Policing report

Background

HMICFRS published their report into the national Roads Policing picture in summer 2020, based on fieldwork conducted at the end of 2019. Seven forces were visited, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Humberside, The Metropolitan Police, Staffordshire, South Wales & West Midlands. 13 recommendations were published as a result, covering a range of issues from training to strategy and intelligence at national and force level. Not all recommendations are directly related to Thames Valley roads policing, for example they may relate to other national bodies (e.g. College of Policing, NPCC, NRPOII). A brief summary of the relevant recommendations is presented below, along with progress and status information.

HMICFRS conducted an audit of Thames Valley Police Roads Policing Unit in Q1 2021. The audit covered the relevant force level recommendations. The feedback from HMICFRS audit is reflected in the updates below. Broadly speaking, HMICFRS found that TVP Roads Policing processes and structure were appropriate and effective and were working to support the recommendations.

Recommendations 1 – 3: relate to the Department for Transport and Home Office.

Recommendation 4: Force strategic threat and risk assessments (STRA) should identify the areas of highest harm and risk and the appropriate responses.

Update: HMICFRS found that department has a clear structure comprising of a specific RPU STRA that is linked in the case of TVP into both the force tasking process for the here and now and in terms of future planning within the FMS that takes a 3 to 5 year look at the demand which the unit will need to address. By having this structure, the RPU is able to contribute to tackling the highest priorities of the force (i.e. targeted work against OCG's) as well as RPU specific activities such as reducing KSI's and work such as the fatal 4 with appropriate performance indicators and monitoring.

Recommendation 5: relates to an NPCC review of NRPOI (national roads policing operations and intelligence)

Recommendation 6: Forces should ensure sufficient analytical capability, threat identification, information sharing and evaluation of road safety initiatives.

Update: RP have reviewed and enhanced the tasking process to ensure operations are directly linked to threat and risk on the roads and the process provides useful, practical information from relevant sources. We continue to review our approach to partnership information sharing and deployment of resources and are currently in the process of augmenting the geographical tasking capability and reviewing our partnership arrangements.

Recommendation 7: The Dept for Transport Circular 1/2007 should include a requirement that forces should publish the annual revenue received as a result of the provision of driver offending-related training and how that revenue has been spent.

Update: The department has been in consultation with the relevant finance leads on the subject and is in discussions to agree the most suitable format for publishing.

Recommendation 8: The force should comply with (the current version of) Department for Transport Circular 1/2007 in relation to the use of speed and red-light cameras.

Update: The department is compliant in this respect.

Recommendation 9: Where Operation Snap (the provision of digital video footage by the public) has been adopted, it should have enough resources and process to support its efficient and effective use.

Update: This is supported in TVP through the Criminal Justice Dept. We have regular working groups with them to monitor and coordinate the operation of the scheme to ensure its effectiveness, capacity and funding.

Recommendation 10: The resources allocated to policing the strategic road network should be sufficient. The force should have effective partnership arrangements including appropriate intelligence sharing agreements with highways agencies.

Update: In terms of overall resources allocated to the SRN, the department (in common with other areas of policing) has seen significant reductions in resources in recent years. However, coverage of the SRN has been prioritised. In addition, we are working with the uplift programme in TVP on the plans for the department. The department continues to perform consistently well in attending SRN collisions, despite recent high demand, and has achieved 100% collision service rate on strategic roads according to performance data for April – July. We regularly coordinate with highways England on information sharing and demand related issues. In addition to this, we are reviewing our partnership arrangements and structure to ensure we are effectively using the resources we have available for partnership working.

Recommendation 11: The College of Policing should include a serious collision investigation module for completion along with the Professionalising Investigation Programme. Chief constables should make sure that all serious collision investigators in their force are then trained to those standards.

Update: We are linked in with the College of Policing on this issue and the majority of the collision investigators are accredited and will continue to be.

Recommendation 12: Welfare support should be provided to specialist investigators and Family Liaison Officers.

Update: Specific TRiM (a proven trauma support framework) practices are in place to support staff welfare. A wellbeing survey in late 2020 that specifically covered traumatic incidents and the support offered was conducted. The results showed a positive impact on staff wellbeing.

Recommendation 13: Relates to the College of Policing and the National Police Chiefs' Council establishing role profiles for defined functions within roads policing and identify the required skills and capabilities.



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel meeting on 10 September 2021

Average Speed Cameras vs Fixed Spot Speed Enforcement Cameras

Introduction

This paper sets out the differences between different speed enforcement camera types, with advantages and dis-advantages of each, as well as providing further understanding of the capital/revenue expenditure of each system.

AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS

Effectiveness & Deployment Characteristics

- These fixed camera sites have the effect of calming the speed over longer distance and can be used at sites where significant number of collisions are scattered along a length of road and for major roadworks enforcement
- Achieve high levels of driver compliance and over longer distances
- The ability to capture offending is tailored by the camera/site configuration. Cameras can capture the front of a vehicle or the rear, with advantages and disadvantages for each option. For example, front captures often provide identification of the driver and other offences (e.g. mobile use, non-wearing of seatbelt). Rear captures do not provide this, but do compensate for the absence of front number plates on vehicles such as speeding motorcycles.
- Installation requires mobile network coverage/ADSL and mains power.
- Sites are static and difficult to modify after installation.
- Equipment must be type approved and certified by the Home Office for use
- A minimum of 2 enforcement cameras must be used to measure the average speed between known distance of the entry/exit cameras
- Depending on the camera supplier chosen, cameras will have a minimum distance that a 2 camera system can operate 75 – 250 metres
- There is no theoretical maximum distance as a scheme of cameras can be added for the length of road which enforcement is required
- Typical systems will enforce between 20mph and 140mph

Cost

- The up-front investment cost can be high. For example, a two-camera system currently falls into the £120k-£150k range.
- There are additional running costs for service, calibration and administration for both the operator and the criminal justice system.
- Typical installation times can be several months, depending on the road layout and camera sites.
- As offending rates are low, there is a reduction in demand associated with dealing with collisions, e.g. police, ambulance, fire, health, family and community cost.
- There is a significant increase in time to cost recovery due to the high level of compliance.
- Annual calibration is unknown as each installation is site/number of cameras specific but would estimate them to be in line with the fixed cameras (£1,300) each camera

- Annual 3G/4G sim charges circa £700 per camera but will depend on volume of offences captured so cost could be more or less than this
- Back office servers - £4,500 per different speed limit to be enforced

The following items have not been included in the pricing: • Traffic Management • Civil Engineering Works • Signing (speed limit signs, repeater signs)

Pros and Cons Average Speed

Pros

Higher level of compliance

Less likely to be targeted by arson/vandalised

Can enforce over longer distances and multiple lanes

Maintains free flowing traffic improving travel times and traffic pollution within city environments

Greater return to reducing KSI

Cons

Expensive solution

More compliance means longer timeframe to cost recover capital investment

Limited mobility – Once installed system cameras can only be moved by supplier

FIXED SPOT SPEED ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS

Effectiveness & Deployment Characteristics

- Fixed speed cameras used at sites where collisions are clustered around a particular point or location
- Achieve high levels of driver compliance mainly confined to the vicinity or local area of camera location
- The ability to capture offending is determined by camera supplier, by the camera/site configuration. Cameras can capture the front of a vehicle or the rear, with advantages and disadvantages for each option. For example, front captures often provide identification of the driver and other offences (e.g. mobile use, non-wearing of seatbelt). Rear captures do not do this, but do compensate for the absence of front number plates on vehicles such as speeding motorcycles.
- Installation requires mobile network coverage/ADSL and mains power.
- Sites are static. However areas where there are multiple poles allow for rotational enforcement thus achieving wider compliance as road users will be unable to determine which camera is live vs another camera location.
- Equipment must be type approved and certified by the Home Office for use
- Cameras can be bi-directional reducing the need for additional cameras in the opposite direction at the same location
- Cameras can also enforce multiple lanes thus reducing the need for further cameras and investment
- Typical cameras will enforce from 20mph to 170+mph

Cost

- The up-front investment cost can be quite high. For example, on average a single fixed camera install would be in the region of £40 to £45k. There are additional running costs for service, calibration and administration for both the operator and the criminal justice system.
- Typical installation times can be several months, depending on the road layout and camera sites.

- Offending rates will depend on the site location and level of speed offending, but anecdotally higher offending rates are observed over an Average speed solution.
- Depending on the camera solution chosen there could be further on costs to replace piezo sensors or secondary white line road markings, as these wear out over time due to their placement within or on the road surface
- Annual calibration is circa £1,300 per camera
- Annual 3G/4G sim charges circa £700 per camera but will depend on volume of offences captured so cost could be more or less than this
- Back office servers £4,500

The following items have not been included in the pricing: • Traffic Management • Civil Engineering Works • Signing (speed limit signs, repeater signs)

Fixed Spot Speed

Pros

Cheaper option

Cameras can be moved to different locations where other poles have been installed

Some suppliers offer a camera, which is also a fixed spot speed, as well as a mobile enforcement camera, offering greater efficiencies with increased utilisation of the equipment

Cons

Radar enforcement can give inaccurate speed-readings, for example, roller shutter doors on vans or curtain sided Lorries.

