



Notice of a Meeting

Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 6 April 2022 at 1.30 pm

Council Chamber - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

These proceedings are open to the public

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on the link shown on the website. However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Please note that in line with current government guidance all attendees are strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test in advance of the meeting.

Membership

Chair - Councillor Ian Snowdon

Deputy Chair - Councillor Charlie Hicks

Councillors:

Brad Baines
Yvonne Constance
OBE
Dan Levy

Kieron Mallon
Sally Povolotsky
Judy Roberts

Richard Webber

Notes: ***Date of next meeting: 15 June 2022***

For more information about this Committee please contact:

Chair	-	Councillor Ian Snowdon E.Mail: ian.snowdon@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	<i>Chris Reynolds</i> Tel: 07542 029441 Email: chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Stephen Chandler
Interim Chief Executive

March 2022

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

Climate change, transport, highways, planning and place-based services. Including the delivery of regulatory services, fire and rescue, community safety and community services such as libraries. NB This Committee will act as the Council's 'Crime and Disorder Committee'.

How can I have my say?

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am 4 working day before the date of the meeting.**

About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 63 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 678,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 4 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting

A hearing loop is available at County Hall.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
- 2. Declaration of Interests - see guidance note on the back page**
- 3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2022 and to receive information arising from them.

4. Petitions and Public Address

Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection. In line with current Government advice, those attending the meeting in person are asked to consider wearing a face-covering.

Normally requests to speak at this public meeting are required by 9 am on the day preceding the published date of the meeting. However, during the current situation and to facilitate 'hybrid' meetings we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting i.e. 9 am on 31 March 2022. Requests to speak should be sent to chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk

If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9 am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

5. Progress Against Police and Criminal Justice Plan for Oxfordshire (Pages 9 - 38)

To consider the successes, opportunities for improvement, and priorities for the year ahead

Further report to follow

6. National Bus Strategy

To consider the National Bus Strategy and its implications for Oxfordshire.

Report to follow

7. Updates from Task Group Chairs

To receive a verbal update from Task Group Chairs covering Transport and Carbon Reduction

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?.

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*.

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Employment (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*.), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or email democracy@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

OXFORDSHIRE PLACE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 1.35 pm

Present:

Councillor Ian Snowdon – in the Chair

Councillors:

Charlie Hicks
Brad Baines
Dan Levy

Kieron Mallon
Sally Povolotsky
Judy Roberts

Richard Webber
Nick Leverton

Other Members in Attendance: Cabinet Member for Travel & Development Strategy, Councillor Duncan Enright and Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment (Councillor Pete Sudbury)

Officers: The Assistant Director for Infrastructure and Planning, Rachel Wileman, Odele Parsons (Senior Transport Planner), Sarah Gilbert (Climate Action Team Lead) The Director of Law and Governance, Anita Bradley and Michael Carr and Chris Reynolds (Law & Governance)

The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

1/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Yvonne Constance OBE with Cllr Nick Leverton attending as substitute

2/22 MINUTES (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021 were amended as follows:-

11/21 Street Design Guide

In bullet point 14 - delete reference to rural and emphasise all forms of transport

and agreed as a correct record.

3/22 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Committee received the following Public Address relating to the Call in of the Cabinet Member's delegated decision regarding the Burford Experimental Weight Limit Restriction

Mr John White addressed the committee. He referred to the three traffic surveys during the experiment which resulted in differing data provided as evidence for the Cabinet member's decision. He said that there had been a significant improvement in air quality in the Burford area since the experimental traffic regulation order had been introduced which was of benefit to the residents of the area. He also commented on Cllr Enright's membership of the Witney Town Council which he considered was a conflict of interest as the Town Council had opposed the weight limit since its introduction. He proposed that a review panel be established to review all of the evidence in the reconsideration of the cabinet member's decision.

Mr Hugh Ashton, technical adviser of Burford Town Council, referred to the information he had circulated at the meeting. He referred to conflicting data available at the time the Cabinet Member's decision was made.

Dr Ken Gray, technical adviser to the Burford Town Council, said that he was an expert on data analysis and referred to the data provided by the ATC and ANPR during the period of the experiment. He said that the ATC data could not determine the weight of vehicles whilst the ANPR accurately measured the weight of vehicle types. He said that this was the first time that OCC had comparative data for four sites and Cllr Enright had received a report which did not provide this conflicting evidence. The report only relied on the ATC data which he considered exaggerated the position and drew the wrong conclusions. In addition, the officers report did not include the data on air pollution in 2021 which showed a significant increase in air quality in the area.

Julian Cooper, a councillor in Woodstock, spoke in support of Cllr Enright's decision and suggested that any decision on this matter should take into consideration the interests of the whole of the County. He said that it was not appropriate for the residents of Burford to benefit from this weight restriction whilst other neighbouring communities were experiencing increases in HGV traffic.

Cllr Yvonne Constance OBE, said that she wanted to address the process by which this decision was taken. She said that it was never intended that the final decision on this experimental order would be taken by a single member and should be determined by the whole Cabinet. She also was of the opinion that Cllr Enright had a conflict of interest as a member of the Witney Town Council. She said that the Cabinet Member had not asked any questions of the nine speakers who had made representations at the Cabinet

Members' Decision meeting and the impression given was that the decision was predetermined.

