

Notice of a Meeting

Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 25 June 2025 at 10.00 am Room 2&3 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

These proceedings are open to the public

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this <u>Live Stream Link</u>. However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Membership

Chair: Councillor Liam Walker

Deputy Chair: Councillor Bethia Thomas

Councillors: Thomas Ashby Emily Kerr Leigh Rawlins

Chris Brant Lesley McLean
Laura Gordon Susanna Pressel

Date of Next

Meeting: 24 September 2025

For more information about this Committee please contact:

Committee Officer: Richard Doney

Email: scrutiny@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Martin Reeves

Chief Executive June 2025

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

To receive any apologies for absence and temporary appointments.

2. Declaration of Interests

See guidance note on the back page.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)

The Committee is recommended to **APPROVE** the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April, 2025, and also the one held on 20 May, 2025, and to receive information arising from them.

4. Petitions and Public Addresses

Members of the public who wish to speak on an item on the agenda at this meeting, or present a petition, can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.

Applications to speak must be submitted no later than 9.00 a.m. three working days before the meeting, i.e. Friday, 20 June, 2025.

Requests should be submitted to the Scrutiny Officer at scrutiny@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 9.00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than one A4 sheet.

Where there are a number of requests from persons wishing to present similar views on the same issue, the Chair may require that the views be put by a single spokesperson. It is expected that only in exceptional circumstances will a person (or organisation) be allowed to address more than one meeting on a particular issue in any period of six months.

5. Police and Crime Justice Plan for Oxfordshire (Pages 9 - 70)

As part of its Crime and Disorder Panel responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, the Committee has invited Matthew Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley to attend, as well as the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, Jason Hogg, and Chief Superintendent Benedict Clark, Local Command Unit Commander for Oxfordshire.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has provided his annual report reporting on progress made against the Police and Criminal Justice Plan.

Also attached is a presentation from the Chief Constable and the Chief Superintendent.



Having considered the reports and asked questions, the Committee is recommended to **AGREE** any recommendations it wishes to make to Thames Valley Police or to the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner.

6. Citizens Assembly

At its meeting on 23 April 2025, the Committee agreed to the formal request of Cabinet of 25 March 2025 to "consider the council's response to the assembly recommendations, prior to approval by Cabinet in July 2025."

The Committee has invited Cllr Andrew Gant, Cabinet member for Transport Management, and Cllr Judy Roberts, Cabinet member for Place, Environment, and Climate Action, to present the report.

The Committee has also extended invitations to Paul Fermer, Director of Environment and Highways, and Susannah Wintersgill, Director of Public Affairs, Policy and Partnerships, to answer the Committee's questions and to Carole Stow, Engagement Consultation Manager, Victoria Powell, Communications and Engagement Manager (Strategic Programmes), as well as Hannah Battye, Head of Place Shaping, Joanne Fellowes, Place Planning Manager (Central), and Melissa Goodacre, Sustainable Transport Manager.

The Committee is asked to consider the report and raise any questions, and to **AGREE** any recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet arising therefrom.

Report to follow

7. Committee Forward Work Plan (Pages 71 - 74)

The Committee is recommended to **AGREE** its work programme for forthcoming meetings, having heard any changes from previous iterations, and taking account of the Cabinet Forward Plan and of the Budget Management Monitoring Report.

The Cabinet Forward Plan can be found

here: https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=433&RP=115

The most recent BMMR, submitted to Cabinet in March 2025, can be found here: https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=115&Mld=7477&Ver=4

8. Committee Action and Recommendation Tracker (Pages 75 - 96)

The Committee is recommended to **NOTE** the progress of previous recommendations and actions arising from previous meetings, having raised any questions on the contents.

The update to the Committee's recommendations on Vision Zero are appended as an annexe to the tracker.

9. Responses to Scrutiny Recommendations (Pages 97 - 100)

Attached is the Cabinet response to the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee report on Network Management. The Committee is asked to **NOTE** the response.



Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

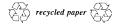
Members Code – Other registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships
- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.



c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

Members Code - Non-registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

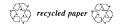
Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.



PLACE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday, 23 April 2025 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.37 pm.

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Liam Walker - in the Chair

Councillor Robin Bennett (Deputy Chair)

Councillor Duncan Enright Councillor Charlie Hicks Councillor Susanna Pressel Councillor Nigel Simpson

Other Members in Attendance:

Cllr Judy Roberts, Cabinet member for Infrastructure and

Development Strategy

Officers: Paul Fermer, Director of Highways and Environment

Robin Rogers, Director of Economy and Place

Tom Scholes, Operational Manager for Data Intelligence Jason Sherwood, Head of Regulatory Planning Enforcement

Natalie Crawford, Capital Programme Manager

Alistair Read, Head of IT

Melanie Graham, Operational Manager for Business

Performance

Bryan Evans, Rail Project Manager Pete Brunskill, Rail Development Lead

Richard Doney, Scrutiny Officer

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.

11/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS (Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Cllr Bethia Thomas.

12/25 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE

(Agenda No. 2)

There were none.

13/25 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

The minutes for the meeting on 5 February 2025, were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record.

14/25 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda No. 4)

Andy Gilbert, Mayor of Thame, addressed the Committee and requested updates on the Greenway project due to delays despite funding approval two years ago. He emphasised the need for a safe route to Haddenham Parkway because of population growth. The Chair invited comment from officers and Paul Fermer, Director of Environment and Highways, confirmed the project was active, addressing land ownership and structural issues, and promised regular updates.

15/25 COMMITTEE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TRACKER

(Agenda No. 5)

The Committee **NOTED** the action and recommendation tracker.

After agenda item 10, Paul Fermer, Director of Highways and Environment, gave a brief oral update on Vision Zero recommendations. He discussed collaboration with Thames Valley Police on speed limits, enforcement, and new speed cameras. He emphasised a data-driven approach and ongoing engagement with local authorities. Some recommendations were still in progress or required further updates. The Committee was advised that a full written update would be provided to the first substantive meeting of the Committee in the new municipal year.

16/25 RESPONSES TO SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

(Agenda No. 6)

The Committee **NOTED** the Cabinet responses to the recommendations on:

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- City Centre Accommodation Strategy Disposal of Old and New County Hall
- Infrastructure Funding Statement and s.106 Funding Review Report

17/25 COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

(Agenda No. 7)

The Committee **AGREED** to the Committee forward work plan.

The Committee **AGREED** to include the Verge and Vegetation Management report on the forward plan for 25 June 2025 and **AGREED** to Cabinet's request to consider the Citizens Assembly update at the same meeting.

18/25 SECTION 106 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

(Agenda No. 8)

Cllr Judy Roberts, Cabinet member for Infrastructure and Development Strategy, Robin Rogers, Director of Economy and Place, and Paul Fermer, Director of Environment and Highways, were invited to present the report and to answer the Committee's questions. Invitations were also extended to officers in Finance and in Information Technology. Tom Scholes, Operational Manager for Data Intelligence, Jason Sherwood, Head of Regulatory Planning Enforcement, Natalie Crawford, Capital Programme Manager, Alistair Read, Head of IT, and Melanie Graham, Operational Manager for Business Performance, attended to answer any question the Committee had.

The Cabinet member for Infrastructure and Development Strategy reported progress on Section 106 improvements, highlighting better fund delivery, system enhancements, and a new transparency dashboard. Cllr Roberts emphasised the need for flexible legal terms and repurposing leftover funds. The Director of Economy and Place addressed Section 106 funding and delivery system improvements and described having established a project team for better management and transparency.

The Operational Manager for Data Intelligence demonstrated how the new dashboard integrating financial, programme management, and Section 106 data for transparency and effective management worked. This was intended to be rolled out as part of the induction process for new and returning members after the May 2025 election. Members welcomed the dashboard and discussed data integration, project tracking, and resource limitations, suggesting appointing a Section 106 officer for better member engagement.

Members inquired about earlier involvement in Section 106 discussions for appropriate contributions and increasing transparency on strategic sites and infrastructure without breaching pre-application confidentiality. Officers explained that, while pre-application meetings were confidential, members could engage with officers throughout the process and provide input. It was suggested to have a more structured mechanism for member input at an earlier stage.

Members requested clarification on the presence of key performance indicators (KPIs) for programme elements within phase two of the improvement project to ensure thorough oversight and optimise performance. It was confirmed that KPIs were crucial for monitoring expenditure profiles and guaranteeing that the council achieved its quarterly objectives. The pre-pipeline initiative was identified as a tool to enhance project tracking, while acknowledging that certain expenditure profiles would necessitate modelling due to the specifics of development funding.