More prone to vandalism

White line secondary check marks wear out and require re-painting

Piezo electric sensors/loops installed within the road surface; these wear out over time and need replacing. If Utility companies dig up the road and damage the Piezo/loops, again replacement will be required.

Strict guidelines apply to installation of fixed cameras concerning KSI over a 3-year period and radius of incidents

Can encourage late braking or disruption to free flowing traffic, can encourage vehicles to slow down rapidly then speed up once passed the camera site thus increasing emissions/poor air quality, noise levels to local community, and heightened risk of road incident

TYPICAL QUESTIONS ASKED PERTAINING TO AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS

Does the mobile network coverage usually incur a cost for the operating organisation?

Yes, the 3G/4G network costs will be part of the annual running fees as well as annual calibration, service and maintenance.

Are there any schemes operational within Hampshire and Thames Valley?

At the current time Hampshire Constabulary are looking at the viability to install an average speed scheme within the Meon Valley. The scheme is looking to reduce KSI, improve speed compliance and reduce the number of complaints received from local residents due to the number of noisy vehicles. If fixed spot speed cameras were utilised, it could exacerbate the noise situation where by vehicles would slow down at the camera and then speed off after the camera. By installing an average speed solution, this should minimise such activity, as the scheme is spread over a given distance and not localised.

Is the reason for Motorway systems primarily for the protection of workforce?

Yes – Due to known compliance of motorist, it is considered as the best solution to protect road workers and motorists whilst works are being undertaken. Once works are completed then the contractor removes the system.

Do we have an estimate of the service-life of a typical system or camera site?

This will be supplier/product specific but usual lifecycle expectancy is 5 to 10 years

Could we have a summary statement covering the types of site they are good for, e.g. they are effective for covering high volume traffic areas where speed is a contributing risk factor and the road layout supports measuring average speed?

Average speed cameras are used for a variety of reasons and differing road designs from motorways, dual carriageways to single A roads or where enforcement is required to be over longer distances. Average speed systems are used where speed compliance is necessary (protecting motorway workers and road users when road works are being undertaken). A KSI hot spot or road or section of road where non-compliance to speed is an issue and therefore a heightened risk of incident, then average speed cameras could be considered.

More than 50 permanent Jenoptik SPECS average speed cameras schemes are in operation around the UK delivering on average, reductions greater than 70% KSI . It is for this very reason that average speed cameras are seen as the best solution for speed compliance and casualty reduction.

Are there any legislation, guidelines or technical limitations? For example, must measure the speed over a specific distance/time?

This will differ from supplier to supplier; there will be a minimum distance that the cameras will have to cover to operate.

Only legislation requirement is for Home Office Type Approval, but DfT 1/2007 guidelines are still used in application - Awaiting updated version which should be released sometime this year.

Are there further cost implications that should be considered?

The cost for back office staff will also need to be factored in. Is there sufficient capacity to process scheme captures within normal BAU staffing, or will an increase in establishment need to be considered.

Agreement will need to be made regarding who will fund the increase in establishment, if the main scheme has been funded by LOCAL AUTHORITY for example.

Current Suppliers of Home Office Type Approved (HOTA) equipment

Average Speed

Siemens
Redspeed International
Jenoptik
Neology

Fixed Spot Speed

Cubic Gatso
Redspeed International
Jenoptik
Truvelo
Redflex

SPEED CAMERA NARRATIVE

What is the focus of the intervention?

Both fixed and mobile speed cameras are used to enforce traffic speed limits, detect speeding vehicles and reduce road traffic collisions and injuries that result from them.

Many countries have seen an increase in the use of automatic speed enforcement, using speed detection devices such as cameras, which may be monitored or unmonitored, mobile or fixed, overt or covert. Speed cameras mostly use speed sensors to trigger a camera to capture an image of any vehicle (and its number plate) travelling above a pre-set speed. Modern systems use digital and video cameras and are able to transmit information over data networks. Once the evidence has been reviewed and an offence verified, a notification is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle. Sanctions for committing an offence can include licence points, driving bans, fines and driver awareness courses.

The focus of this review is on the use of speed cameras to prevent speeding, road traffic collisions and injuries and fatalities resulting from road traffic collisions.

This narrative is based on one meta-analytic review covering 51 primary studies. Nine of the primary studies in the review were carried out in the UK, 11 from Australia, five from the USA. The remaining studies were carried out across a number of other countries (including Denmark, Finland, Germany, Spain, Hong Kong, Belgium, South Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Canada, Norway and Italy).

How effective is it?

Overall, the evidence suggests that the intervention has reduced crime. The meta-analysis found that speed cameras led to reductions in: average speed (7%), proportion of vehicles exceeding the speed limit (52%), collisions (19%), collisions resulting in injury (18%) and in severe or fatal collisions (21%), when compared to sites with no speed cameras.

How strong is the evidence?

The review was sufficiently systematic that most forms of bias that could influence the study conclusions can be ruled out.

The evidence is taken from a systematic review covering 51 studies, which demonstrated a high-quality design in terms of having a transparent, and well-designed search strategy, featuring a valid statistical analysis, sufficiently assessing the risk of bias in the analysis and giving due consideration to the way outcomes were measured and combined. The review did not explore the issue of publication bias.

How does it work?

Speed cameras are suggested to reduce crime through deterrence. This may operate in one of two ways:

1. General deterrence – The threat of being caught and punished as a result of speed cameras discouraging potential offenders in the general population from speeding.
2. Specific deterrence – The act of being caught and punished as a result of speed cameras discouraging active offenders from re-offending.

Two primary studies in the review reported 'diffusion of benefits' (i.e., positive spill over or halo effects) from sites where the cameras were operating to the wider area. One study reported a significant 21% reduction on a motorway without camera enforcement and the second reported significant crash reductions 1km upstream and downstream of camera locations. One further primary study found some evidence that the crime reduction effects were concentrated within a short distance of camera sites. Authors suggest that the diffusion of benefits might be indicative of general deterrence in operation.

One study speculated that covert cameras may increase the detection rate (due to drivers being unaware of their presence and driving at faster speeds) and therefore increase the specific deterrence effect. Increased fines were also postulated to increase specific deterrence. The review authors note that it would be possible in principle to explore these mechanisms further, but that the original studies did not provide the necessary information to empirically test.

In which contexts does it work best?

Suggested moderators included road type, speed limits, setting (urban or rural), time of day and weather. Primary studies only provided enough information to allow the review to empirically test one of these; whether an urban or rural setting influenced how effective speed cameras were. The review notes that there was no evidence that the effects of speed cameras differed between urban and rural areas. The review found some evidence of greater reductions in crashes when cameras were operating in rainy and wet conditions (one study). Two primary studies reported that speed cameras had greater reductions on crashes during the day than at night and on weekdays than at weekends.

What can be said about implementing this initiative?

The review noted that different methods of implementation might alter the way in which speeding behaviour is modified. For example, whether cameras are obviously visible (overt versus covert, and whether cameras are yellow or grey), whether they are fixed or mobile and the levels of enforcement (operational hours and penalties issued). Meta-analysis found no evidence that the effect of speed cameras on speeding behaviour or collisions differed by whether speed cameras were covert or overt. The review notes that there was some evidence to suggest that fixed cameras had a greater effect on all road traffic crashes (from the meta-analysis of 15 studies) and those resulting in fatalities or severe injuries (from meta-analysis of 5 studies) than mobile cameras. There was little information on further implementation factors in the primary studies.

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

How much might it cost?

All of the primary studies that reported economic analyses, conveyed positive outcomes, although their details were not comparable and could not therefore be synthesised in the review. One primary study estimated a cost benefit ratio alone, two estimated costs savings alone and three estimated both. Primary studies typically collected data on crash costs, overall capital costs of scheme implementation, annual operating and maintenance costs, fine costs and ticketing revenue. Detailed costs, such as costs per unit, personnel costs and administration of sanctions were not widely reported.

The cost of treatment saved (from casualties prevented) was reported in one primary study evaluating 56 mobile safety cameras in the UK Northumbria Police area. In this, an estimation of around £30,000 was saved in treatment costs alone over the two years of the study.

Cost-benefit ratios estimated that the benefits exceed the estimated costs of speed camera programmes by at least 3:1, and were larger when the time horizons were five years or more. Comparisons of costs between speed camera programmes are difficult to make, however, due to large variations in implementation.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The review notes that the primary studies differed widely in terms of quality, study periods, settings, length of follow up, types of cameras evaluated and importantly, unreported factors (such as other road safety interventions occurring concurrently). Due to this variability, the exact size of the effects of speed cameras on speeding and crash outcomes must be interpreted with a degree of caution, however there is good evidence that overall, the implementation of speed cameras is associated with reductions in speeding, collisions and associated injuries.

SUMMARY

Overall, the evidence suggests that speed cameras can reduce traffic speed and road traffic collisions. The meta-analysis found that speed cameras led to reductions in all measured outcomes: average speed, proportion of vehicles exceeding the speed limit, collisions, collisions resulting in injury, and in severe or fatal collisions, when compared to sites with no speed cameras. There was some evidence that effects differed by type of speed camera (fixed or mobile), and no evidence for difference of effect between overt or covert cameras or between cameras in urban and rural areas. There was some evidence that effects were greater within a short distance of camera sites compared to the wider areas. Comparisons of costs between speed camera programmes were difficult to make, however, all primary studies that reported economic analyses conveyed positive outcomes.