Cllr Stefan Gawrysiak addressed the committee, he said that this decision should be referred to Cabinet or the full Council. He said that the Council had committed to three traffic studies during the experiment but ignored one of them. He said that the Council had not taken into account the impact of the weight restriction on reduced air quality on surrounding villages

Paul Street addressed the committee and said that the decision made was logical in view of the impact of reduced air quality in other areas outside Burford, many of which had poor air quality hotspots, and did not have the benefit of a major road network as did Burford. He also expressed concern about the personal attacks on Cllr Enright which he considered to be inappropriate.

Heidi Skinner, on behalf of Logistics UK addressed the committee, and said that her organisation supported the original decision. She referred to the impact on neighbouring communities of rerouting HGV traffic including the business community, increases in fuel costs in excessive miles and increased emissions. She considered that local traffic restrictions were detrimental to the logistics sector.

Cllr Andy Graham addressed the committee and said that members should consider whether the Cabinet member's decision had been soundly made. It was a temporary traffic regulation order to be reviewed by a Cabinet member as a delegated decision. He said that this was not a predetermined decision and it was unacceptable as a reason for the matter to be referred back to the Cabinet. A freight strategy for the whole county was needed, taking into account the needs of all residents and businesses.

Rhys Williams, Road Haulage Association, addressed the committee and said this his association supported the need for a county wide freight strategy. The A361 was a road designed for heavy freight traffic and should be used for this purpose. He considered that the weight limit has resulted in increased costs for businesses and lack of consideration for the neighbouring communities around Burford.

Mark McCaffin, WVTAG, addressed the committee and expressed support for the change to the County Council's highways strategy to a more regional approach and considered that localised weight restrictions were not appropriate. The Burford weight limit was an experiment and the data illustrated that the conditions for a permanent weight restriction were not met.

Jan de Haldevang, a member of WVATG, and Barrington Parish Council, addressed the committee. He considered that the traffic data provided during the experiment was complex and affected by the COVID 19 pandemic. Before and after desired positive impacts were not achieved, and the negative impact of the restrictions in three other communities had

increased. He said that a number of professional bodies had supported a regional approach to dealing with the impact of heavy goods traffic.

Cllr Liam Walker addressed the committee and said that villages in his division have been adversely impacted by this restriction with considerable increases in HGV traffic. Objections had been received to this experimental order from local authorities, businesses and professional associations. He supported the Cabinet members decision and said that a strategy for the whole of the County was needed taking into account the needs of all residents and businesses.

4/22 CALL IN - BURFORD EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

(Agenda Item 5)

The Chair introduced the report and explained the process by which this committee would review the decision taken by the Cabinet member for Transport and Development Strategy.

Councillor Nicholas Field-Johnson addressed the committee and stressed that the reasons for requesting the call in were not intended as personal comments on the integrity of the Cabinet Member. He suggested that Councillor Enright was conflicted as a member of the Witney Town Council which had consistently supported the revocation of the experimental weight restriction. He explained the reasons why he had requested the call in which was set out in Annex D of the report.

Anita Bradley, the Monitoring Officer addressed the committee at this point and said that there was no evidence of conflict, bias or predetermination in the Cabinet Member's decision and that he was an appropriate member to take this decision.

Cllr Duncan Enright, Cabinet Member for Transport and Development Strategy then addressed the committee. He said that this as a balanced decision based on all the evidence which had been provided to him. He had abstained from voting on this issue at the Witney Town Council.

He confirmed that all of the data was available to him at the time of the decision. The data did not demonstrate that the ETRO had been successful on its own terms. This was not a predetermined decision and it is was not appropriate for members to suggest that he had been influenced by business or any other interests in making this decision.

The Chair then invited members of the committee to ask questions of Cllr Field-Johnson.

In response to a question from Cllr Charlie Hicks, Cllr Field-Johnson said that the conditions of openness and proportionality had not been met.

The Monitoring Officer then reiterated her advice that there was no evidence of predetermination in the Cabinet member's decision on this matter.

In response to a question from Cllr Sally Povolotsky, Cllr Field-Johnson said that he was not a member of any other local authority than the County Council.

The Chair invited questions to the Cabinet member.

Cllr Povolotsky asked about the sampling error ratio that the Council allowed in traffic data. Cllr Enright it was clear that as a result of the pandemic there had been significant changes to traffic data which had resulted in increased air quality.

Odele Parsons, Senior Transport Planner, explained the three types of traffic data sources set out in the report and their limitations. There was an allowance for errors of 10 per cent. The ANPR data had been excluded from the report to the Cabinet member because a benchmark has not been set at the start of the experiment. She was not aware of a code of practice for the use of statistics.

Cllr Nick Leverton, suggested that the experiment had not worked because of the inconsistencies in the evidence and the impact of the pandemic, and it was appropriate that the committee should review this decision.

Cllr Levy said that he was confident that Cllr Enright had not predetermined this decision and questioned why the Council had asked for APNR data part way through the experiment and would he have taken a different view if he had taken this evidence into account. Cllr Enright confirmed that this would not have changed his decision.

In response to a question from Cllr Roberts, Cllr Enright explained the timescales for the ETRO process.

In response to a question from the Chair, officers confirmed there was no new information provided since the delegated decision meeting. Cllr Enright, said that the key criterion used in his determination was an insufficient drop in numbers on the Burford Bridge.

The Monitoring Officer then explained that if the decision was referred back, it would need to be considered by the whole Cabinet.