The Committee resolved to make recommendations to Cabinet under the following headings:

 That the Council should include more detail of contractual agreements within the s.106 dashboard;

- That the Council should celebrate the learning that has arisen from the s.106 Improvement Project and disseminate it across the organisation;
- That the Council should include information within the dashboard linking projects to LTCP targets, including modal share;
- That the Council should publish milestones and targets for its Key Performance Indicators;
- That the Council should ensure that there is sufficient officer resource to be represented at developer fora;
- That the Council should prioritise data set integration to enhance the dashboard's capabilities;
- That the Council should continue to explore the benefits of Local Development Orders and whether they should be used more widely.

19/25 RAIL STRATEGY

(Agenda No. 9)

The Committee had requested an update on the development of the Council's Rail Strategy. Cllr Judy Roberts, Cabinet member for Infrastructure and Development Strategy, Robin Rogers, Director of Economy and Place, Paul Fermer, Director of Environment and Highways, Bryan Evans, Rail Project Manager, and Pete Brunskill, Rail Development Lead, were invited to present the report and to answer the Committee's questions.

The Director of Economy and Place and the Rail Project Manager introduced the OxRAIL 2040 project which aligned with the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP). They discussed key projects including Oxford Station expansion, electrification, and new stations. Members emphasised stakeholder collaboration, active travel integration, and funding strategies, highlighting the need for realistic and vision-led planning.

Members discussed collaborating with stakeholders like Begbroke Science Park and Oxford University Development to integrate the rail strategy. They inquired about engaging train users and the delivery program for Heyford Park, including the rail freight interchange and the proposed Puy de Fou theme park. The Director confirmed ongoing support and discussions with partners. A workshop was planned for Begbroke Science Park integration, and meetings also considered Heyford Park developments. Connectivity with travel and bus routes remained a priority.

Members highlighted transport hubs, active travel integration, and electric bike use, necessitating secure cycle parking at stations. Funding was allocated for the A44 mobility hub. Heyford Park connectivity proposals included cycle routes, pathways, and bus routes to reduce car reliance. Mobility hubs intercepting rural buses before entering the city were also discussed to improve efficiency and coverage.

The Committee hoped that its new membership would scrutinise the draft Strategy to the Committee.

The Committee resolved to make recommendations to Cabinet under the following headings:

- That the Council should integrate the Futures-led Foresight approach into the rail strategy modelling, to align with the LTCP and to ensure strategic planning;
- That the Council should support private-public finance upskilling and apply lessons from the funding of the Elizabeth Line.

The Committee adjourned at 12:08 and resumed at 12:14

20/25 TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP REPORT

(Agenda No. 10)

The Committee's Transport Working Group (TWG) had completed its work and had submitted its report to the Committee for its approval. The report was presented by Cllr Hicks, with thanks to Cllrs Walker, Bennett and Haywood supported by Richard Doney, Scrutiny Officer, for sitting on the TWG.

Cllr Hicks, as Chair of the TWG, introduced the report and summarised its recommendations explaining that it sought to ensure the Council could meet its ambitions arising from the Local Transport Connectivity Plan. The recommendations focused on data, governance, capacity building, funding, partnerships, and public engagement.

The Director of Environment and Highways acknowledged the usefulness of the TWG's recommendations and ongoing efforts to address resource needs and project delays.

Members asked about resources for the active travel team, referencing the TWG's recommendation. The Director of Environment and Highways explained that various teams handle active travel: policy, highway maintenance, transport delivery, development control, and place-shaping. The Council was reorganising to assess resource levels and skills needed for active travel.

Members expressed concern about delays in projects like Witney High Street, noting that slow progress diminished the value of government grants despite public engagement efforts. They suggested adopting best practices and enhancing in-house design capacity to speed up project delivery. The Director of Environment and Highways argued that co-production might not have changed timelines and was not suitable for every project. He recommended a framework to determine the appropriate level of engagement for each project.

The Committee resolved to **ENDORSE** the recommendations and report of the Transport Working Group; to **SUBMIT** the substantive report of the Transport Working Group (paragraphs 2 onwards) to Cabinet; to **DELEGATE** any minor editing

tc	the	Scrutiny (Officer,	in	consultation	with	the	Chair	of the	Committee	and	the	Chair
O	f the	Transport	Workin	g	Group.								

In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked all members and officers for their contribution to the work of the Committee. He wished all members standing for reelection well and thanked Cllr Bennett and Cllr Hicks who were not standing for reelection.

	in the	Chair
Date of signing		

PLACE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 20 May 2025 commencing at 12.12 pm and finishing at 12.14 pm.

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Thomas Ashby

Councillor Chris Brant
Councillor Laura Gordon
Councillor lan Middleton
Councillor Lesley McLean
Councillor Susanna Pressel
Councillor Leigh Rawlins
Councillor Bethia Thomas
Councillor Liam Walker

Officers: Anita Bradley, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring

Officer

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.

21/25 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE 2025/26 COUNCIL YEAR (Agenda No. 1)

Cllr Walker was nominated by Cllr Ashby and seconded by Cllr Pressel.

There being no other nominations, Cllr Walker was elected Chair for the 2025/2026 municipal year.

22/25 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR FOR THE 2025/26 COUNCIL YEAR (Agenda No. 2)

Cllr Thomas was nominated by Cllr Gordon and seconded by Cllr Brant.

There being no other nominations, Cllr Thomas was elected Deputy Chair for the 2025/2026 municipal year.

23/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS (Agenda No. 3)

Apologies were tendered by Cllr Kerr (substitute: Cllr Middleton).

	in the Chair
Date of signing	

Divisions Affected - All

PLACE OVERVIEWAND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 25 July 2025

Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report 2024-25

Report by Matthew Barber, Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to
 - a. CONSIDER the Police and Crime Commissioner's annual report;
 - b. RAISE any questions;
 - c. **AGREE** any recommendations it wishes to make in its role as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee.

Executive Summary

- 2. The Annual Report 2024-25 for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) marks the first year of delivery under my new five-year Police and Criminal Justice Plan. It highlights the early progress made in delivering on the strategic priorities I set out following my re-election in May 2024.
- 3. Key achievements include the expansion of the Rural Crime Taskforce, the launch of a Thames Valley-wide youth intervention programme to tackle knife crime, the continued rollout of the CCTV Partnership, and the transformation of forensic services. These initiatives are already delivering tangible improvements in public safety, victim outcomes, and community confidence.

Overview of Achievements 2024-25

Strengthening Neighbourhood and Rural Policing

- 4. Additional frontline officers were recruited by Thames Valley Police, enabling the creation of Priority Crime Teams to tackle burglary, theft, and shoplifting an outcome aligned with the priorities I set out in the Police and Criminal Justice Plan.
- 5. The Rural Crime Taskforce was significantly expanded, leading to increased disruption of organised crime groups and improved community confidence in rural

areas. I have continued to support this work through strategic oversight and funding.

Tackling Knife Crime and Youth Violence

- 6. A Thames Valley-wide prevention programme was launched in partnership with Criminal Justice to deter knife and weapon carrying among young people.
- 7. I am encouraged by the early engagement figures and the positive feedback from participants and community stakeholders.

Investing in Crime Prevention Infrastructure

- 8. The Thames Valley CCTV Partnership continued to grow, delivering sustainable and modernised CCTV coverage to support crime detection and public reassurance.
- 9. This investment is already contributing to improved investigative outcomes and greater community safety.

Transforming Investigations and Victim Outcomes

- 10. A Forensics Improvement Programme was supported and championed through strategic oversight, helping to modernise Thames Valley Police's forensic services and enhance the quality and speed of investigations.
- 11. High-quality victim services were commissioned, including specialist support for victims of domestic abuse, stalking, and serious violence.

Building a Stronger OPCC

12.I restructured the Office of the PCC to improve commissioning capability, partnership engagement, and delivery oversight – ensuring the organisation is well-positioned to lead system-wide change.

Conclusions and Next Steps

- 13. The progress detailed in this report reflects a strong start to the delivery of my 2024-29 Police and Criminal Justice Plan. Looking ahead to 2025-26, my key focus area will include:
 - a. Supporting Schedule 1 Authorities across Thames Valley to meet the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty to embed a public health approach to serious violence across Thames Valley.
 - b. **Delivering a new Victims Funding Strategy** to align with upcoming legislation and ensure sustainable, high-quality support services.
 - c. Championing whole-system reform of criminal justice: In light of growing pressures across courts, prisons, probation, and victim services, I will continue to advocate for a properly funded, joined-up justice system.

National investment and reform are urgently needed to restore public confidence and deliver real justice for victims.