Resources

Jenoptik.co.uk

RAC Foundation – The Effectiveness of Average Speed Cameras in Great Britain Sept 2016

Steinbach, R., Perkins, C., Edwards, P., Beechers, D., Roberts, I. (2016) [Speed cameras to reduce speeding traffic and road traffic injuries](#)

This narrative was prepared by the Cochrane Injuries Group in the Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and was co-funded by the College of Policing and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). ESRC Grant title: 'University Consortium for Evidence-Based Crime Reduction'. Grant Ref: ES/L007223/1.

Uploaded 12/07/2017 College of Policing Toolkit.

Office of the PCC for Thames Valley

1 September 2021

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OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel meeting on 10 September 2021

Update on Community Speedwatch

BACKGROUND

Community Speedwatch has operated in Thames Valley in the past, however historically it has not been well supported by the police. If a local Neighbourhood Team showed an interest they were excellent at helping volunteers, but the coverage was patchy and many groups felt neglected and unsupported.

Speeding is an issue for almost every community in the Thames Valley and Community Speedwatch can make a significant contribution to addressing it. However poor support in the past and lack of promotion has, in some places, damaged the brand of Community Speedwatch.

The Police & Crime Commissioner has driven the relaunch of Community Speedwatch and the PCC has committed funding to support the project through the OPCC and led the work with the police and partners to prepare for the new scheme.

AIM OF THAMES VALLEY COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Community groups will be empowered to educate road users about safer speeds and will also be providing valuable data to the police.

By relaunching Thames Valley Community Speedwatch the intention is to overcome some of the poor performance issues of the past and to provide a consistent approach to speedwatch across the Thames Valley. The new scheme is more than just a revamp of the old one. There are some notable differences and a more ambitious aim to integrate more fully with Roads Policing.

NOTABLE DIFFERENCE/IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SCHEME

Below are some of the key differences that will make this new scheme stand out:

- Day to day operation will be supported by Community Speedwatch Online, a non-for-profit organisation set up in 2012 which provides a bespoke online platform for registration, training, session planning, data entry and analysis.
- Clearer promotion of the scheme with a single point of contact.
- Speed detection devices and other equipment can be provided to start-up groups on a loan basis and funded by the OPCC (subject to demand and ongoing funding availability).
- For groups that choose to purchase (or already have purchased) their own device, a clear list of approved devices will be available, along with a black-list of devices that are not approved by the police.
- Regular communication with volunteers – volunteer newsletter due to go out in September
- Improved training.
- Improved processes to provide for better enforcement by police for persistent offenders.
- Better use of data to assist with police enforcement.
- Improved training for neighbourhood teams to support Community Speedwatch

PILOT PROGRAMME

Thames Valley Police are currently operating a pilot of the new scheme with the support of Community Speedwatch Online. This was launched in April 2021 having been postponed on two occasions due to coronavirus. 25 groups are currently operating under the new pilot scheme in Wycombe and South & Vale LPAs. The response so far is very positive and so – barring any last minute problems – it is hoped that the next stage of the roll out can begin in early October.

ROLL OUT

From October onwards the remaining existing speedwatch groups will be migrated to the new system. Capacity inevitably means that not all groups can be moved over in one go, and the timescale will depend on a number of factors, but it is hoped to have completed the move of all existing groups to the new system by the end of the year.

EXPANDING THE SCHEME

Priority will be given to those groups that already exist, but the ambition is to significantly increase the number of groups operating in Thames Valley. As the migration of existing groups will take some time, combined with the winter weather, widespread promotion of Community Speedwatch will not be launched until Spring 2022. In the first instance those interested in taking part will be directed to existing groups if they exist, and if setting up a new group then support, including equipment can be provided.



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel meeting on 10 September 2021

Community Safety Fund Allocations

Background

Prior to the creation of PCCs, local councils received funding from the Home Office and other Government departments to help deliver crime & disorder reduction work. In 2013/14, the responsibility for providing these services transferred to PCCs and the Home Office allocated circa £3m to the PCC in support of this work. This is called my Community Safety Fund.

Unlike most other PCCs in England and Wales, I continue to allocate the vast majority of this budget to the 9 upper tier Local Authorities within the Thames Valley area, in the form of grants. In 2021/22, circa 90% of my total budget, or £2.7m, is allocated to local authorities.

In 2014/15 the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner worked closely with the Police & Crime Panel to develop a fairer “needs based” formula, which considered data around population and crime related factors. Whilst this formula was approved by the PCC and endorsed by the Panel, it required a phased transition, which was never fully implemented.

Recognising the demands on CSPs

The formula has been reworked to incorporate three factors:

- Population (50% weighted)
- Crime (25% weighted)
- Non-crime demand, such as ASB and fear for welfare (25% weighted)

It is widely acknowledged that population has the most significant impact on community safety demand. My decision to include non-crime demand on top of recorded crime is intentional. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have always been asked to take a lead role in anti-social behaviour. However, they are increasingly being asked to support preventative work and are well placed to deliver in this area. I also acknowledge the essential contribution of CSPs in helping to move from tertiary demand (often reactive) towards primary prevention and targeted secondary interventions. Including the non-crime demand within the formula, therefore, recognises this CSP role.

In my opinion this new allocation model represents a fairer “needs based” support across the force area. The changes will, however, be implemented gradually in order to allow all local authorities time to transition to the new arrangements.

Commitments for the longer term

CSPs have a statutory duty to write three-year plans and make commitments to their communities on what they will deliver and how. Outside of their own local authority budgets, they have had to do this against the backdrop of relatively short one-year grant allocations. This can create artificial timescales for both PCCs and CSPs to respond to need and an annual process of developing, reviewing and approving spend plans.

In order to demonstrate my commitment to supporting CSPs and to allow longer term planning, I intend to commit to three years of funding for local authorities. This will allow CSPs to commit to multi-year projects that support my Police & Criminal Justice Plan. Whilst Home Office funding is currently only allocated on an annual basis, I expect to be able to maintain this level of funding over the three-year period, subject to no radical changes in overall grant from the Government. My intention is to review the funding after two years with a view to being able to renew the arrangements for a further three years.

Alongside increased commissioning and activity to be undertaken directly by my office, I intend to commit £7.72m over the next three years to Community Safety Partnerships. Local allocations will be as follows:

Local Authority	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Bracknell Forest	£134,699	£129,369	£124,039	£118,709
Buckinghamshire	£436,567	£436,567	£486,132	£537,585
Milton Keynes	£259,015	£259,015	£295,738	£333,860
Oxfordshire	£686,820	£686,820	£699,307	£712,271
Reading	£453,128	£373,411	£293,694	£213,977
Slough	£332,499	£287,641	£242,784	£197,926
West Berkshire	£154,268	£153,588	£152,908	£152,228
Windsor and Maidenhead	£147,397	£147,397	£150,992	£154,724
Wokingham	£103,138	£103,138	£126,561	£150,875
Thames Valley CSPs Total	£2,707,531	£2,576,946	£2,572,154	£2,572,154

As is currently the case, funding will be approved on the basis of spend proposals being in line with the objectives of my new Police & Criminal Justice Plan, and released on a quarterly basis subject to satisfactory reported progress. To enable CSPs to commit to longer term projects, new funding proposal forms will replace the current spend plans. I am proud of the excellent relationships we have forged with CSPs and My Head of Partnerships & Community Safety, Cath Marriott, will continue to work with and support each Community Safety Partnership going forward.

Matthew Barber

PCC for Thames Valley

31 August 2021



JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE



Annual Assurance Report 2020 from the Joint Independent Audit Committee to the PCC for Thames Valley and the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police

Introduction

This Annual Assurance Report 2020 explains how the Committee has complied with each of its specific responsibilities, referred to in Appendix 1, during the last twelve months covering the period December 2019 to December 2020.

The Committee's last annual report, presented to the PCC and Chief Constable at the Joint Independent Audit Committee meeting held on 18th December 2019, provided an assurance opinion that the risk management and internal control environment in Thames Valley Police (TVP) and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) was operating efficiently and effectively.

This year has been particularly challenging due to the impact of Covid-19. The scheduled March 2020 meeting of this Committee was cancelled, at relatively short notice, with the papers being circulated and agreed via email, which limited the opportunity for discussion and challenge. The June meeting was held via MS Teams. There was a physical meeting in July, although some members and officers dialled in via MS Teams. The September meeting was held remotely, via MS Teams.

There has been a significant turnover in membership this year. In July, we said thank you and goodbye to longstanding members Dr Louis Lee, Alison Phillips OBE and Richard Jones. In September, we had an induction training day and welcomed Amna Rehman, Melissa Strange and Dr Stephen Page to their first formal meeting.

In October, Dr Gordon Woods was elected Chairman of the Committee.

Financial management and reporting

We received and reviewed the separate Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 for the PCC & Group and the Chief Constable at our meeting on 31st July 2020, together with the external auditor's 'Draft Audit results report for the year ended 31st March 2020'.

We were pleased to note the excellent progress in concluding the vast majority of the audit plan for 2019/20 but were disappointed to hear that our external auditor, EY (previously known as Ernst & Young), could not sign-off the accounts, and issue an audit certificate, due to delays in receiving appropriate assurance from Grant Thornton regarding their audit of the Buckinghamshire Pension Fund accounts.