Members then considered the evidence in the report and the representations made at this meeting, including the conflicting data provided to inform the Cabinet Member's decision, the impact on the residents of the whole County, the impact of the Covid pandemic and the process by which the decision was taken.

Each member of the committee spoke on whether the Cabinet Member Decision should be referred to Cabinet and if so, the material concerns they had about the decision made and any proposed recommendations to the Cabinet from the scrutiny committee that might be made.

The main material concern cited as a reason for referral to the Cabinet was the clarity of the evidence base upon which the decision was made, as provided in the Cabinet Decision report 5 January 2022 and by officers at the meeting, including the weight afforded to the APNR data and other information used by the Cabinet Member to assess the course of action taken.

The Chair reminded the committee that this scrutiny was about the process, and the principles of decision making.

Cllr Baines moved and Cllr Hicks seconded, that no further action be taken and the decision of the Cabinet member be implemented.

With two members voting in favour, and four against, the Chair declared the motion lost.

The Monitoring Officer reminded the committee any decision to refer the decision back to cabinet would be on the basis of the information provided to the Cabinet member at the time that the decision was taken.

The Scrutiny Officer reminded the committee that, in consideration of any material concerns they may have about the Cabinet Member Decision, in considering whether to refer the matter to the Cabinet, the Principles of Decision Making, set out in Article 14 of the Council Constitution, included that decisions should be made in accordance with: (d) a presumption in favour of openness; and (e) clarity of aims and desired outcomes; and that these principles may be relevant to the material considerations cited by those members of the committee in favour of referring the decisions to Cabinet and that any recommendations to Cabinet may be to request greater clarity on the evidence base upon which the decision was made.

RESOLVED, on the casting vote of the Chair, four members voting in favour and four against, that the Burford Experimental Weight Limit delegated decision made by the Cabinet Member for Travel and Development Strategy on Wednesday 5 January 2022 be referred to Cabinet for consideration, recommending that greater clarity be provided on the evidence base upon which the decision was made.

5/22 CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGIES

(Agenda Item 6)

Cllr Pete Sudbury, cabinet member for Climate Change and Delivery and Environment, introduced the report.

The Assistant Director Strategic Infrastructure and Planning gave a presentation summarising the four key lines on enquiry of the Climate

change and Carbon Reduction strategy and, together with Sarah Gilbert, Climate Change Team Lead, answered questions.

Cllr Brad Baines expressed concern that, in view of the limited time available to it, the committee had indicated previously that it did not want to receive presentations within its meetings.

Cllr Nick Leverton expressed concern that the presentation slides were not included within the report. The Assistant Director Strategic Infrastructure and Planning said that the slides were designed to back up the information provided in the report. Cllr Hicks suggested that an online members area could be introduced on which to post information of this type.

In response to questions, Cllr Sudbury said that climate considerations were an important factor taken into account by all cabinet members in decision making.

Cllr Hicks expressed concerned about the limited transparency in decision making in this area, the time being taken in implementing these priorities and the budgetary resource being allocated to these priorities. Cllr Sudbury referred to the time taken for any large public sector organisation in implementing policy changes and the Council was addressing how these priorities can be progressed.

Cllr Baines stressed the importance of integrating the impact of climate change into the work the Council does and that it should be mainstreamed into the policy and decision-making process. He suggested that this level of ambition should be integrated into the strategy.

In response to members questions, Cllr Sudbury recognised that air source heat pumps must be installed alongside an overall package of measures to improve the energy efficiency of a building, the Council's street lighting policy was being reviewed and he agreed that provision of an additional waste tip was a priority.

RESOLVED to:-

- a. note the Oxfordshire County Council's climate change and carbon reduction strategies, key targets, performance and areas of development
- b. note the Greenhouse gas Emissions Report for 2020/21 (appendix 1)
- c. recommend to the Cabinet that the emissions targets should be expanded to include maintained schools, all contractors and data centres
- d. recommend that the Cabinet considers putting climate change at the centre of everything the authority does by mainstreaming climate

considerations in policy design, implementation and evaluation in all outputs from the Council

6/22 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

(Agenda Item 7)

RESOLVED to agree the following changes to the Committee's Work Plan

- a. the Property Strategy be re-programmed to the meeting on 15 June 2022
- b. the National Bus Strategy Enhanced Partnership be considered at a one-off working group meeting on 23 March 2022 to be followed by a report to the meeting of this committee on 6 April 2022 and recommendations to Council for executive decision
- c. appoint Cllr Yvonne Constance OBE to the Carbon Reduction Targets and Transport Policy Development working groups

7/22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

(Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED to amend the start time of the meeting on 6 April 2022 to 1.30pm to allow key witnesses to attend to give a presentation on crime and disorder

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

The logo features a central white octagon with the text 'POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER THAMES VALLEY' inside. The octagon is surrounded by a decorative border of blue and dark blue triangles.

**POLICE
& CRIME**
COMMISSIONER

THAMES VALLEY

Tough on crime for safer communities

Serving every community across Thames Valley



Recruiting more police officers, supporting neighbourhood policing, and focussing on driving down the crimes that matter most to the public.

- Neighbourhood policing
- Crime prevention
- Communication with victims
- Community speedwatch
- Low levels of burglaries
- Reducing rural crime
- Reducing serious violence inc. murder
- Community engagement
- Reducing neighbourhood crime & ASB
- Confidence in victims to report domestic abuse
- Proportionate use of stop and search
- Improving 101 & other contact
- Working with NHS on mental health

Strong Local Policing

Preventing crime and protecting communities

Cracking down on the threat from “county lines” drugs gangs to protect children from exploitation and abuse.