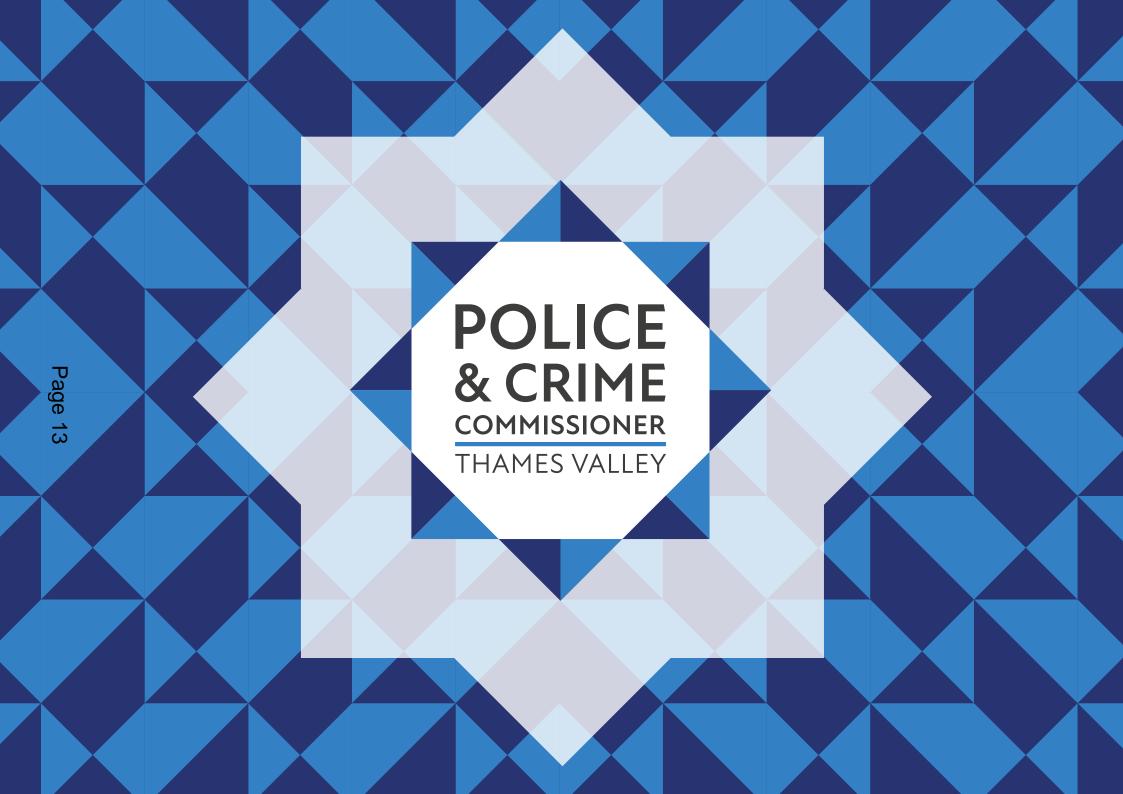
- d. Exploring the opportunities of local government reorganisation and devolution: I will continue to engage with partners to understand how devolution could support more integrated, locally accountable justice and community safety services.
- e. **Enhancing public confidence and trust** through improved transparency, engagement, and outcomes for victims and communities.

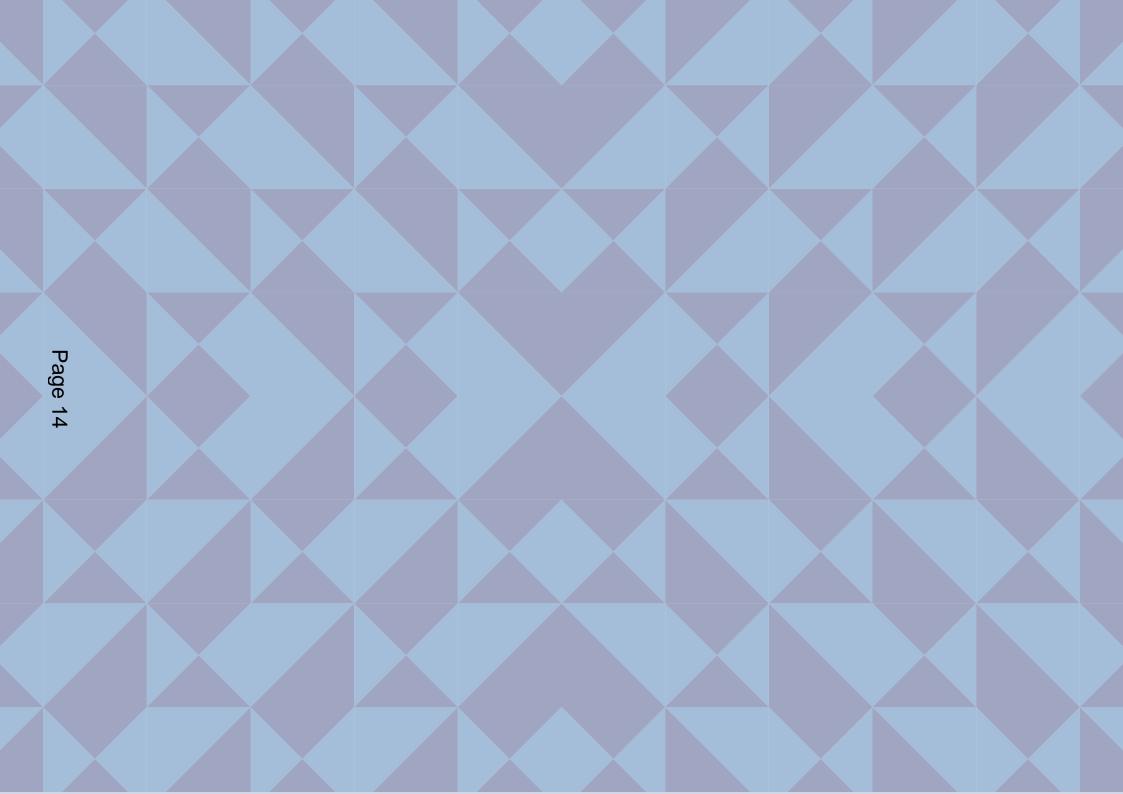
Annex: PCC Annual Report 2024-25

Background papers: Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029

June 2025









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Introduction

This Annual Report marks the conclusion of the first year under my second term as Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley. Following my reelection in May 2024, I launched the Police and Crime Plan 2024–2029 - a strategic framework centred on three core priorities: **Protecting Communities**, **Protecting People**, and **Protecting Property**.

Throughout 2024–25, we have made significant strides in delivering on these priorities. Initiatives such as expanding prevention programmes in schools, enhancing support for victims, and increasing police visibility in both urban and rural areas have been central to our efforts. The introduction of the Thames Valley Data Hub has further strengthened our commitment to transparency and accountability.

The national landscape has evolved with the election of a new government, bringing changes to crime, policing, and justice policy. While political dynamics may shift, my focus remains steadfast: ensuring that national directives are integrated effectively into our local context, safeguarding the independence of the PCC role, and maintaining a policing service that reflects the needs of our communities.

Discussions around devolution and potential local government reform continue to unfold. While these developments may influence how public services are structured, my priority is to ensure that any changes enhance, rather than hinder, our collaborative efforts with local authorities to keep communities safe.

This report provides a transparent account of the work undertaken during 2024/25 - both by my office and in partnership with others - to turn the Plan's priorities into visible, tangible outcomes for the public.

As we progress into the second year of the Police and Crime Plan, I remain committed to working closely with the Chief Constable, our partners, and the public to build on our achievements, address emerging challenges, and continue our mission to make Thames Valley a safer place for all.

Matthew Barber

Police and Crime Commissioner

Thames Valley





Strategic Police Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out the national threats that, in the Home Secretary's view, require a coordinated policing response. These include: Violence Against Women and Girls, Serious and Organised Crime, Terrorism, Cybercrime, Child Sexual Abuse, Public Disorder, and Civil Emergencies. PCCs are required to give due regard to the SPR when setting or reviewing their Police and Crime Plans.

The revised SPR, published in 2023, strengthened expectations on local and regional delivery - emphasising the need for effective partnerships, specialist capabilities, and resilience to respond to these threats.

I have taken full account of the SPR in developing my Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 and in my ongoing oversight of Thames Valley Police. This includes regular engagement through:

- Performance and Accountability Meetings (PAMs)
- Force boards and operational updates aligned to SPR themes
- Oversight of relevant programmes and initiatives

My Internal Audit function provides independent scrutiny of SPR-related areas, with findings reported to the <u>Joint Internal Audit Committee</u> and published on my website. These reviews sit alongside both the Force and OPCC's Strategic Risk Registers, enabling a shared and robust approach to monitoring national threats and associated mitigation.