We finally received notification from EY, on 20 November, that they had concluded their audit work and issued an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements. We recognise that this has been an extremely challenging financial closedown and audit period, due to Covid-19, and commend the OPCC and Force Finance staff for their excellent project planning and continued effective working relationship with external audit staff.

We will consider EY's Final Accounts Report and specific comments in respect of value for money (VFM) at our meeting on 4th December.

We will receive and discuss the Annual Audit Letter at our meeting on 4th December.

We received regular updates on the ERP programme ('Equip') and challenged the PCC and Force Executive regarding the financial and operational risk that TVP continues to carry in respect of this project. We will continue to be robust in our scrutiny of this project throughout 2021.

In December 2019 we received a draft copy of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020/21 which we reviewed and scrutinised robustly, before it was formally approved by the PCC in January 2020. We considered and noted the annual treasury report for 2019/20. This report explained how officers had complied with the annual treasury strategy statement. We were reminded of the established governance arrangements, that regular progress reports during the year were presented to the PCC and Chief Constable rather than the Committee.

Having considered all the information available to us we are satisfied that both the PCC's Chief Finance Officer and the Force Director of Finance have the necessary capability and capacity to ensure the proper administration of the PCC's and Force's financial affairs. Indeed, the experience and skills of the two individuals concerned, and the teams they lead, have been of real benefit to the PCC and the Force and we commend their efforts and achievements.

Internal control and governance environment

In March, we received an initial draft of the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for consideration. Although no significant governance issues had been identified the covering report explained the key issues that had been considered by the Governance Advisory Group before reaching this conclusion. As the Committee meeting in March was cancelled, we submitted comments via email. Overall, we were happy to endorse the accuracy of the AGS for inclusion in the annual Statement of Accounts.

We received an updated AGS for consideration and endorsement at our meeting in June. It was pleasing to note that following a review of the effectiveness of the present governance arrangements there were no significant governance issues that required immediate attention nor were there any potential issues that may have an adverse impact on the internal control environment during 2020/21.

In March, we received the updated Framework for Corporate Governance for 2020/21, which included the Statement of Corporate Governance, the Joint Code of Corporate Governance for the PCC and Chief Constable, and the Scheme of Corporate Governance, which included Financial and Contract Regulations. Only minor amendments were required this year to ensure that it remained relevant and fit for purpose.

In June we received an annual report from the Director of Information, as the Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO), which provided a summary across HC and TVP for the information assurance and information governance during 2019/20, to provide assurance that information risks were being managed effectively and highlighted some of the key decisions that had been escalated to the SIRO during the year.

In October we received a report which highlighted the arrangements in place to secure value for money. We noted the level of cash savings that had been successfully removed from the base revenue budget over the last 9 years and noted that in September 2019 HMICFRS published its Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection report for 2018/19 in which it rated TVP as 'Good' overall.

The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy is formally reviewed every two years and we are due to receive the next update in December. This policy sets out a broad systemic approach to creating the right cultures and practices in the organisation.

In October we received a report and presentation on the governance and assurance arrangements in place for significant partnerships and/or collaborations involving TVP. We are satisfied that these governance and assurances arrangements are adequate and effective for their given purposes.

As and when appropriate during the year we attended meetings of the Force Transformation Board to see, for ourselves, the action being taken to ensure that key projects and programmes are being managed effectively. We remain an observer on the joint Hampshire/TVP Bilateral Governance Board.

Throughout the year we have sought and received regular written and oral updates on Equip, the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) programme, which provided information on the technical progress with development and implementation across the three collaborating forces (Surrey, Sussex and TVP), the tri-force programme governance arrangements and recent programme audit findings. As stated above (under Financial Management) we believe this is an area of significant ongoing operational and financial risk for TVP and we will continue to monitor and scrutinise the governance and VFM arrangements closely throughout 2021. We have similarly kept the Contract Management Programme in view.

We will receive and consider the external auditors Annual Audit Letter at our meeting on 4th December.

Based on the information provided to the Committee during the last twelve months we can provide assurance that, to the best of our knowledge, the corporate governance framework within Thames Valley is operating efficiently and effectively.

Corporate risk management

We have reviewed regular quarterly updates from both the Force and the Office of the PCC (OPCC) in terms of their strategic risk management systems and processes. This is an area of business we take very seriously, and question and challenge officers on a regular basis to ensure that we are sighted on all significant corporate risks and are satisfied that these risks are being dealt with in a timely, effective and appropriate manner.

We have received reports and oral updates to support enhanced risk assurance and governance during the Covid-19 period, considering existing and new strategic risks as well as the most significant operational risks. We were informed which risks were being treated, as well as those tolerated. In October we were advised that the risk scores relating to the Equip programme had increased due to the significant delays beyond January 2021.

We have kept the staffing position of the Force under review given the vital importance of an effective complement of officers and civilian staff for Force effectiveness. We thank the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable for their openness about the issues of recruiting, training and integration of new recruits, and their clear explanations of the Force's approach to these challenges. The Director of People attended our Induction Training day (attended by new members as an induction and continuing members as a refresher to ensure continual professional development) in September and gave a detailed presentation on topical People issues including the Force's approach to Operation Uplift, the national initiative to recruit 20,000 additional police officers over the next three years. We have asked for a further update on People issues at our December meeting.

In last year's Annual Assurance report we highlighted our concern over identified specific weaknesses in OPCC financial management and internal controls and stated that we would monitor the findings of future audits of the Victims First service to obtain independent reassurance as to whether the weaknesses and risks are being remedied successfully. As such we have received regular updates on the OPCC risk register and have challenged officers robustly on the prevailing risks and mitigating actions and are satisfied that the necessary improvements have been implemented successfully. We will continue to monitor processes and practices in the OPCC to ensure that the remedies remain effective.

Based on the information provided to the Committee during the last twelve months it appears that the organisational risks in both the OPCC and Force are being managed effectively and that there is appropriate capability for their respective published goals and objectives to be achieved efficiently and effectively.

Business continuity management

In March we received a written update from the Force on business continuity, including incidents and exercises. However, due to the operational impact of Covid-19 we have only received oral briefings at later meetings, including the Induction Training day in September.

We are content that business continuity is treated as a serious issue by senior officers within the Force and that previous learning has been used to good effect during the prolonged Covid-19 period.

We are satisfied that the business continuity management processes are operating efficiently and effectively in identifying issues and capturing organisational learning and there are no significant issues that we need to draw to your attention. However, we request that formal written reports be provided for future meetings.

Internal audit

Due to Covid-19 a lot of internal audit activity was paused for several months, primarily between March and July, whilst police officers and staff focussed on the operational response to the pandemic. We acknowledged and supported this decision at the time. We are pleased to note that, in recent months, internal audit activity has returned to more normal rhythms and that the Chief Internal Auditor is confident that the revised audit plan for 2020/21 will be delivered in full.

In June we received the annual report from the Chief Internal Auditor. We were pleased to note that the 2019/20 Joint Internal Audit Plan had been completed although seven audits were not formally reported on due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Of the 16 completed audits, 12 (75%) had received reasonable assurance, 3 (19%) had received limited assurance and only 1 audit (6%) had received minimal assurance i.e. the OPCC Victims counselling service payment process. It was pleasing to note the results of the additional sources of assurance that had been provided by independent internal functions or external bodies. Of the 16 sources identified 4 (25%) were deemed to provide substantial assurance, 8 (50%) were deemed to provided reasonable, 3 (19%) were deemed to provided limited assurance and only 1 (6%) was deemed to provide minimal assurance. The one area that received minimal assurance was the HMICFRS Crime data integrity re-inspection (of TVP) 2019. We are pleased that the audit programme continues to return a range of assurance levels, this is a reflection of both the independence of the process and its effectiveness in targeting a cross section of matters within the Force and OPCC.

We received and endorsed the revised Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan 2020/21 at our meeting on 12th June 2020. We noted that that the annual plan included all relevant financial systems, as well as other business critical functional areas and activities. We were pleased to note the wide range of audit activity, looking at high-risk functions and operations across both organisations.

Although the resourced audit plan does not include a specific allocation of days for use by the Committee, there is an extant agreement with the CC and PCC that the Committee may, at its discretion, draw on up to 10 audit days for its own specific use. We did not need to use this facility during 2020.

We challenged robustly, with internal auditors and appropriate officers, the reasons for the reported shortcomings in the assurance levels for some reports and the completion of the associated action plans. Based on the reviews completed during the year, the opinion on the organisation's system of internal control was that key controls in place are adequate and effective, such that an assessment of reasonable assurance could be placed on the operation of the organisation's functions. The opinion demonstrates a good awareness and application of effective internal controls necessary to facilitate the achievement of objectives and outcomes. There was, in general, an effective system of risk management, control and governance to address the risk that objectives are not fully achieved.

In March and October 2020 we received updates from the Chief Internal Auditor on progress with delivery of the annual internal audit plan, including a summary of key issues arising from recently completed audits. We continue to receive final audit reports which give us early sight of any key issues arising from completed audits that require management action. This is particularly useful for those few audits where limited or minimal assurance is given.