- Develop the work of the Violence Reduction Unit
- Reducing deaths from knife crime
- Increasing the number of disruptions and successful prosecutions for serious organised crime
- Serious organised acquisitive crime
- Preventing exploitation
- Ensuring regional resources support local investigations
- Early intervention to prevent young people becoming victims or perpetrators

Fighting serious organised crime

Protecting vulnerable people

Crime is changing and I will invest in the technology and resources the police need to protect the public online.

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- Improving education and awareness to help the public
- Working with national and regional partners to develop a more effective national response
- Increasing confidence in reporting cyber and fraud offences
- Increasing the number of successful cybercrime and fraud outcomes
- Enhancing the expertise and capability within TVP and SEROCU to improve both prevention and investigation

Fighting fraud and cyber crime

Tackling modern crimes

Supporting victims of crime, bringing more criminals to justice and reducing reoffending.

- Improving performance in dealing with crimes such as domestic abuse, rape & serious sexual offences
- Improving victim satisfaction and experience of the criminal justice system
- High quality support for victims of crime
- Increasing successful outcomes through the criminal justice system
- Reducing reoffending in the Thames Valley
- Supporting innovation in crime prevention and rehabilitation

Improving the criminal justice system

Reducing reoffending

Ensuring a fair but firm response to illegal encampments and reducing the effect on our communities.

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- Ensuring that the police and local authorities establish (and keep under review) a clear strategy to respond to illegal encampments
- Reducing the number of illegal encampments across the Thames Valley
- Working with local authorities on the appropriate provision of sites
- Improving intelligence gathering and site security

Tackling illegal encampments

Enforcing a firm but fair approach with partners

- Rural crime
- Business crime
- Neighbourhood policing
- Road safety
- Fly-tipping and environmental crime

and many more

Future strategies

Preventing crime and protecting communities



- New fairer funding formula for the Community Safety Fund
 - Three-year deal guarantees more than £7.7m for local authorities
 - Spending in line with Police & Criminal Justice Plan and can be spread over three years (with agreement)
 - Distribution weighted by population, crime and non-crime (ASB)
- Increased analytical support
- Joint bids and commissioning opportunities such as Safer Streets funding
- Focus on prevention and anti-social behaviour
- Support for dealing with Community Trigger applications

Community Safety Partnerships

Preventing crime in partnership

- Fly-tipping on private land often left un-investigated and victims unsupported
- Funding available for local authorities to remove waste using existing contracts
- Local authorities use own powers to investigate and where possible prosecute
- Fine secured to be reinvested for future removals
- If successful seek to roll out across Thames Valley



Fly-tipping

Pilot scheme to tackle fly-tipping on private land



- Pilot running since April 2021
- Roll-out to existing groups from October 2021
- Promoted to new groups from Spring 2022
- Equipment and training provided

Escalation built into process to utilise neighbourhood teams, roads policing and highways authorities

COMMUNITY
SPEEDWATCH

Community Speedwatch

Working with communities to tackle speeding

- Net increase of 269 officers since Sept 2019 (headcount as at June 2021)
- Headcount at June 2021 4,519 – highest number of officers ever
- Uplift target 600+ (versus Sept 2019 baseline)
- Ambition to continue recruitment beyond Home Office 2023 target
- Funding to increase the recruitment of PCSOs
- Focus on Specials and other volunteers



Police Officer Recruitment

Increasing officer numbers and visibility



- Overarching name for PCC's work in providing support to victims of crime
- Provides free emotional and practical support to victims and witnesses of crime
- Receives referrals through from the police and partners as well as self-referrals
- Dedicated Victims First Team based at Berkshire Fire and Rescue HQ, near Reading

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VICTIMS FIRST

Care | Empower | Recover

Victims First

www.victims-first.org.uk

0300 1234 148



- Cross-agency project led by PCC
- Thames Valley Police working closely with councils, youth offending teams and schools
- Intensive engagement and diversion
- Operational response
- More than £4m additional funding from Home Office
- Aiming to achieve long term reductions
- Thames Valley Together data project



TACKLING SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN PARTNERSHIP

Violence Reduction Unit

Tackling serious violence in partnership



- £100,000 funding pot made available twice per annum
- Additional funding direct from the Community Fund
- Projects must support the priorities set out in the Police & Criminal Justice Plan
- Two levels of grant
 - Micro-grants – less than £1,000
 - Larger grants – more than £5,000



Thames Valley
COMMUNITY FUND

Community Fund

Formerly PPAF

The logo features a central white octagon with the text 'POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER THAMES VALLEY' inside. The octagon is surrounded by a decorative border of blue and dark blue triangles. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'COMMISSIONER' underlined.

**POLICE
& CRIME**
COMMISSIONER
THAMES VALLEY

Tough on crime for safer communities

Serving every community across Thames Valley

2021- 2025



Thames Valley Police & Criminal Justice Plan

JUNE 2021

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Foreword

by Matthew Barber, Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner

In these pages, I set out my proposals for the next Police and Criminal Justice Plan for the Thames Valley. This is my vision for policing in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire.