In 2024/25, Thames Valley Police updated its **Force Management Statement (FMS)** - a key tool for assessing operational capacity, capability, and forecast demand. While not part of the SPR, the FMS plays a vital supporting role. It provides clear evidence of how the Force is preparing for SPR-related risks, identifies strategic gaps, and enables more targeted oversight from my office.

I expect the Force to continue consulting with me on future iterations of the FMS to ensure Thames Valley remains aligned with SPR expectations and wellpositioned to respond to evolving national threats.



Grant Funded Services

The following section contains highlights of how grants and funding have contributed towards the delivery of priorities in my Police and Crime for 2024/25.

There are numerous examples of where grants and funding have supported projects across my priorities that feature in this report. Additionally, a breakdown of commissioned activities from my **Crime Prevention Fund** and **Partnership Fund**, and from the **Victims funding** providing by the Ministry of Justice is available on my website through the <u>Annual Statement of Accounts</u>.

Key Grant Highlights:

In 2024/25, despite a reduction in Ministry of Justice funding, I maintained support across 14 frontline services helping victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. Collectively, these services supported over **2,700 individuals** through a range of provision including advocacy, counselling, group work and legal advice.

A core focus of this work was ensuring services reached communities often underserved by

mainstream provision - including older people and those from diverse or marginalised backgrounds. These grants helped to close critical access gaps, improve safety, and strengthen local pathways to recovery and justice.

Service user feedback and distance-travelled measures continued to show positive outcomes in key areas such as emotional wellbeing, self-confidence, and access to justice. Despite financial pressures, I remain committed to ensuring high-quality, trauma-informed support remains available to victims across Thames Valley.

Two strong examples of this outcome-focussed investment are set out below - highlighting how targeted grant funding has delivered visible and practical results in local communities.

- Safer Streets 5
- ▶ The Choices Programme



Grant Funded Services

Safer Streets 5

Thames Valley has now delivered funding to all 12 local policing areas - making it one of the few forces nationally to achieve full coverage since the programme began in 2020. In Round 5, we secured the maximum available funding across three successful, multi-agency bids - focused on anti-social behaviour (ASB), neighbourhood and rural acquisitive crime, and violence against women and girls (VAWG).

In West Berkshire, £108,200 was invested into the Nightingales Estate in Newbury. This funded new CCTV cameras, youth outreach and diversionary activities, as well as community clean-up days to improve the local environment. A series of workshops delivered in local schools helped pupils understand risk, resist peer pressure and develop greater personal resilience.

In West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse, £90,000 supported rural crime prevention. Interventions included property marking kits, prevention signage, and the appointment of a dedicated Rural Crime Advisor to lead engagement with farms, rural businesses and partner organisations.

In Slough, High Wycombe and Oxford, £156,000 funded a range of VAWG-focused interventions. These included high-visibility Project Vigilant patrols in the night-time economy (NTE), bystander training, behaviour-change programmes for young people, and the expansion of public guardianship schemes such as Street Angels. These efforts aimed to improve safety and reduce vulnerability in public spaces, particularly around bars, clubs and transport hubs.

These projects reflect the strategic value of Safer Streets funding in turning local priorities into visible action. They are delivering practical results - from increased safety and community confidence to stronger partnerships on the ground. By working closely with local authorities, schools, the voluntary sector and the police, we are embedding solutions that are both preventative and sustainable.



Grant Funded Services

The Choices Programme

Choices is a flagship early intervention programme commissioned by my office and delivered in primary and secondary schools across Thames Valley. It equips young people with the emotional literacy, confidence and resilience needed to manage risk and make positive decisions - including around peer pressure, exploitation, substance misuse and knife crime.

In 2024/25, over **935 Year 5 pupils** began the programme, with more than **500 completing** it. Since its launch in 2015, Choices has reached over **29,000 young people** across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

A new three-year grant awarded in 2024/25 secured the programme's future and enabled expansion into high-need areas including Slough, High Wycombe, Oxford and West Berkshire. The curriculum was also adapted to better support SEND and neurodivergent pupils, ensuring more inclusive delivery.

Independent evaluation found that:

• **90**% of participants felt more positive about themselves

- 86-90% better understood their own behaviour and choices
- 94% were more likely to seek help from a trusted adult
- Pupils scoring in the lowest wellbeing range dropped from 25% to 15%

Choices not only builds individual confidence - it offers strong preventative value. It is estimated to save over £175 per pupil in behaviour-related costs alone, with wider benefits across education, safeguarding and early intervention services.

The programme is a powerful example of how longterm, targeted investment can support vulnerable young people and reduce future harm through early, practical support.



Protecting Communities

Protecting Communities

One of the core aims of my Police and Crime Plan is to ensure communities across Thames Valley feel safe, are safe, and have confidence in local policing. This priority focuses on preventing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour, supporting neighbourhood policing, improving road safety, and investing in place-based solutions. Through strong local partnerships, practical prevention, and visible enforcement, we are working to reduce harm and strengthen public trust in every part of the region.

Crime Prevention

Measure: Continued reductions in priority crime types Outcome: 13% reduction in neighbourhood crime (Vehicle, theft, burglary, robbery)

The Partnership Fund is a direct grant from the PCC to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to support local delivery of crime prevention and community safety initiatives. There are 12 CSPs across Thames Valley, bringing together local partners to lead on prevention, problem-solving and delivery against shared priorities. In 2024/25, a total of £2.87 million was invested across 94 locally-led projects.

When West Berkshire Council proposed reducing street lighting at night, I wrote to the Council Leader to raise concerns about the impact on public confidence and victim reassurance. Safe, well-lit streets are a visible deterrent to crime and contribute signifiantly to how secure people feel in their communities. I will continue to challenge decisions that risk undermining public safety or confidence in local policing.

Thames Valley Police also launched its first Prevention Strategy (2024-2027) marking a significant shift in how harm is tackled across the force. The strategy draws together good practice while embedding a 'think prevention' culture in policing - focused on reducing reoffending, tackling vulnerability and cutting demand through early intervention problem-solving.

Commitments include embedding prevention as a core police function, investing in evidence-based approaches, and working with parners to address the root causes of harm. I full support this direction. Prevention is not only central to my Police and Crime Plan - it is essential to building safer, more resilient communities across Thames Valley.



Protecting Communities

Neighbourhood Policing

Measure: Increased PCs and PCSOs in neighbourhood roles

Outcome: The number of funded neighbourhood police constable posts more than doubled - from 149 in April 2023 to 328 in March 2025. PCSO posters also increased, from 264 to 269 between 2023/24 and 2024/25. These PC figures refer to established posts, not officers currently in role.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NHPTs) remain the visible face of policing in Thames Valley - focused on engaging communities, preventing crime, and solving local problems. Throughout 2024/25, teams across the region worked to build trust and confidence by responding to the specific needs of their communities.

In 2024/25, Thames Valley Police significantly strengthened its neighbourhood policing model. The number of funded neighbourhood police constable posts more than doubled - from 149 in April 2023 to 328 in March 2025. PCSO posts also increased, from 264 to 269 between 2023/24 and 2024/25. These uplifts form part of a wider officer establishment of 4,593, with a headcount of 4,632 in March 2025.

The PC figures reflect funded posts - not necessarily officers already in post - and demonstrate a clear investment in building future neighbourhood capacity.

Alongside this growth in frontline resourcing, teams deepended their engagement with communities to better understand local priorities and build trust.

A key part of this work has been through **Key Individual Networks (KINs)** - trusted local voices who act as a vital link between neighbourhood officers and the wider community. KINs help shape local priorities, challenge perceptions, and provide insight into how policing is experienced on the ground.

NHPTs also led proactive operations throughout the year. These included targeted enforcement against drug crime in Milton Keynes, multi-agency partnerships to reduce violence and theft in High Wycombe and Slough, and rural crime initiatives in West Oxfordshire focused on farm theft and engagement with harder-to-reach communities.

In urban centres, NHPTs supported the enforcement of new legislation targeting the anti-social use of e-bikes and e-scooters. In 2024/25, officers seized **334**



Protecting Communities

e-bikes and 264 e-scooters - reflecting a proportionate response to public concerns around road safety and nuisance behaviour.

Whether through community-led initiatives, partnership working or direct engagement, neighbourhood policing continues to make a tangible difference in how safe people feel and how well the police are seen to respond to local concerns.

Road Safety

Measure: Reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads
Outcome: Overall KSI (killed and seriously injured) incidents reduced by 18% in 2024/25. This includes a drop in fatal collisions from 59 to 44 and serious injuries from 543 to 450.

Road safety is a key public concern and an area where multi-agency collaboration can deliver lasting impact. This year, I published the first Thames Valley Road Safety Strategy - shared plan to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads and promote safer travel across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes.