We have received and debated regular update reports each quarter on progress of agreed actions in internal audit reports. We are pleased that the number of outstanding audit actions is on a downward trend, but we believe that the number is still too high, particularly in the people directorate. We hope that management is able to demonstrate that it continues to take the implementation of actions arising from internal audit reports very seriously and we shall continue to monitor this situation rigorously in coming years.

We are satisfied that the system of internal audit in Thames Valley is operating efficiently and effectively and there are no specific issues or areas of concern that we would wish to highlight to the PCC and/or Chief Constable.

External audit

In December 2019 the external auditor, EY, presented its outline audit plan for the PCC and Chief Constable for the financial year ending 31st March 2020. This explained the context for the audit, as well as outlining the auditor's process and strategy. EY highlighted the various risks to the financial statements and the one significant VFM risk i.e. new ERP system. We were pleased to note that the proposed combined audit fee for 2019/20 was £45,652, i.e. the same basic fee level as in 2018/19

However, in June, we received a further report from the CFO and Director of Finance proposing that the audit fee for 2019/20 be increased from £45,652 to £78,557 to reflect the additional volume and complexity of audit work. We expressed our dissatisfaction with the audit fee process (i.e. through the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd) but understood the rationale behind the increase and recognise that the increase of £32,905 is proportionate to the work actually undertaken.

In June we received an update to the EY Audit Plan 2019/20 as a result of Covid-19 which reported on the new national timescales for closedown and audit sign-off, as well as the additional risks, areas of focus and methods of delivery.

At the meeting on 31st July 2020 the External Auditor presented his Draft Audit Results Report which summarised his preliminary audit conclusion in relation to the Group (i.e. PCC and Chief Constable) financial position and results of operations for the year ended 31st March 2020. Subject to completing the outstanding audit matters, as set out in the report, he intended to issue an unqualified audit report. The outstanding audit matter primarily related to the receipt of the IAS audit assurance letter from the auditor of the Local Government Pension Scheme as administered by Buckinghamshire Council.

This audit was designed to express an opinion on the 2019/20 financial statements for the PCC and Chief Constable, reach a conclusion on the PCC and Chief Constable's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources, and address current statutory and regulatory requirements. We were pleased to note that EY had not identified any significant errors or misstatements in the accounts and were planning to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements.

In respect of Value for Money (VFM) EY identified the new ERP system as being a significant VFM risk at the outset of the audit. In addition, on 16 April 2020, the National Audit Office published an update to auditor guidance in relation to the 2019/20 VFM assessment in the light of Covid-19.

We will receive and consider the Final Accounts Audit Report and the Annual Audit Letter on 4th December and will pay particular attention to his comments and conclusions on the PCC (and TVP) arrangements to secure VFM in its use of resources.

In terms of the financial statements and the year-end audit we are very pleased with the final outcome. We welcomed the efforts made by officers to close the accounts early again this year, despite the obvious challenges of Covid-19, which was an excellent achievement. We would also like to express our gratitude to the external auditors for their key role in the effective closedown and audit sign-off process.

We continue to receive and note the quarterly EY Police Sector Audit Committee briefing. We find this a useful source of timely information on topical police, accounting and audit issues.

Health & Safety

In June, we received a summary report on the principal activities and outcomes relating to the promotion and management of Health & Safety (H&S) Management in TVP during 2019/20. Irrespective of whether Covid-19 had arisen or not, the paper fell short of what was required to enable the Committee to provide assurances. As such, a more comprehensive and informative report on H&S was requested for the October meeting.

We received this report in October. Whilst it provided additional information on H&S activity, incidents and statistics the report lacked context and was difficult at times to understand and comprehend. It also failed to address the key issue of culture. Whilst we understand and applaud that good work that has taken place at a practical level, particularly during the very difficult Covid-19 period, we would like additional information and context in next year's report, and have asked the People Director to present at our December meeting; this has been subsequently delayed until 2021 with agreement.

Wellbeing

In June we received an annual report on organisational 'wellbeing' during 2019/20. In accordance with the National Framework in the Workforce the report focused on the 6 principal themes of leadership; creating the environment; protecting the workforce; personal resilience; mental health, and absence management. It also provided an update on wellbeing in respect of Covid-19.

We welcomed the efforts being made to improve wellbeing throughout the workforce but would like to receive additional information, in next year's annual report, on the real improvements that had been made within the organisation.

Equality & Diversity

In June we received the 2019/20 annual report on equality, diversity and inclusion which showcased the achievements from the past 12 months and planned activities for 2020/21. The report covered the following areas: strategic governance, providing a service to diverse communities, BAME representation, recruitment and attraction, retention and attraction, retention and progression, development for women, community and recruitment engagement development, other equality and diversity activity, and future plans. We queried why the number and percentage of BAME officers and staff were reducing and were pleased to hear that additional effort is being made to recruit BAME officers under the Police Uplift Programme to help address this key issue. We recognise the ambition of force leadership on this important issue, and look forward to them building on the achievements to date.

Inspection and review

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) independently assesses police forces and policing across activity from neighbourhood teams to serious crime and the fight against crime – in the public interest. HMICFRS decides on the depth, frequency and areas to inspect based on their judgements about what is in the public interest.

We understand that the Chief Constable and his management team considers each report in detail, irrespective of whether it relates directly to Thames Valley Police and, where appropriate, agrees an appropriate action plan. We also understand that the PCC is required

to consider and publish a response to each HMICFRS report relevant to Thames Valley Police.

The Committee has asked to be provided with copies of the HMICFRS reports and responses of the PCC. Only one such report (“Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to children’s mental health in Milton Keynes”), published in December 2019, has been received by the Committee, together with the PCC’s response, which was published in February 2020. However, we are aware that a number of other relevant HMICFRS national reports have also been issued over the last year that contain recommendations that are relevant to all forces’ chief constables and PCCs. We understand that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Force has prioritised and focused its attention on responding to the operational demands of the Covid-19 situation. Unfortunately, this, in turn, appears to have had an adverse impact on the ability of both the Force and the OPCC to respond to these national HMICFRS (and other HMI) reports. Nevertheless, we look forward to receiving copies of HMICFRS reports and associated published responses on a timely basis in future.

Notwithstanding the above, as far as we know, HMICFRS has not issued any report during the last twelve months that has specifically referred to assurance on the internal control environment and/or highlighted governance issues for the PCC and Chief Constable to consider.

Accountability arrangements

For JIAC to complete:

- On a timely basis report to the PCC and the Chief Constable with its advice and recommendations in relation to any matters that it considers relevant to governance, risk management and financial management.
- Report to the PCC and the Chief Constable on its findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks; financial reporting arrangements and internal and external audit functions.
- On an annual basis to review its performance against its operating principles and report the results of this review to the PCC and the Chief Constable.

Other issues

Environmental management

In October we received the Annual Report on Environmental Management for 2019/20 which explained the range of environmental sustainability work the force had undertaken in order to meet its obligations under environmental legislation proactively manages all aspects of its environmental impacts. We welcomed the continued reductions in waste volumes and improved recycling rates. We were pleased to note that additional work is being undertaken with regards to Smarter Ways of Working and have requested an additional update on this

issue for our next meeting in December. We were concerned, however, that the force did not appear to have yet begun work on its environmental management strategy for the period beginning in 2020 and look forward to receiving updates on progress in 2021, with a view to seeing the force putting in place a clear strategy, action plan and appropriate measurement of results. In addition, we are keen to see how the force applies the lessons learned from its rapid pivot to different ways of working as a result of Covid 19 to its future operational strategy, including its use of physical estate.

Professional & Ethical Standards - Force Oversight arrangements

We continue to attend, as observers, the bi-monthly meetings of the Professional & Ethical Standards Panel (previously known as the 'Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel) that assesses whether the Chief Constable's arrangements for, and the PCC's oversight of, the proper handling of complaints made against the Force, and consideration of other integrity, ethics and professional standards issues, are operating effectively in practice. We noted in last year's annual report that there appeared to have been a broadening of the Panel's considerations, away from its key remit as laid down in the Panel's former terms of reference. We note that our observations were considered carefully by the PCC, Chief Constable and the Panel when the Panel reviewed and adopted its new Terms of Reference in August 2019. We now consider the current Terms of Reference provide the basis for the Panel to provide effective support to the PCC and Chief Constable, especially with regard to assessing the local implementation and effectiveness of the of the national reforms to the police complaints system that were implemented in February 2020. We continue to observe meetings with interest, and trust the current recruitment of new members will enable the panel to continuously improve and discharge its remit in full.

General

We are pleased to report that the arrangements agreed six years ago, as set out below, are working effectively:

- Be regularly briefed by the Chief Constable and PCC on the full range of activities falling within our specific responsibilities and attend other relevant internal meetings
- Have direct access to the oversight of professional standards and ethics matters by regularly attending the Professional and Ethical Standards Panel (previously known as the Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel) as an observer
- Attend any training and conference events that will ensure members are up to date with the policing landscape and audit requirements
- Attend as an observer the regular Force Performance meetings
- Attend as an observer the Hampshire and Thames Valley Policing Collaboration Governance Board
- Attend as an observer the Force Transformation Board

Some members attended the CIPFA conference for Police Audit Committee members or a similar conference hosted by Grant Thornton, discussing challenges faced by audit committees and proposed legislative changes that will impact on the work of audit committees.