Throughout the document are clear objectives that, as Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), I will hold the Chief Constable accountable for delivering. Setting out a Police and Criminal Justice Plan is not an exhaustive process, but it does set the strategic priorities and the focus for the effort of the Force in the years to come. These priorities make clear the key areas for future work and the endeavour to bring clearer accountability and to focus on the outcomes for the public. In addition, future strategy documents will address specific areas of policing and criminal justice.

I have not met a single police officer who does not understand the need for the police to be scrutinised and held to high standards. In return, they expect strong leadership, both from their senior officers and the PCC, and a clear vision of what is expected. Officers in the Thames Valley place themselves in harm's way every day in order to keep the public safe and uphold the law. They deserve the respect of politicians and the public for their work. My vision for policing, encompassed in this plan, is for a clear focus on the priorities that matter the most to the public; police officers being empowered to make decisions to protect the public they serve and to remember that the police are the public in uniform. If we work together, public and the police, councils and the community, law enforcement and the judiciary, we can make the Thames Valley an even better and safer place to live for everyone.

Police & Crime Commissioner
Thames Valley



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Police & Criminal Justice Plan

This Police & Criminal Justice Plan sets out the five priorities I intend to focus on, starting from May 2021. This Plan has victims at its heart. Bringing criminals to justice is vital, but preventing people from becoming victims of crime in the first place is even more important, both through proactive crime prevention and through reducing reoffending.

The detailed implementation of the policing elements will be for the Chief Constable to determine through the Force's Strategic Plan, and I will hold him accountable for delivering these priorities.

Although not an exhaustive list, my Plan also includes a list of key policy areas that I will be developing during my period in office.





WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE

- ▶ **Supporting Neighbourhood Policing Teams**
- ▶ **A focus on crime prevention**
- ▶ **Improving communications with victims †**
- ▶ **Enhancing Community Speedwatch**
- ▶ **Maintaining low levels of burglaries †**
- ▶ **Reducing levels of rural crime**
- ▶ **Reducing levels of serious violence, including murder and other homicide †**
- ▶ **Reducing levels of neighbourhood crime and antisocial behaviour †**
- ▶ **Increasing confidence in victims to report domestic abuse †**
- ▶ **Maintaining the proportionate and appropriate use of stop and search to detect and deter crime**
- ▶ **Improving 101 and other contact services**
- ▶ **Regular community engagement to understand residents' concerns**
- ▶ **Working with the NHS and others to support the police in dealing with mental health issues**

† Denotes areas of the plan that relate directly to the National Crime and Policing Measures.

Recruiting more police officers, supporting neighbourhood policing and focussing on driving down the crimes that matter most to the public.

Neighbourhood policing is the bedrock of law enforcement in the UK. New and emerging threats such as terrorism and high-tech crime rightly have created specialisms that are vital to protect the public in the modern world, but the significance of effective, visible, local policing cannot be overlooked. Even in the areas of counter-terrorism and serious organised crime, it is often neighbourhood police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) that gather the vital intelligence or who are the first on the scene of an incident. We all know that the public not only expect the police to be visible, but that they feel safer when they are. This level of trust and confidence the police can give to communities is hugely valuable and their trust must be repaid if it is to be retained.

Each one of our communities should expect and receive the same highest standards of policing that Thames Valley can provide. Whether it is our towns and city centres where the concern of residents may be the night-time economy or isolated rural communities that may face vandalism and theft, the police response should always be proportionate, appropriate and understand the impact such incidents have on victims.

The purpose of prioritising local policing goes beyond just visibility. With the victim always at the heart of what we do, we must continue to drive down traditional acquisitive crime and reduce the fear of violence in all parts of Thames Valley. Neighbourhood policing is at the heart of this model and will be protected. Much of the focus of neighbourhood policing must be about the prevention of crime, keeping the public safe, deterring criminal activity and therefore reducing pressure on other parts of the system.

Locally based CID must enhance the quality of investigations, while communication with victims and witnesses needs to improve to ensure the public can contact the police easily, and that victims are kept up to date with the crimes that are affecting them.

The breadth of challenges faced by neighbourhood policing requires good problem-solving skills by police. These issues include vehicle crime, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and dog theft.

Other issues such as speeding traffic also cause great concern in our communities and it is recognised that many of these cannot be solved by the police alone. Engaging with other organisations, especially our Community Safety Partnerships and community groups will provide the key to addressing the concerns of the public and allow frontline police officers to focus on fighting crime.

Strong local policing

**POLICE
& CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
PLAN**

**STRONG LOCAL
POLICING**
Preventing crime &
protecting communities



2. Fighting serious organised crime

**POLICE
& CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
PLAN**

**FIGHTING
SERIOUS
ORGANISED
CRIME**
Protecting
Vulnerable
people

WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE

- ▶ Continuing to develop the Violence Reduction Unit, identifying potential victims and perpetrators and enabling multi-agency interventions †
 - ▶ Reducing deaths from knife crime †
 - ▶ Increasing the number of disruptions and successful prosecutions for serious organised crime (SOC) †
 - ▶ Ensuring focus on SOC groups involved with acquisitive crime and exploitation
 - ▶ Ensuring regional resources are available to support local investigations
- Supporting early intervention work to prevent young people becoming either perpetrators or victims of crime**

† Denotes areas of the plan that relate directly to the National Crime and Policing Measures.

Cracking down on the threat from “county lines” drugs gangs to protect children from exploitation and abuse.