The strategy brings together the efforts of police, fire and rescue services, local authorities, highways agencies, and health partners. Its priorities include:

- Educating the public on safe driving and traffic laws
- Enforcing traffic offences to deter unsafe behaviour
- Sharing data to identify and respond to high-risk locations
- Improving road infrastructure and emergency response
- Providing stronger support for road victims and their families

In 2024/25, I chaired the inaugual meeting of the **Thames Valley Road Safety Partnership**, strengthening coordination across agencies and building momentum for delivery. The strategy provides a clear framework for reducing harm and saving lives through prevention, enforcement and community engagement.

Early signs are encouraging. Fewer lives were lost on our roads this year, and fewer families faced the trauma of serious injury. While we should never accept any level of serious harm as inevitable, this progress shows what can be achieved when agencies work



Protecting Communities

together with clear purpose and shared commitment.

► Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Measure: Reduce anti-social behaviour in communities Outcome: Recorded ASB incidents increased slightly: 7,188 to 7,521 (+0.5%)

This year I launched a new Thames Valley-wide anti-social behaviour (ASB) mediation service, funded by my office and delivered by Alternatives to Conflict. The service is open to all communities across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Milton Keynes and is designed to help resolve neighbour and community disputes before they escalate into more serious or persistent ASB.

Mediation offers an impartial, early intervention tool that can defuse tensions, restore communication, and reduce harm - particularly in cases where ASB is ongoing but may not reach criminal thresholds. Making this service widely accessible is a key part of my broader strategy to reduce repeat ASB, improve outcomes for victims, and empower communities to take constructive action.

Since its launch, the service has received over 300

referrals, demonstrating a clear public demand and filling a longstanding gap in early intervention services. It will continue to support victims into 2025/26 as we embed restorative approaches more widely across community safety work.

During Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week, I visited Alternatives to Conflict in High Wycombe to learn more about their work in practice. The visit underscored the value of community-led responses and highlighted the power of mediation in building safer, more cohesive neighbourhoods.

Building Confidence

Measure: Increased levels of public confidence Outcome: According to the 2024/25 Maru/Blue Sentiment Survey, 72% of respondents agreed that Thames Valley Police is an organisation they can trust - up from 60% in 2023/24. A further 93% said they would contact the police if they were a victim of crime or had a concern, 91% felt safe in their local area, and 67% agreed that the police treat everyone impartially.

At the end of 2023/24, I published the findings of a scrutiny review I commissioned to explore how communities across Thames Valley could be better



Protecting Communities

involved in advising and scrutinising the work of Thames Valley Police. Over the course of 2024/25, implementation of the review's recommendations progressed steadily, culminating in the creation of a new **Chairpersons' Forum** — a space that brings together the chairs of various scrutiny and advisory groups to share feedback and drive continuous improvement.

This work fostered stronger **community participation** and ensured that feedback is acted upon, reinforcing our shared focus on building trust and confidence across the region. To track progress, I commissioned an annual **Trust and Confidence Survey** in partnership with Thames Valley Police. The results of both the 2023/24 and 2024/25 surveys have now been published, and I have committed to funding this work throughout the lifetime of my Police and Crime Plan (2024–2029).

In parallel, the Chief Executive of my office continues to sit on the Force's **Trust and Confidence Board**, ensuring direct PCC involvement in how internal reform is shaped and delivered. This governance link also ensures I remain fully supported in holding the Chief Constable to account on performance in this

area, including the Force's approach to community legitimacy, inclusion and public contact.

While confidence levels remain high overall, I remain focused on strengthening transparency, inclusivity and responsiveness - the building blocks of public trust.



Protecting People

Protecting People

This priority focuses on preventing harm to the most vulnerable in our communities - including victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, exploitation and serious violence. It also includes a strong commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk. Through a blend of targeted commissioning, partnership work and victim-centered policing, we are working to improve protection, build trust, and ensure those affected by crime can access the support they need.

Rape and Sexual Offences

Measure: Improved charge rates for RASO offences Positive outcomes: 460 in 2024/25 – up from 395 in 2023/24

Charge rate: 8.3% (2024/25) – down from 10.1% (2023/24)

In response to July's **College of Policing** and **National Police Chiefs' Council** Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) National Policing Statement 2024, we reaffirmed our commitment to improving the policing response to these crimes. My Police and Crime Plan prioritises pursuing offenders, raising charge rates,

and supporting victims.

I am proud of Thames Valley Police's progress through initiatives such as **Project Vigilant** and the national delivery of a **school-based non-contact offences programme**. The national publication highlighted TVP's **Courageous Conversation** series as good practice - recognising our efforts to challenge inappropriate behaviour and promote a respectful internal culture. We remain clear that tackling VAWG requires a wholesystem approach, not only within policing, but across partners and the wider public.

On 25 November, I visited **Hope After Harm**, a charity supporting victims of sexual violence in the Thames Valley. This organisation delivers the **Thames Valley Sexual Violence Service**, which I commissioned earlier this year as part of my broader **Victims First** provision. The visit highlighted the charity's critical role in helping victims cope with trauma and rebuild their lives.

Marking White Ribbon Day, the visit reinforced our ongoing commitment to supporting survivors of sexual violence and raising awareness of violence against women and girls.



Protecting People

Domestic Abuse

Measure: Improved outcome rates for domestic abuse Positive outcomes: 2,009 (10.9%) in 2024/25 – down

from 2,281 (12.3%) in 2023/24

Charges: 1,988 (2024/25) vs 2,004 (2023/24) – a 0.8%

decrease

Domestic abuse remains one of the most prevalent and high-risk crime types across Thames Valley. It accounts for a significant proportion of police demand and has a devastating impact on victims and families.

My office continued to commission the Victims First Domestic Abuse Service throughout 2024/25. This service provides support to all victims — regardless of gender — through emotional and practical help, risk and safety planning, and independent advocacy. Over the past year, it supported more than 1,700 victims.

I also provided grant funding to a range of community-based organisations, including SAFE!, Reducing the Risk, and MK Act. These services deliver targeted interventions for adult and child victims, as well as tailored support for marginalised groups. Together, they form a core part of our trauma-informed, partnership-led approach to tackling domestic abuse.

While the positive outcome rate for domestic abuse fell to 10.9% in 2024/25 (down from 12.3%), the number of charges remained stable, with 1,988 in 2024/25 compared to 2,004 in 2023/24 — a 0.8% decrease. This reflects a continued operational focus on pursuing offenders, despite rising demand.

In 2024/25, I funded two Thames Valley-wide perpetrator programmes:

- The Compulsive Obsessive Behaviour Intervention (COBI) is the only UK stalking-behaviour intervention approved by the British Psychological Society. It offers thirteen 1:1 sessions of Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) to assess risk, examine triggers, and help individuals break the cycle of reoffending.
- DRIVE is a high-risk domestic abuse perpetrator programme that uses intensive case management and multi-agency coordination. In 2024/25, DRIVE worked with 142 perpetrators, 158 associated victim/survivors, and 284 associated children. Completed cases showed reductions in physical and sexual abuse, stalking, and coercive behaviour.

On 1 April 2024, I launched the new **Thames Valley**



Protecting People

Adult Service, with Victim Support appointed as provider. Accessed through the Victims First Hub, it offers online group programmes, 1:1 caseworker support, and IDVA interventions. In its first year, the service supported 714 victims, including standard-risk domestic abuse victims, who have historically had fewer support options.

Night-Time Economy

Measure: Reduced offending and increased

prevention activity

Outcome: 283 Project Vigilant deployments; 644 proactive stops; multiple arrests and offender

disruptions at high-risk locations

Project Vigilant continued to play a vital role in safeguarding women and girls across Thames Valley's night-time economy. Between April 2024 and April 2025, Thames Valley Police conducted 283 targeted deployments under the project, delivering strong preventative results despite the transition to the new Local Command Unit (LCU) structure. Proactive interventions led to 644 stops, disrupting predatory behaviour and preventing offences before escalation. Notable outcomes included the arrest of a wanted stranger rapist in Reading, swift

action following a sexual assault in Oxford, and the interception of high-risk individuals elsewhere through targeted monitoring and enforcement.

I have remained a strong supporter of Project Vigilant's nationally recognised approach, and I am committed to sustaining investment in proactive safeguarding initiatives. The continued success of Vigilant demonstrates the value of early intervention, partnership working, and maintaining a strong, visible policing presence in the night-time economy.

Serious Violence

Measure: Continued low levels of serious violence

and homicide

Outcome: Knife enabled Crime: -7% reduction;

Homicides: unchanged (0.0%)

I supported the wider rollout of **Thames Valley's Youth Violence Programme**, designed to reduce knife crime and serious youth offending. The programme uses intervention, mentorship and community partnerships to prevent violence, support young people, and break the cycle of offending. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to early intervention and long-term change.