Over the year we had meetings with the Chief Constable, PCC and senior staff for relevant organisational and functional updates between formal JIAC meetings.

These briefings and invitations to attend internal Force meetings, coupled with the sharing of appropriate CCMT reports of interest, continue to raise our awareness and knowledge of legislative, policy or operational initiatives that are relevant to the Committee's remit, such as organisational structural changes, service delivery initiatives, and financial and service planning issues. In turn, this is improving our collective understanding of how the Force and OPCC governance arrangements and control environments are operating in practice.

JIAC operating principles

The Committee's current operating principles are shown in Appendix 1. These were used during the recent member recruitment process.

Conclusions

The purpose of the Joint Independent Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable regarding the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment within Thames Valley Police and the Office of the PCC.

Constructive challenges over the past twelve months on a wide range of topics have given us greater access to information and meetings; the positive relationship with the PCC and the Chief Constable and their senior staff has enabled us to contribute to improved audit, risk management and internal controls.

The year ahead (2021) will be a highly demanding one due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19; the end of the EU exit transition period, reduced national public sector finances and the adverse impact on the nation's macro-economic situation, coupled with the ongoing investment in the development of leading edge digital policing systems (e.g. ERP). No doubt we will continue to seek answers on costs and business benefits. We will continue our scrutiny on Force change management, the delivery of Force financial performance and operational effectiveness. Given the significance of managing the people risks for the success of TVP, we will continue to keep this area in focus in the year to come. We will remain alert to the extent to which TVP and the OPCC are exposed to risks, from whatever source that might weaken the control environment or otherwise adversely affect overall performance. The coming months will be extremely challenging.

Based on the information that we have seen collectively or know about individually we can assure the PCC and Chief Constable that the risk management and internal control environment in Thames Valley is operating efficiently and effectively.

We hope that this report with the assurances it contains will enhance public trust and confidence in the governance of TVP and the OPCC.

Three of the longest serving members of JIAC retired in July and we would like to place on record our appreciation for the excellent work undertaken by Dr Louis Lee, Alison Phillips OBE and Richard Jones since the inception of JIAC in early 2013.

We have appointed three new members this year, namely Amna Rehman, Melissa Strange and Stephen Page and hope that the newly formed JIAC will continue to enjoy the same constructive relationship with the CC, PCC and their respective teams that previous members have enjoyed.

Joint Independent Audit Committee

Members:

Mr Michael Day
Dr Stephen Page
Mrs Amna Rehman
Mrs Melissa Strange
Dr Gordon Woods

4 December 2020

Joint Independent Audit Committee - Operating Principles

Statement of Purpose

- Our Joint Independent Audit Committee is a key component of the PCC and Chief Constable's arrangements for corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.
- The purpose of the Committee is to provide independent assurance to the PCC and the Chief Constable regarding the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment within Thames Valley Police and the Office of the PCC. It will consider the internal and external audit reports of both the PCC and Chief Constable and advise both parties according to good governance principles. It has oversight of general governance matters and provides comment on any new or amended PCC policies and strategies with regard to financial risk and probity.
- These operating principles will summarise the core functions of the Committee in relation to the Office of the PCC and the Force and describe the protocols in place to enable it to operate independently, robustly and effectively.

The Committee will report directly to the PCC and the Chief Constable.

Committee Composition and Structure

The Committee will consist of five members who are independent of the PCC and Thames Valley Police. They will be appointed by the Chief Constable and the PCC (or their representatives).

The Chairman will be elected by the Committee on an annual basis.

The Committee will hold four formal meetings a year – in public - although there may be a requirement to hold additional meetings at short notice.

The PCC and Chief Constable will attend or be appropriately represented at formal meetings. Committee meetings will be held at key strategic times of the year to coincide with the budget process and publication of financial management reports and accounts:

1. **March** – to consider the Internal Auditor's Internal Audit Plan and the External Audit Plan
2. **July** – to consider the End of Year Reports, the Annual Governance Statement, Annual Statement of Accounts and to receive the Audit Results report
3. **September** – to consider mid-year progress reports;
4. **December** – to receive the Annual External Audit Letter and agree the Annual Assurance Report of the Committee.

The agenda, reports and minutes of all Committee meetings will be published on the PCC and Force websites. However, members of the press and public shall be excluded from a meeting whenever it is likely that confidential information will be disclosed. Confidential information is defined as:

- a) Information furnished to the Committee by a Government department upon terms (however expressed) which forbid the disclosure of the information to the public; and
- b) Information the disclosure of which to the public is prohibited by or under any enactment or by the order of a Court.

Methods of Working

The Committee will:

- Advise the PCC and Chief Constable on good governance principles
- Adopt appropriate risk management arrangements
- Provide robust and constructive challenge
- Take account of relevant corporate social responsibility factors when challenging and advising the PCC and Chief Constable (such as value for money, diversity, equality and health and safety)
- Be regularly briefed by the Chief Constable and PCC on the full range of activities falling within its specific responsibilities and attend other relevant internal meetings
- Have direct access to the oversight of professional standards and ethics matters by regularly attending the Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel as an observer
- Attend any training and conference events that will ensure members are kept up to date with the policing landscape and audit requirements
- Provide an annual assurance report to the PCC and Chief Constable

Specific responsibilities

The Committee has the following specific responsibilities:

Financial Management and Reporting

- Provide assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable regarding the adequacy of the arrangements, capacity and capability available to their respective chief finance officers to ensure the proper administration of the Commissioner's and Force's financial affairs.
- Review the Annual Statement of Accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit of the financial statements that need to be brought to the attention of the PCC and/or the Chief Constable.
- Consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the financial statements, and to give advice and make such recommendations on the adequacy of the level of assurance and on improvement as it considers appropriate.

Internal Control and Governance Environment

- Consider and endorse the local Code of Corporate Governance
- Consider and endorse the Annual Governance Statement (AGS)
- Monitor implementation and delivery of the AGS Action Plan
- Consider the arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements
- Consider and comment upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the assurance framework, and the specific governance and accountability policies, systems and controls in place, such as the Corporate Governance Framework; anti-fraud and corruption; whistle-blowing, declarations of interest and gifts and hospitality.
- Review arrangements for the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm from fraud and corruption, and monitor the effectiveness of the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources
- To consider the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations

Corporate Risk Management

- Consider and comment upon the strategic risk management processes; and
- Receive and consider assurances that organisational risks are being managed effectively and that published goals and objectives will be achieved efficiently and economically, making recommendations as necessary

Business Continuity Management

- Consider and comment upon business continuity management processes, and
- Receive and consider assurances that business continuity is being managed effectively and that published goals and objectives will be achieved efficiently and economically, making recommendations as necessary

Internal Audit

- Annually review the internal audit charter and resource
- Receive and consider the adequacy and effectiveness of the arrangements for the provision of the internal audit service
- Consider and comment on the Internal Audit Strategy and Plan
- Receive and review internal audit reports and monitor progress of implementing agreed actions
- To consider the Head of Internal Audit's statement on the level of conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and Local Government Application Note (LGAN) and the results of the Quality Assurance & Improvement Programme (QAIP) that support the statement
- Consider and comment upon the annual report of the Head of Internal Audit
- Obtain assurance that an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal audit function takes place

External Audit

- Receive and review reports from the external auditors, including the annual audit letter and audit opinion
- Review the effectiveness of external audit
- Consider and comment upon any proposals affecting the provision of the external audit service
- Consider the level of fees charged, and
- At present TVP participates in the national procurement of external audit services through the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA). However, should the PCC and Chief Constable decide that local procurement would be better the Committee would undertake the role of the Independent Audit Panel, as set out in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, including considering and recommending appropriate arrangements for any future appointment of External Auditors

Health & Safety

- Satisfy itself on behalf of the PCC and the Chief Constable that an adequate and effective policy and practice framework is in place to discharge legal duties in relation to health and safety. In particular, having regard to the safety, health and welfare of police officers and police staff, people in the care and custody of Thames Valley Police and all members of the public on police premises or property

Equality and Diversity

- Satisfy itself on behalf of the PCC and Chief Constable that an adequate policy and practice framework is in place to discharge statutory requirements in relation to equalities and diversity

Inspection and Review

- To consider any HMIC report that provides assurance on the internal control environment and/or highlights governance issues for the PCC and/or Chief Constable

Accountability Arrangements

- On a timely basis report to the PCC and the Chief Constable with its advice and recommendations in relation to any matters that it considers relevant to governance, risk management and financial management.
- Report to the PCC and the Chief Constable on its findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks; financial reporting arrangements and internal and external audit functions.
- On an annual basis to review its performance against its operating principles and report the results of this review to the PCC and the Chief Constable.

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Topical Issues

Date: 10 September 2021

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



Thames Valley Police fail to use new anti-stalking powers

<https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/19374532.thames-valley-police-fail-use-new-anti-stalking-powers/>

Police have applied for “a number” of stalking prevention orders after an investigation revealed the service had not applied for any despite more than 1,000 stalking complaints from residents.

A probe by the BBC’s Shared Data Unit revealed Thames Valley Police failed to issue a single Stalking Prevention Order since the civil power was introduced in January 2020.

From April 2020 to December 2020, TVP recorded 1,681 stalking incidents. But in this time, the force failed to even apply for an SPO -- which imposes restrictions on suspected stalkers -- let alone grant one.