Serious organised crime can seem like a distant threat to many members of the public. Sadly, the effects of gangs and serious organised crime groups can often be seen in local communities. Whether it is the drug trade, serious violence such as knife crime, people trafficking or sexual abuse, some of the most vulnerable members of our society often become the victims of serious organised crime.

It can take many forms and Thames Valley already takes a regional lead through the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROUCU). Throughout this Police & Criminal Justice Plan, the importance of strong neighbourhood policing is emphasised and once again, these crime gangs are not purely the remit of specialist officers, but also need to be tackled through strong local intelligence and action.

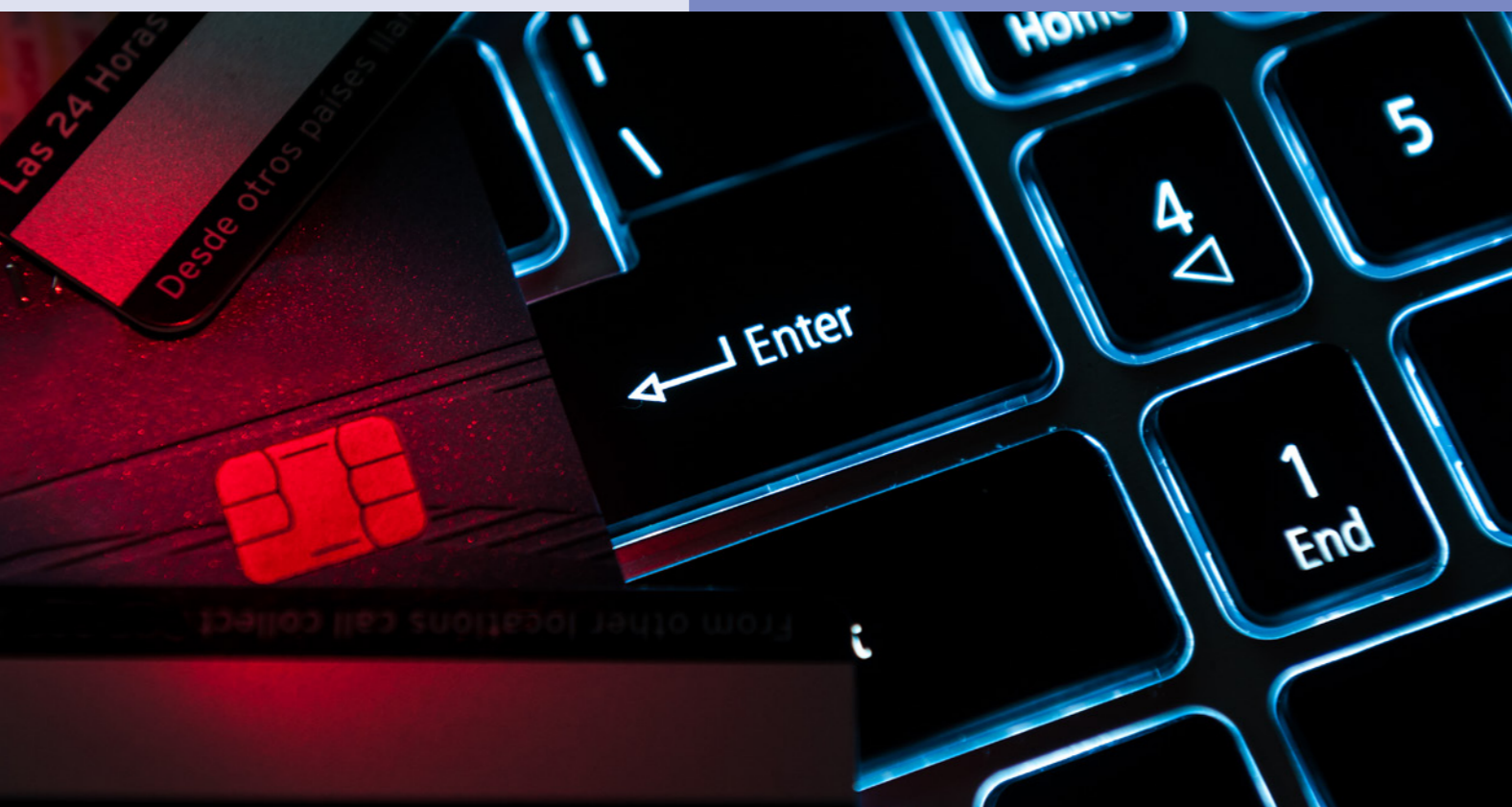
Sufficient resource needs to be dedicated to tackling these organised crime groups and ensure effective local and regional policing. Technology plays a role, as does collaboration with security and intelligence agencies and other police forces. Protection of the public is key, and this priority covers those threats that may harm any of us indiscriminately such as terrorism, as well as those that are targeted as experienced by victims of child abuse and exploitation.

The Force will continue to lead the way in tactics and techniques to tackle these gangs. As well as seeking to bring those responsible to justice through the courts, tactics will be employed to disrupt their activities, especially when this will safeguard the most vulnerable.

Especially when dealing with young people we must recognise that there is often a fine line between being a perpetrator or being a victim. Protection for these young and vulnerable victims is vital.

In tackling the exploitation of vulnerable adults and children, we will not lose sight of the high levels of acquisitive and environmental crime that is also perpetrated by serious organised crime groups. Resources invested in this area will have an impact in reducing many of the crimes that concern the public most in their communities.