Protecting People

Later in the year, I backed **Thames Valley Police's campaign** encouraging the public to surrender zombie knives and other illegal weapons. This formed part of our broader approach to tackling knife crime and ensuring our communities feel safer. By removing dangerous weapons from circulation, we reduce the risk of harm and show zero tolerance for violent crime.

I expanded the successful **Op Deter** initiative to address youth knife crime and serious violence. Working closely with local schools, youth services and police, the rollout focused on early intervention, educational input, and appropriate enforcement to help divert young people away from violence and offending.

Tackling the causes of serious violence requires close partnership working, and I continue to support the **Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership** (VPP) in leading a joined-up response to this complex challenge. The VPP brings together local authorities, health, policing and criminal justice agencies to prevent violence before it happens - using data, evidence, and lived experience to inform its approach.

This work complements the priorities set out in my

Police and Crime Plan, and I welcome the publication of the <u>VPP Annual Report 2024/25</u>, which will reflect on progress and highlight opportunities for further collaboration.

Abuse and Exploitation

Measure: Increased safeguarding of those being

exploited

Outcome: 545 National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

referrals in 2024 (2023: 557)

I spoke at the national safeguarding conference hosted by the **Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse**, where I highlighted the importance of learning from high-profile investigations such as **Operation Bullfinch**. I reaffirmed our commitment to working with survivors, agencies, and frontline professionals to improve prevention, share intelligence, and protect vulnerable children. The conference provided a platform to showcase progress in Thames Valley while acknowledging where more must be done.

Over the summer, I supported the VPP 'Stay True to You' campaign, aimed at helping young people navigate peer pressure and avoid the risks associated with criminal exploitation. The campaign offered a



Protecting People

platform to build resilience and decision-making skills, and reached thousands of teenagers and families through digital and community engagement.

Over the past year, I supported **Thames Valley Police's** continued efforts to tackle exploitation and modern slavery through joint operational work and enhanced victim services. TVP took part in multiple phases of the national **Operation Aidant** campaign, targeting organised crime groups and identifying victims through intelligence-led visits. Key operations, including **Jetstream** and **Daybreak**, disrupted serious criminal networks linked to sexual exploitation and trafficking.

To ensure support for those affected, I commissioned a new model of victim services from April 2024. Adult victims are supported by Victim Support, sexual violence services are delivered by Hope After Harm, and children are helped by SAFE. This model ensures consistent, trauma-informed support across the region.

I also welcomed the progression of the **Crime and Policing Bill**, which will introduce new offences
targeting **child criminal exploitation** and **cuckooing**,

further strengthening our ability to protect the most vulnerable.



Protecting Property

Protecting Property

This priority focuses on reducing crimes that affect homes, businesses and public spaces - including burglary, shoplifting, theft, and criminal damage. These offences can cause real and lasting disruption to people's lives and livelihoods. By improving local problem-solving, investing in prevention, and strengthening our response to repeat offending, we are helping to create safer, more secure communities across Thames Valley.

▶ Residential Burglary

Measure: Continued low levels of burglary and

increased charges

Outcome: Domestic burglary down 6.5%; outcome rate

improved by 11%

Burglary remains a key concern for communities, with lasting effects on victims' sense of safety. I continue to support Thames Valley Police in its sustained focus on reducing burglary and related neighbourhood crimes. The Force's Neighbourhood Crime Prevention Plan adopts a targeted, problem-solving approach centred on victim safeguarding, hotspot policing, and disrupting repeat offenders. This is supported by

visible patrols, Criminal Behaviour Orders, and public awareness campaigns.

Policing methods have also evolved through structural reform. The full rollout of the Force's **five-area Local Command Unit (LCU) model** has enhanced frontline resilience and improved flexibility for neighbourhood teams, many of whom now work closely with **Harm Reduction Units** and community intelligence teams.

I welcome Thames Valley Police's continued use of the 'Wipe the Slate Clean' principle, enabling appropriate suspects to admit multiple offences for court consideration. This can bring closure for victims and help break patterns of repeat offending.

Partnerships remain essential. I support the Force's public-facing efforts to promote burglary prevention - including **property marking**, **home security advice**, and greater community involvement. As part of this, I encourage residents to get involved with their local **Neighbourhood Watch groups**, which offer practical crime prevention advice and help build local vigilance.

Retail Crime

Measure: Increase in recorded offences, resulting in



Protecting Property

higher arrest and charge rates Outcome: Repeat shoplifters targeted: +65% (2,924 to 4,819); overall retail crime outcome rate: 18.6%, up from previous year

Since the launch of my **Retail Crime Strategy**, Thames Valley Police have improved their ability to identify, arrest, and prosecute offenders. There has been greater focus on prolific individuals, organised crime, and support for victims. An increase in shoplifting reports reflects rising confidence among businesses to report crime and work with police to create a hostile environment for offenders.

I introduced the **DISC** app to make it easier for businesses to report and share information. Offered free of charge across Thames Valley, more than **1,400 retailers** have signed up, with **1,758 incidents** reported to date.

I also continued to engage retailers through the **Strategic Retail Forum**, which strengthened relationships and helped drive joint efforts to support victims and reduce harm in retail spaces.

In 2024/25, Thames Valley Police rolled out DISC forcewide, enabling real-time alerts on prolific offenders

and emerging crime patterns. Business engagement improved significantly, supported by faster reporting, better information sharing, and a more visible policing presence at vulnerable sites.

The Retail Crime Investigation Team embedded a THRIVE-based approach, ensuring shoplifting cases involving named offenders were processed within 24 hours. Routine telephone contact replaced older 'shoplifting packs', reinforcing a victim-first approach. CCTV footage was collected more efficiently, and cross-LCU collaboration helped disrupt wider crime series.

As a result, Thames Valley Police achieved a **positive outcome rate of 18.6%** - a notable improvement on the previous year, reflecting the impact of strengthened partnership working and a clear focus on enforcement.

I also backed wider efforts to tackle business crime beyond retail, including support for **Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs)** and greater intelligence sharing across sectors. Promoting shared responsibility strengthens our collective resilience against criminal threats to local enterprise.



Protecting Property

Vehicle Crime

Measure: Reductions in the levels of vehicle crime Outcome: Total offences reduced by 15.5% (14,354 to 13,130)

12,130)

I welcomed new data showing a year-on-year fall in vehicle crime across Thames Valley. The drop in thefts from and of vehicle highlights the proactive work by our local policing teams and the effectiveness of targeted operations. During 2025/2026, my office will be publishing a Vehicle Crime Strategy which will set out our areas of focus and the key activities that will be undertaken by my office, TVP and wider partner agencies in order to build on this positive work, prevent further offences and ensure a robust law enforcement response to Vehicle Crime.

Rural Crime

Measure: Reductions in the levels of rural crime Outcome: Year-on-year reduction of 17%

Tackling rural crime remains a key priority in my Police and Crime Plan. Over the past year, I have continued to support Thames Valley Police's **Rural Crime Taskforce** - a force-wide unit focused on disrupting

theft, trespass, and organised crime targeting rural communities.

Since its launch, the Taskforce has recovered over £8 million worth of stolen goods, including £4 million in 2024 alone. This includes 88 caravans, 441 motor vehicles, and 63 items of plant and machinery. The team earned national recognition, including the Rob Oliver Award for excellence in vehicle theft prevention.

In 2024, the Taskforce completed **566 investigations**, made **245 arrests**, and achieved a **29% positive outcome rate**. Officers also conducted **308 stop searches**, **1,629 stop checks**, and submitted **449 intelligence reports**, resulting in **97 positive searches** - reflecting a proactive, intelligence-led approach.

Alongside neighbourhood policing, the Taskforce adds a dedicated, offender-focused layer of support - using drones and ANPR to target high-risk offenders. By working with rural communities and cross-border partners, we are sending a clear message: rural crime will not be tolerated in Thames Valley.

I joined partners to launch the Oxfordshire Rural Crime Partnership, bringing together organisations committed to tackling crimes affecting farming and



Protecting Property

rural communities. The partnership supports joint enforcement, intelligence sharing, and proactive prevention - ensuring rural residents are not left behind.

I also welcomed a cross-border agreement with the Wiltshire and Hampshire PCCs, aimed at strengthening our collective response to rural crime. By aligning enforcement priorities and sharing intelligence, we are making it harder for offenders to exploit county boundaries.