A spokesperson for Thames Valley Police said the service takes reports of stalking “extremely seriously” and is “committed to helping victims as well as preventing those who carry out this sort of offence”.

They added: “The use of Stalking Prevention Orders is just one of a number of tactics that officers can use when they are combatting this sort of offence.

“Since responding to the original FOI request, Thames Valley Police has applied for a number of SPOs, one of which has been granted, with a number of others currently being processed.”

Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) are a new civil power available to police which impose restrictions on suspected stalkers. They are designed to make it easier to curb the behaviour of stalkers, with a lower burden of proof required than for a criminal conviction.

They usually remain in place for two years and can be used to ban people from certain locations, contacting the complainant, physically approaching the victim and more.

Since SPOs became available to police forces in England and Wales in January 2020, only 294 orders have been granted.

More than 55,000 stalking incidents have been recorded by police in the nine months to December 2020.

A spokesperson for the Home Office said officials will meet with police to discuss how effective police have been in issuing SPOs. They added: "A Home Office spokesperson said: "Stalking Protection Orders stop perpetrators in their tracks and prevent them contacting victims. We expect police forces to make full use of them.

"The Home Office and College of Policing have worked closely with forces to produce guidance on issuing them."

From 2015 to December 2020, 3,132 stalking incidents have been recorded in the Thames Valley area. Only 55 were recorded in 2015 but 1,681 were recorded in the eight months from April to December 2020. That's an increase of more than 2,900 per cent.

Despite ranking 15th from 42 police forces for number of stalking incidents recorded from April to December 2020, Thames Valley Police did not apply for a single SPO -- one of only four forces not to do so.

Thames Valley Police drops ERP system after spending £14m

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-58172502>

<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252505459/Thames-Valley-Police-drop-ERP-system-after-spending-over-14mn>

Thames Valley Police (TVP) has spent £14.4m developing enterprise resource planning (ERP) software that it no longer plans to use.

The money was spent between 2016 and late 2020 as part of TVP's Equip programme, an ERP procurement and implementation partnership with Sussex and Surrey Police, both of which have bought the software and could still use it.

Between the three police forces, the Equip programme has cost a total of £36.6m so far and was set up to improve back-office systems.

According to a job advert posted by TVP for a project support officer for the programme, the IT system would deal with human resources, finance and payroll, recruitment, and duties management.

"This is a large-scale, business-critical programme covering six counties in England, with scope for a further 32 public sector organisations to procure the same selected solution over the course of the contract period," the advert said. "A new single-instance ERP is undoubtedly a key enabler to driving efficiencies within the back office as well as delivering significant operational benefits to front-line policing."

A framework agreement, which sets out the terms for subsequent contracts or agreements, published by Surrey Police, shows that the potential lifetime value of the

Equip project was £120m. The framework was exclusively awarded to accountancy firm KPMG, which was the only supplier allowed to bid on any opportunities put out via the agreement.

TVP's annual accounts for 2020-2021 said the force had been working with KPMG on the programme since 2016 and had spent £8.3m up to 2020 and a further £6.1m during 2020, bringing the total to £14.4m.

The force's former police and crime commissioner (PCC) Anthony Stansfeld said in September 2020 that its internal costs were "very considerable" and that he was "totally dissatisfied" with Equip's progress.

Sussex Police's annual accounts show it has spent £12.4m on the programme so far, while Surrey Police's show it has spent £9.5m.

In its accounts document, TVP added that, in December 2020, "the chief constables agreed that the ERP product developed by KPMG should be transferred to the three forces to mitigate against future financial risk".

Although TVP did not comment on the nature of the risk presented by keeping the system with KPMG, a joint statement issued to Computer Weekly from all three forces said that "approval was granted by the then three PCCs to transfer the ERP software, documentation and licensed assets" from KPMG.

It added: "Following closure of the tri-force Equip programme, a new Surrey and Sussex ERP programme has been set up to look at future ERP work. In Surrey Police and Sussex Police, the respective chief constables and PCCs are considering a range of options for use, development of Equip assets and/or additional ERP solutions for enhanced functionality.

"In Thames Valley, the chief constable and PCC are considering options for an ERP system through the Next Steps programme, and appropriate funding was included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (2021/22 to 2024/25) to finance new activities, but the plan is to discontinue any further development of the Equip system as transferred."

Police failing to impose orders on men accused of abuse, watchdog finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/24/police-failing-to-impose-orders-on-men-accused-of-abuse-watchdog-finds>

Thames Valley Police to launch new fraud team as inspectors warn that UK forces treating it as 'low priority'

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/19492044.thames-valley-police-launch-new-fraud-team-inspectors-warn-uk-forces-treating-low-priority/>

A centralised fraud team made up of 30 officers has been agreed in the wake of a review of how the force deals with the crime, Thames Valley Police said.

The news came as the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary warned that many fraud victims were still receiving a 'poor service' from the police and were being 'denied justice'.

In a new report, the watchdog said that fraud continued to be treated as a low priority by forces. Thames Valley was one of the forces inspected as part of the report, along with the south east regional organised crime unit.

They said a 'fundamental problem' was the difference between the amount of fraud reported to police and the resources given to it. A Thames Valley Police spokesman said it took fraud 'very seriously' and would always prioritise crimes that affect the most vulnerable.

"The Thames Valley Police Economic Crime Unit has recently collaborated with the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit to increase our capability in investigating and protecting victims of fraud," he said.

"Additionally, Thames Valley Police has carried out a full-service improvement review in respect of its response to fraud and because of this funding has been agreed for a new central fraud team consisting of over 30 officers which will be dedicated to the investigation of fraud.

"Thames Valley Police is also extremely active in fraud prevention and financial safeguarding through operation Signature, where we work closely with partners to reach out and educate people on how to protect themselves from fraud."

HM Inspector of Constabulary Matt Parr said: "The scale of fraud has not diminished – in fact it has increased during the pandemic – and it needs to become more of a priority for police forces.

"The police and other agencies should come together to prevent and protect the public from fraud, more officers should be working on it, and there should be more investigations into it. All this would lead to more victims receiving the service and the justice they are entitled to."

Additional £800,000 to fund youth intervention "teachable moment" programmes in Oxfordshire

The Government has confirmed that a bid for an additional £800,000 to fund youth intervention programmes in Oxfordshire has been secured by the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit.

The award was announced following the publication of the Government's "Beating Crime" plan, with £17m allocated to schemes nationally, drawn from the Serious Violence Fund which supports initiatives to tackle knife crime and youth violence.

The Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit had applied to the "Teachable Moments" grant scheme, which funds intervention initiatives built around the concept of teachable moments; points when a young person is more receptive to support to help them to change their behaviours and steer clear of crime. It will be used to create new "Navigator" roles, working across hospitals, police custody and in the wider community, providing support and signposting for young people at risk of being involved in violence.

The VRU will now work with the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership, which coordinates community safety activity across the county of Oxfordshire, to develop more detailed proposals as to how the funding will be used, including inviting local voluntary sector organisations to apply to deliver initiatives, via a VRU-led tendering process.

Teachable moment initiatives use a particular moment such as an admission to hospital, an arrest or being taken into police custody. These moments create a position where a person may be more reflective, considering what has led them to be admitted and can be more open to discussing how they could change their lives to be safer and more positive.

An example of such a scheme already in place is the VRU-funded Hospital Navigator programme, which launched recently at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading and with a further four sites across the region launching in coming months. Hospital Navigators are trained volunteers, working within the Emergency Departments. When a young person is admitted in circumstances linked to risky behaviours, such as violence, drink, drugs or self-harm and mental health problems, their clinician can refer them to speak with a Navigator if they wish, who offers a listening ear and can help discuss the circumstances which led to their admission, offer support such as access to mentoring or signposts them to local services and help with employment and education.

Police and Crime Commissioner provides funding to reduce reoffending among domestic abuse perpetrators

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley has awarded £18,500 of funding to Thames Valley Police to work with first time domestic abuse perpetrators in order to reduce re-offending.

As part of this funding, Thames Valley Police will work with the Hampton Trust on their Cautioning and Relationship Abuse (CARA) project. The project is aimed at lower risk, alleged first time perpetrators who will attend two workshops between 4 and 5 weeks apart.

The workshops aim to give perpetrators an understanding of domestic abuse and the impact of their behaviour on others, including the victim and any children. Work is done on recognition of personal risk factors, management strategies and how to access other services that may be of benefit, such as substance misuse. The approach to perpetrators is based on extensive experience of the facilitators who are trained to deal with feelings of shame, anxiety, anger and remorse.

More than £980,000 awarded to support Thames Valley victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence

Victims and survivors of sexual violence and domestic abuse will benefit from extra support thanks to £980,000 of Ministry of Justice funding awarded by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley.

This money will fund third sector organisations, charitable and social enterprises and public bodies which provide support services to help victims of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence.

The funding encompasses:

- £422,072 awarded for a two-year period to six organisations for the recruitment and training of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs).
- £558,919 awarded as uplift funding to 22 organisations for one year: funding areas such as staff costs (including ISVA/IDVA provision and support workers), training, group work and counselling support.

Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner said “We have some exceptional organisations supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence in the Thames Valley and I am delighted to be able to award this funding which will make a huge difference to them and ultimately the victims and survivors they work with. Increasing specialist service provision will give victims better access to much needed support to help them recover from the harm they’ve experienced.

“Some of the posts funded are dedicated to supporting particular groups who for a range of reasons can be less likely to access support such as men, disabled victims and victims within LGBTQ+ and BAMER communities. A focus of the ISVA/IDVA fund to increase tailored provision for these groups will, I hope, result in services being better resourced to meet victims’ specific needs”.

Recipients of the funding include:

- Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre and MK-Act to develop IDVA provision to work with elderly and disabled clients
- LGBT+ organisation Support U to provide an ISVA/IDVA to work with LGBT+ victims across the Thames Valley
- Sunrise Multicultural Project to recruit an IDVA to work with BAMER communities and Reducing the Risk to develop training and engagement to encourage further BAMER clients to access support.
- Aylesbury Vale and Milton Keynes Sexual Assault and Abuse Support Service and Trust House Reading to develop ISVA and IDVA provision to support male victims with Mankind also funded to deliver support groups for male victims of domestic abuse.
- SAFE! to increase both ISVA and IDVA support for children aged 5 -18 who have experienced sexual or domestic abuse.

The Ministry of Justice funding has been awarded following a Needs Assessment carried out by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

This funding is in addition to the 2021/22 core Victims Services Grant of over £2.8m awarded to the PCC to support victims of crime across the Thames Valley.

<https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/19461216.taxpayers-shell-17-million-fund-police/>

Council taxpayers in Thames Valley will have to shell out more than £17 million extra to pay for policing in Thames Valley this year, figures reveal.

Home Office data shows £212.8 million in funding for Thames Valley Police will come from council tax bills in 2021-22 – £17.2 million (9%) more than last year's £195.6 million.

A further £270.5 million will come from central government – up 7% compared to 2020-21.

Across England and Wales, a combined funding pot of £15.9 billion has been agreed for the current financial year – a 4.5% real terms rise since last year.

But the Police Federation of England and Wales wants to see a multi-year funding plan implemented to stop forces operating "hand to mouth" through yearly settlements.

This is the fifth consecutive year in which police funding has increased in real terms, following a decline between 2010-11 and 2016-17. It means funding is now only at a similar level to that seen in the year to March 2011.

How police worked to dismantle more than 50 drug lines in two years

<https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2021-08-23/how-police-worked-to-dismantle-more-than-50-drug-lines-in-two-years>

More than 50 drug lines operating in an area of Buckinghamshire have been dismantled by police over the last two years.

Since 2019, officers in Aylesbury Vale dismantled multiple lines operating in the area, 35 of them being county drug lines.

Thames Valley Police have seized over 10kg of drugs, amounting to a street value of nearly £400,000.

More than £300,000 of cash made through criminal means has also been recovered.

As a result of police work, drug dealers are now serving a combined total of more than 270 years in prison.

As of the release of the police footage, 39 people arrested are awaiting trial.

Thames Valley Police to target serious violent crime in hotspots

<https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/19394389.thames-valley-police-target-serious-violent-crime-hotspots/>

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Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel Work Programme 2021/22

25 June 2021	Police and Crime Commissioner's – Draft Police and Criminal Justice Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public questions • PCP Annual Report • PCC Annual Report • Joint Protocol for the working relationship between the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel • Community Safety Partnerships Update • Annual Review of Panel's Terms of Reference, Complaints Procedure, appointment to Sub-Committees and Task and Finish Groups • Chairman/PCC Updates and Topical Issues Report • Work Programme
10 September 2021	Rural Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes arising out of the recommendations contained in the HMICFRS report on Roads Policing as they are applied to Thames Valley Police • Annual Assurance Report – Joint Independent Audit Committee • Updates on the introduction of Average Speed Cameras in Thames Valley and on on-line Community Speedwatch system • PCC Community Safety Fund • CONFIDENTIAL – PART II - Equip Update • Work Programme

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman/PCC Update and Topical Issues Report
19 November 2021	Themed Item: Exploitation – “County Lines”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional & Ethical Standards Panel Annual Assurance Report 2019 • Update on “Blue Light” collaborations in meeting the Strategic Priorities of the PCC and collaborations with local authorities • Mental Health of Police Officers • Contact Management “101” and “999” calls to the Police – Monitoring of performance • Public questions • Chairman/PCC Updates/Topical issues • Work Programme
28 January 2022	PCC Draft Budget – To review and make recommendations on the proposed precept for 2022/23 and to receive a report from the Budget Task and Finish Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public questions • Chairman/PCC Updates /Topical Issues • Work Programme

8 April 2022	Themed Item - Violence Against Women / Domestic Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public questions • Chairman/PCC Updates /Topical Issues • Work Programme

Items to be added to the work programme

Updates on the 5 priorities in the Police and Criminal Justice Plan:

- 1 Strong local policing**
- 2. Fighting serious organised crime**
- 3. Fighting cyber-crime and fraud**
- 4. Improving the criminal justice system**
- 5. Tackling illegal encampments**

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OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

REPORT FOR DECISION: 2020 - 020

Title: Conclusion of the Contractual Arrangements regarding the Enterprise Resource Planning (Equip) system

Executive Summary:

The three forces (Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley) took a decision in 2016 to work collaboratively to jointly develop a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to improve the way they do business and help improve efficiency.

The ERP system aims to replace back-office systems currently used across all three forces with new systems that are able to interact seamlessly with each other, reducing the need for duplication of information and thereby resulting in a more efficient way of working. This will free up staff time to focus on preventing and detecting crime, protecting vulnerable people and keeping our communities safe.

Following a competitive tender process, the forces have been working in partnership with KPMG on the programme since 2016.

In December 2020 the Chief Constables agreed that the ERP product developed by KPMG should be transferred to the three forces to achieve the best available value for money outcome.

Following approval by the three PCCs, the forces have worked closely with KPMG to achieve the successful transfer of the ERP solution.

Decisions on the future direction of travel are still in the process of considering the opportunities and risks but will be reported to the PCC as a separate project in future.

To that end, funding has been incorporated in the Force's approved Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to finance future activities.

Recommendation:

Following the recommendation of the Chief Constables of SSTVP to pursue a termination of the agreement with KPMG for delivery of the Equip programme, the SSTVP Police and Crime Commissioners are requested to:

1. Approve and sign an agreement to transfer the assets with the supplier KPMG.

Police and Crime Commissioner

I hereby approve the recommendation above.



Signature

Date: 23 December 2020

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL

1 Introduction and background

- 1.1 The three forces (Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley) took a decision in 2016 to work collaboratively to jointly develop a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to improve the way they do business and help improve efficiency.
- 1.2 The ERP system aims to replace back-office systems currently used across all three forces with new systems that are able to interact seamlessly with each other, reducing the need for duplication of information and thereby resulting in a more efficient way of working. This will free up staff time to focus on preventing and detecting crime, protecting vulnerable people and keeping our communities safe.
- 1.3 Following a competitive tender process, the forces have been working in partnership with KPMG on the programme since 2016.

2 Issues for consideration

- 2.1 In December 2020 the Chief Constables agreed that the ERP product developed by KPMG should be transferred to the three forces to achieve the best available value for money outcome.
- 2.2 Following approval by the three PCCs, the forces have worked closely with KPMG to achieve the successful transfer of the ERP solution.
- 2.3 Decisions on the future direction of travel are still in the process of considering the opportunities and risks but will be reported to the PCC as a separate project in future.
- 2.4 To that end, funding has been incorporated in the Force's approved Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to finance future activities.

3 Financial comment

- 3.1 Financial information on the Equip programme is published in the annual revenue budget, capital programme, in-year capital and revenue monitoring reports and the annual statement of accounts.
- 3.2 The published statement of accounts will be subject to external scrutiny by EY, the external auditor.
- 3.3 Funding for future activities has been incorporated in the Force's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

4 Legal comments

- 4.1 A thorough, detailed and extensive review of the agreement and its legal implications has been carried out to ensure the transfer of the product as identified, and further bringing the ongoing relationship to an end.

5 Equality comments

5.1 No implications arising.

6 Background papers

6.1 S / S / TVP Chief Constables' Report

Public access to information Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the website within 1 working day of approval. Any facts and advice that should not be automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on a separate Part 2 form. Deferment of publication is only applicable where release before that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.
Is the publication of this form to be deferred? Yes/No If yes, for what reason? n/a Until what date? n/a
Is there a Part 2 form? Yes/No

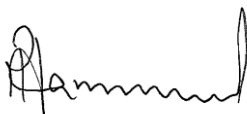
Name & Role	Officer
Head of Unit: Chief Executive, OPCC	P. Hammond
Legal Advice: Head of Governance & Compliance (OPCC) External: Weightmans LLP Serjeants' Inn Chambers	V. Waskett
Financial Advice: PCC Chief Finance Officer & Dep Chief Executive TVP Director of Finance	I. Thompson L. Waters
Equalities & Diversity: Chief Executive, OPCC	P. Hammond

PCC's STATUTORY CHIEF OFFICERS' APPROVAL

We have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial and legal advice have been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

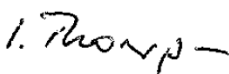
We are satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Chief Executive



Date: 23 December 2020

Chief Finance Officer



Date: 23 December 2020

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