In addressing the issue of drug misuse, we must tackle both the demand as well as the supply. Working in partnership with other agencies we must divert people away from drug use and ensure early intervention is in place to reduce youth offending and helping all partners to fulfil their obligations under the Serious Violence Duty.



4. Fighting cybercrime and fraud

FIGHTING FRAUD & CYBER CRIME
Fighting modern crimes

**POLICE
& CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
PLAN**

WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE

- ▶ Improving education and awareness to help the public protect themselves from becoming victims †
- ▶ Working with national and regional partners to develop a more effective national response
- ▶ Increasing confidence in reporting cyber and fraud offences, resulting in an increase in these crimes being recorded crimes
- ▶ Increasing the number of successful cybercrime and fraud outcomes †
- ▶ Enhancing the expertise and capability within TVP and SEROCU to improve both prevention and investigation †

† Denotes areas of the plan that relate directly to the National Crime and Policing Measures.

Crime is changing and I will invest in the technology and resources the police need to protect the public online.

Whilst traditional acquisitive crime such as burglary (see Strong Local Policing) remains one of the public's greatest concerns, and undoubtedly can have a huge impact on victims, arguably a more insidious threat is gaining momentum.

We are all much more likely to be victims of cybercrime, often without even realising it, than we are to be a victim of a 'traditional' crime. Fraud and cybercrime covers a wide variety of offences, from corporate fraud within the banking industry that may stretch into billions of pounds, to scam emails that may seek to take small amounts from many people.

Investigating these crimes and bringing people to justice is incredibly complex. Law enforcement agencies across the UK need to improve performance in dealing with these issues domestically, let alone the challenge of tackling these offences on a global scale.

At a national level, I will continue to work with Government, national and regional law enforcement agencies towards a more effective and joined up system for dealing with these complex threats.

At a local level, I will continue to be proactive in educating the public and embracing the specialist technology and expertise necessary to pursue cyber criminals. Working through the existing regional structures, developing new collaborations and enhancing the Force's own capability, we will enhance Thames Valley's ability to protect the public from cybercrime.

Dealing with cybercrime is no longer just a specialism, as almost every incident of crime leaves a digital footprint. Ensuring that the Force has in place the resources, training and structures to ensure investigations can remain effective in a digital age is vital to maintaining public confidence, and fighting crime across the board.



4. Improving the criminal justice system

IMPROVING
THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM
Reducing reoffending

**POLICE
& CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
PLAN**

WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE

- ▶ Working with other criminal justice agencies to improve performance in dealing with crimes such as domestic abuse, rapes and serious sexual offences (RaSSO) †
- ▶ Improving victim satisfaction and experience of the criminal justice system †
- ▶ Increasing successful outcomes through the criminal justice system
- ▶ Reducing reoffending in the Thames Valley
- ▶ Supporting innovative projects in crime prevention and rehabilitation
- ▶ Continuing to provide high quality support for victims through Victims First †

† Denotes areas of the plan that relate directly to the National Crime and Policing Measures.

Supporting victims of crime, bringing more criminals to justice and reducing reoffending.

The public want to see criminals brought to justice, yet the police can rightly only be involved in part of that process. Prevention and detection is the role for Thames Valley Police, but there must always be a level of independence from other areas of the criminal justice system.

Police & Crime Commissioners have a wider remit and this is likely to grow further into other areas of the criminal justice system. Through partnerships such as the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), the PCC can provide strong leadership and influence. Devolution of powers and budgets in other areas could see this role expand as PCCs are uniquely placed to have the convening power across all areas of criminal justice, whilst remaining publicly accountable.

Much work will still focus on policing, especially ensuring that evidence is gathered efficiently and effectively to ensure the Crown Prosecution Service can prosecute cases effectively. Yet a greater focus needs to be placed on getting cases through the courts successfully, improving access to courts through the use of technology and particularly around reducing reoffending.

The PCC will continue to provide support services for victims of crime through our own Victims First service, and will continue to support the voluntary and non-statutory sector working with both victims and the rehabilitation of offenders. In addition, recent changes in the Victims' Code will require police and partner agencies to enhance the way they communicate with victims of domestic abuse or sexual violence.

We must always recognise and support those victims of crime who are particularly vulnerable including those suffering from mental health issues and child witnesses of domestic abuse.

Supporting innovation will be key, as Thames Valley has already shown, for example in using GPS tagging of offenders and fast-tracking cases of domestic abuse through the courts.

The Local Criminal Justice Board provides a strong base on which to improve partnership working, including looking at broadening the membership of the Board and its sub-groups. Ultimately delivering a fair system of justice that provides justice for victims, protection of the innocent and stops criminals from reoffending must be our goal.



WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE

- ▶ Ensuring that the police and local authorities establish (and keep under review) a clear strategy to respond to illegal encampments
- ▶ Reducing the number of illegal encampments across the Thames Valley
- ▶ Working with local authorities on the appropriate provision of sites
- ▶ Improving intelligence gathering and site security

Ensuring a fair but firm response to illegal encampments and reducing the effect on our communities.

At the peak of the season, illegal encampments can be a significant concern for residents across the Thames Valley. Currently, the initial trespass is rarely a police matter, but this is often accompanied by reports of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, theft and intimidation.

Everyone should be treated equally before the law. There are undoubtedly individuals within the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community who consider themselves above the law but equally the many law-abiding members of those nomadic communities should expect the same protection by the police and the same access to services such as healthcare, as permanent residents. This is often seen as a conflict, with static communities either feeling the authorities turn a blind eye, or GRT communities feeling victimised.