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Cybercrime and Fraud

Measure: Increased community education and prevention activity
Outcome: 14,716 fraud incidents recorded; £3.7m in losses prevented; 113 cyber protect events delivered; cyber-related arrests up 52%

Fraud

This year, I raised awareness of the growing scale and impact of **investment fraud** across Thames Valley. In 2024 alone, more than £23 million was lost to scams, often involving fake cryptocurrency, stock, or pension schemes. I highlighted the importance of education, preventative messaging, and collaboration with banks and tech companies in disrupting these tactics. Tackling fraud remains a priority in my Police and Crime Plan, and we will continue to drive coordinated action across sectors.



Protecting Property

Thames Valley Police strengthened its response to fraud. It launched version two of its bespoke **fraud protection toolki**t, offering practical advice to help people safeguard their financial and emotional wellbeing. Now adopted by other forces, the toolkit reflects Thames Valley's leadership in preventative fraud education.

The Central Fraud Unit, now fully operational with 36 specialist officers, expanded its capability through automated systems - speeding up case recording and protecting more victims. In 2024/25, 14,716 fraud-related incidents were recorded, and £3.7 million was prevented from reaching criminals through swift interventions such as the Banking Protocol.

Criminal justice outcomes included the conviction of a serial fraudster sentenced to **nine years in prison**, and prosecutions of courier fraud offenders targeting older victims. I have continued to support public awareness, targeted interventions through **Operation Signature**, and investment in frontline capacity.

Cybercrime

Cybercrime response also improved through a new collaborative regional model launched in April 2024.

Thames Valley Police adopted a borderless tasking approach with regional partners, improving resource allocation and outcomes for victims.

Public engagement rose significantly, with 113 cyber protect events held and tailored advice delivered to nearly 700 local victims. Support for small and medium-sized businesses also increased through stronger links with the South-East Cyber Resilience Centre, leading to more referrals and preparedness workshops.

Cyber-related arrests rose by 52%, with higher charge and conviction rates - demonstrating the benefits of a more proactive, coordinated approach. As digital threats evolve, I remain committed to supporting innovation and collaboration to protect the public and businesses across Thames Valley.



Enablers

Enablers

Delivering the priorities in my Police and Crime Plan relies not only on frontline policing, but also on the infrastructure and partnerships that support it. From investing in victim services to modernising data systems, these enablers ensure the police can work efficiently, respond effectively, and build long-term public confidence. The following section highlights how these essential elements have contributed to progress in 2024-25.

Support for Victims

In 2024/25, I launched new services to ensure that victims in the Thames Valley can access a range of holistic support - with a particular focus on those affected by high-harm crimes such as sexual violence and domestic abuse. Following a commissioning process that included extensive market engagement and victim insight, I funded three new core services, all accessed through the Victims First Hub:

• The Thames Valley Adult Service, provided by **Victim Support**, supports adult victims of crime. Support is delivered through specialist online group work, one-to-one casework, and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) support.

- The Thames Valley Sexual Violence Service, delivered by Hope After Harm, supports adult victims of sexual offences. The service includes one-to-one specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) provision, caseworker support, peer groups, and online sessions such as psychoeducation and the Recovery Skills Toolkit. It offers holistic support for all victims - including those involved in the criminal justice system and those who have not reported to police.
- The Thames Valley CYP Support After Crime Service, delivered by SAFE!, supports young people aged 5-18. Support includes storytelling, play therapy, restorative approaches, therapeutic listening, group activities, and online sessions. Parents and guardians are also supported, with the service expanded to offer counselling.
- Online Support, provided by Silvercloud, delivers structured self-guided programmes to help victims cope with the impact of crime. This offers additional flexibility for wider victim groups and can be used either as a standalone offer or alongside other support.



CCTV Partnership

I have led the **Thames Valley CCTV Partnership** in collaboration with local authorities and Thames Valley Police to deliver a more sustainable and effective CCTV service across the region - helping to deter crime, support investigations, and keep the public safe.

The launch of **Phase 1** saw CCTV ownership transferred from **Milton Keynes City Council** and **Slough Borough Council** to **Thames Valley Police**, supported by significant PCC investment and matched funding from local partners to enhance provision in both areas.

I am now working with partners in Oxfordshire to deliver **Phase 2**, which will merge four existing control centres into a single Oxfordshire-based hub.

CCTV remains a vital part of our community safety infrastructure - benefitting policing and local communities by deterring crime and antisocial behaviour, identifying offenders, and supporting prosecutions. Since going live, we have already seen the benefits of upgraded equipment and increased operator capacity, enabling officers to intervene in serious incidents as they unfold.

Thames Valley Police continue to work with local authorities not yet in the Partnership, offering close support and coordination with their ongoing CCTV operations.

▶ Improving Public Contact

Improving how the public contacts and interacts with the police remains a clear operational and strategic priority. While the 999-emergency service continues to meet its high standards - achieving 92.6% of calls answered within 10 seconds in 2024/25 (up from 86.1%) - the non-emergency 101 service saw a major improvement, with average call waiting times cut from over six minutes in 2023/24 to just 3.32 minutes this year. The abandonment rate for 101 calls also halved, dropping from 26.8% to 16.6%, reflecting a significant improvement in public experience and accessibility.

Alongside telephony, Thames Valley Police has continued to develop digital channels, including greater promotion of online reporting tools and expanding access to the Victims Portal. Use of the Portal has shown small but meaningful improvements in victim satisfaction across frequency of contact and



Enablers

quality of updates compared to traditional channels. While gaps remain, this is a positive step toward modernising services for victims and the wider public. Future priorities include further rollout of the **Single Online Home** platform and exploring new social media routes for **community-based reporting and engagement**.

Better use of data

In 2024/25, I launched a new <u>Data Hub</u> on my website to improve transparency and give the public greater insight into policing performance across Thames Valley. This online tool brings together accessible, up-to-date information on recorded crime levels, 999 and 101 call volumes, response times, and public confidence. Crucially, the data is structured around the three core priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan: Protecting Communities, Protecting People, and Protecting Property. The Hub makes it easier than ever for residents to stay informed about what is happening across the force and how the police are performing.

By putting this data in the hands of the public, we are supporting stronger accountability and a more open relationship between communities and the police.

Early intervention in schools

Since June 2024, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has undertaken a comprehensive review of education engagement initiatives supported by the OPCC and the Violence Prevention Partnership, delivered through a range of partners. This work, alongside Thames Valley Police-led programmes, has focused on supporting young people in educational settings - particularly through the role of Safer Schools Officers.

Over the past year, all projects engaging schools across Thames Valley have been successfully mapped. Positive engagement with Thames Valley Police partners has ensured the operational voice of officers was fully heard. Significant collaboration with both internal and external stakeholders led to an excellent response to the schools and education survey, with 52.6% of schools participating.

The insights gained will inform a forthcoming public recommendations document - shaping future approaches to early intervention, resources, and messaging for children, parents, and education



partners across the Thames Valley policing area.

Improving criminal justice

Working through the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) with partners such as the CPS, prisons, probation, and the Courts Service, I have supported efforts to reduce backlogs, improve charge rates, and reduce reoffending across Thames Valley.

This year, I oversaw the introduction of an innovative project focused on women in police custody. By embedding trained staff in custody suites, we identified vulnerabilities early and referred individuals to community services, including dedicated women's centres. Early evaluation shows a reduction in reoffending, and we have secured Ministry of Justice funding to extend the pilot for another year. This approach strengthens public protection by addressing the underlying causes of offending at the earliest opportunity.

I also identified the need to improve how **children and young people** are supported within the criminal justice system. In response, I established a **Children and Young People's Board** under the LCJB, bringing together key agencies to drive a **child-first approach**.

The Board has already contributed to faster investigations, supported the development of a new **Thames Valley Police child strategy**, and strengthened partnerships with local authorities to address issues such as school exclusions.

It also supported the implementation of recommendations from the **OPCC-commissioned SAFE Report**, helping to improve outcomes for young people affected by crime.





Governance, Accountability & Efficiency

Strong governance and accountability are vital to public confidence, while efficiency ensures that resources are used wisely to deliver the best outcomes. In 2024/25, I continued to hold the Chief Constable to account, promote transparency, and support improvements in how services are delivered and funded. This section outlines the key ways I have discharged these responsibilities on behalf of the public.

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion.

This year, I published the findings of an **independent review** into Thames Valley Police's approach to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI). Commissioned following a high-profile employment tribunal outcome, the review identified several areas for improvement — including inconsistent policy implementation, limited transparency in progression schemes, and challenges in creating an inclusive working environment.

I welcomed the Force's response and its commitment to act on the recommendations, which include improving central oversight, strengthening internal communication, and enhancing training and support for officers and staff. These reforms are essential to building a more inclusive organisation that reflects the communities we serve and to maintaining public confidence in policing.