The answer is a “firm but fair” approach that has support from representatives of the GRT communities and local authorities. Tackling the criminal elements within GRT communities and making them unwelcome in the Thames Valley is to the benefit of both permanent residents, and the law-abiding majority of travellers who are all too often victimised because of their background.

There needs to be a redoubling of the efforts of partnership working with local authorities and landowners to meet the expectation of swift action. Local police areas need to be empowered to take action swiftly to tackle illegal encampments and associated criminality. Local authorities should meet the needs of the law-abiding GRT community and all partners including the police will need to work with communities to tackle prejudice and discrimination.

Having campaigned for a change in the law, which is now being progressed by the Government, I will continue to engage with politicians locally and nationally to ensure we strike the right balance and give the police and local authorities the right powers and responsibilities to tackle the issue.

5. Tackling illegal encampments

TACKLING
ILLEGAL
ENCAMPMENTS
Enforcing with partners

POLICE
& CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
PLAN



Developing plans for Safer Communities

During my term of office, I intend to expand on the contents of this Police & Criminal Justice Plan to develop more focussed strategies to make Thames Valley a safer place to live.

These strategy documents will be developed jointly with Thames Valley Police and, where appropriate, other partners, and will set out an agreed approach. Below is an indicative list of particular areas of focus that may warrant further policy development; it is not intended to be definitive. Future strategies will form part of my overall Police & Criminal Justice Plan, and the Chief Constable will be expected to deliver the agreed objective and to be held to account for the outcomes.

Strong local policing

- ▶ Rural crime
- ▶ Business crime
- ▶ Neighbourhood policing
- ▶ Road safety and speeding (including Community Speedwatch)
- ▶ Dog theft and reducing the trade in stolen pets

Serious organised crime

- ▶ Sexual exploitation and non-domestic child abuse
- ▶ Serious Organised Acquisitive Crime
- ▶ Serious violence and knife crime
- ▶ Tackling illegal drugs

Cybercrime and fraud

- ▶ Reporting of cybercrime and fraud
- ▶ Enabling digital investigations
- ▶ Preventing cybercrime and fraud

Improving the criminal justice system

- ▶ Improving justice for victims
- ▶ Reducing reoffending
- ▶ Support for victims outside of the criminal justice system
- ▶ Domestic abuse (including children)
- ▶ Rape & Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO)
- ▶ Mental health in policing and the criminal justice system

Tackling illegal encampments

- ▶ Joint protocol with local authorities

Other strategies to be developed

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)



Governance and accountability

Through regular meetings held in public and in private, I will hold the Chief Constable to account for his leadership of Thames Valley Police and the delivery of an efficient and effective police service. Scrutiny of Force performance and progress against my Police & Criminal Justice Plan will be published on my website.

My plan has regard to and links strongly with the Government's National Crime and Policing Measures. In holding the Chief Constable to account I will also have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) as set out in accordance with Section 77 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, as well as recommendations from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

The Government has been clear that PCCs must achieve significant reductions in crime and restore the public's confidence in the criminal justice system. These extra measures are intended as an effective way to work with the police towards achieving these key national priorities, and will complement those success measures as set out in my plan.



Resources

Thames Valley Police and Criminal Justice Funding

It is essential that I take a long-term view of the spending and funding pressures facing policing, criminal justice and victim related services in setting and approving the annual budget and council tax for this and future years.

To do this, I will work with the Chief Constable to develop a detailed annual revenue budget, capital programme and medium term financial plans.

I will work with the Government, especially the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice, to secure the best level of funding possible for Thames Valley and consider the level of council tax precept in light of local spending pressures, and the impact on households.

I will work with the Force to continue the work in the current Efficiency and Effectiveness Review in order to ensure resources are well used, and funding is focussed on delivering frontline services that protect the public.

Besides revenue spending on day-to-day operational activities of more than £475 million, we incur capital expenditure on buildings, ICT, other operational assets such as vehicles, plus major items of plant and equipment that have a longer-term life. Over the next four-year period, we plan to spend over £90 million on capital assets, funded from a combination of capital receipts, capital grants, revenue and capital reserves, revenue contributions and third party contributions. This investment in infrastructure is vital in ensuring police officers in Thames Valley have the tools and the support they need to tackle crime.

Commissioning and Grant Funding

I will continue to support local authorities with a budget of approximately £3 million through the Community Safety Fund. Under a revised funding formula, this spending will support Community Safety Partnership initiatives that support my Police & Criminal Justice Plan, such as crime prevention schemes or work to reduce reoffending.

I receive an annual grant from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to commission services for victims and witnesses of crime of around £2.7 million. Where viable, I will also seek additional funding to support additional services for victims, particularly those who have suffered domestic abuse or sexual violence.

The Police Property Act Fund is created from the proceeds of sale of goods recovered by the police that cannot be returned to their original owner. I will provide grant funding to support local voluntary and community groups that are working to improve the lives of people living in the Thames Valley Police area, and who can demonstrate that their activity or project contributes to meeting the objectives as set out in this Police and Criminal Justice Plan.

Further details of both funding of Thames Valley Police and of my Commissioning and Grant Funding can be found on my website www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk





For further information about the PCC, his plan,
the budget or how you can get involved, get in touch with
us using the contact email provided below or visit
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