I will continue to hold the Force to account for progress, ensuring diversity and inclusion are embedded in both culture and practice. Click here to read a full copy of the DEI report.

Complaints Review

Over the course of 2024/25, I strengthened scrutiny and oversight of complaints handling across Thames Valley Police. A key development was the launch of a new **Complaints and Standards Panel**, made up of independent members of the public. This panel gives the electorate a direct voice in assessing complaint trends and systemic issues, supporting greater transparency and accountability in policing.

Alongside this, I began work on a revised oversight framework to enhance the existing Model 1 complaints process. This includes increasing my visibility at internal Professional Standards

Department (PSD) meetings to better understand critical issues as they arise. By deepening engagement at this level, I can interrogate and contextualise



Governance, Accountability & Efficiency

performance data more effectively.

These improvements are helping me apply more rigorous scrutiny and make evidence-based decisions that support both fairness and high standards in policing. Ultimately, this work is about restoring and strengthening public confidence - ensuring the complaints system is not only robust but also trusted by the communities we serve.

Internal Audit

Internal audits provide independent and objective assurance on how risk management, control, and governance processes are applied to key organisational operations and risks. They are a statutory requirement, with both myself and the Chief Constable responsible for ensuring effective internal audit arrangements across our organisations.

This service is delivered by the Joint Internal Audit Team, who in 2024/25 completed a number of reviews that provided added-value assurance aligned with my Police and Crime Plan - including audits on Rape and Sexual Offences, the RACE Action Plan, MASH – Adult Protection Demand, and Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee readiness.

The team also completed reviews of OPCC priorities and internal processes, covering areas such as **Statutory Responsibilities**, the general **Complaints Process**, and the **Thames Valley Together** function.

In addition, the team supports the effective operation of the **Joint Independent Audit Committee**, which provides independent assurance to both me and the Chief Constable on the adequacy of the risk management framework and control environment within the OPCC and Thames Valley Police.

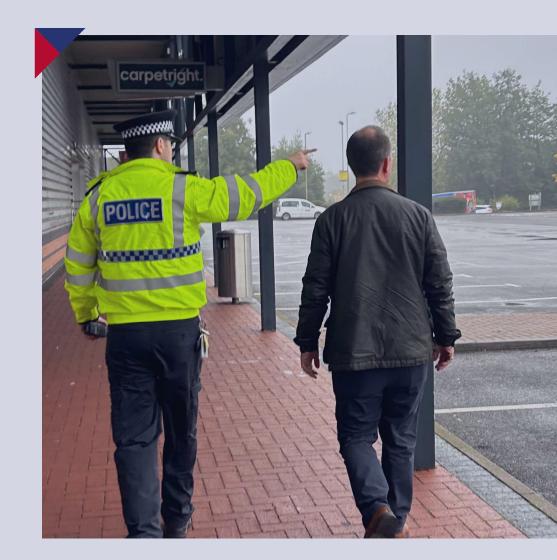


Governance, Accountability & Efficiency

Restructure

During 2024/25, I approved a restructure of my office - the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) - to ensure it delivers value for money and embeds efficiency at the heart of the administration supporting me in my role. The restructure is now fully implemented, with only a small number of recruitment processes ongoing. This refreshed structure enables the OPCC to take a more systematic approach to supporting delivery of my Police and Crime Plan, working collaboratively with partners across the wider policing and criminal justice landscape.

Despite covering the largest geographical non-metropolitan police force area in England and Wales, Thames Valley OPCC remains one of the most cost-effective nationally. Running costs for 2025/26 are budgeted at 0.45% of net revenue expenditure. Nationally, OPCC costs typically range from 0.4% to 1.0%, although variations in local structures mean direct comparisons should be made with care.





Looking ahead to 2025-26

As we look ahead to 2025/26, I remain focused on delivering the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan - supporting effective policing, protecting the vulnerable, and ensuring Thames Valley remains one of the safest regions in the country. This section outlines some of the key areas where my office will continue to drive improvement, respond to emerging challenges, and work in partnership to deliver lasting impact for our communities.

Additional Neighbourhood Officers

In April 2025, the Home Office confirmed an increase in neighbourhood policing for 2025/26, allocating over £6 million to Thames Valley Police to recruit 68 additional neighbourhood police officers. This builds on the success of the Crimefighters strategy, launched in 2023, which had already more than doubled the number of neighbourhood officers. With this latest uplift, the number of officers will now be more than two and a half times higher than before the strategy was introduced.

Neighbourhood policing is central to my Police and Crime Plan - focusing on increased visibility, stronger community engagement, and proactive responses to crime and antisocial behaviour. These additional officers will play a key role in building trust and confidence, helping residents feel safer and more connected to their local policing teams.

Strengthening Forensic Capabilities

In March, I joined colleagues from Thames Valley Police and key project partners to mark the topping-out of our new **forensics centre in Bicester**. Due to open in 2025/26, this state-of-the-art facility will become the central hub for Thames Valley Police's **Forensic Investigation Unit**. It will house cutting-edge laboratories for biological, physical, and digital forensics, alongside advanced imaging suites, dedicated training areas, and modern infrastructure to support increasingly complex investigations.

The centre forms part of the Force's wider Forensic Improvement Programme and represents a major investment in science-led policing. Once operational, it will enable faster, higher-quality evidence processing, support more timely charging decisions, and ultimately improve outcomes for victims. By strengthening forensic capability across the region, we are enhancing our ability to investigate crime, bring offenders to



Looking ahead to 2025-26

justice, and maintain public confidence in the criminal justice system.

Support for those impacted by road traffic accidents

In my Road Safety Strategy, I identified a gap in support for road traffic victims. To address this, I am developing a specialist **Road Victim Support service**, which will launch in 2025. This service will ensure that Thames Valley residents seriously affected by road traffic accidents have access to appropriate support in the aftermath of a collision.

Its core aim is to help those who have sustained serious - often life-changing - injuries to manage the immediate traumatic impact, and to build resilience as they move forward with daily life. Support will also be available for navigating civil or investigative proceedings.

▶ Move to automated referral of all victims

Through my Victims Review project, it was identified that not all victims were getting easy access to the support they needed. Over the past year, my team has led a victims' transformation project to improve both access to support and the range of services available in Thames Valley. This included the launch of newly

commissioned services and new support options, such as online provision.

In 2025, a key change will be introduced to the police referral process to ensure that all victims of crime in Thames Valley have access to appropriate support. Everyone who reports a crime will now be **automatically referred to the Victims First service**, which provides triage and assessment. This change will ensure that support is proactively offered to every victim - helping more people to access the right help, at the right time.

Crime and Policing Bill

The Government's new **Crime and Policing Bill** sets out major reforms aimed at improving public safety, strengthening victim protections, and expanding police powers. While the Bill is still progressing through Parliament, I am already assessing its local impact and how it aligns with the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan. Key elements of the Bill include:

 Tackling Exploitation and Harm – New offences for child criminal exploitation and cuckooing will support efforts to bring offenders to justice and better safeguard vulnerable individuals.



Looking ahead to 2025-26

- Protecting Retail Workers A new offence of assaulting shop workers responds to growing national concern and supports our local strategy to tackle retail crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls
 (VAWG) Strengthened laws on spiking and
 intimate image abuse reinforce our commitment
 to protecting women and girls across Thames
 Valley.
- Enhancing Police Powers Measures such as warrantless searches for tagged stolen items and expanded powers to seize dangerous weapons will enable police to act more swiftly and effectively.

I will continue to monitor the Bill's progress and ensure Thames Valley is ready to respond. These national reforms offer a timely opportunity to reinforce our local priorities, strengthen our response to serious harm, and boost public confidence in policing.

Devolution and Governance Reform

Over the past year, there has been growing national focus on public service reform, including new **devolution deals** and the expansion of **directly**

elected mayors. While Thames Valley is not part of the initial wave, I continue to monitor developments that may affect the future governance of policing and criminal justice.

Nationally, discussions about potentially transferring Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions to metro or regional mayors have raised important questions about future accountability structures. While no changes are currently proposed for Thames Valley, I remain engaged with national partners and local authorities to ensure that local policing remains transparent, responsive, and accountable.

Emerging proposals to restructure local government in parts of the region could also reshape partnership arrangements - even though Thames Valley Police's jurisdiction remains unchanged. As these conversations evolve, I will continue to champion the principle of direct public accountability for policing, ensuring any future governance model serves the needs of communities across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Milton Keynes.







©xfordshire County Council Reresentation

Chief Constable Jason Hogg Chief Superintendent Benedict Clark 25th June 2025





Our People





* Including our Regional Units of Counter Terrorism Policing South East and South East Regional and Organised Crime Units and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

263 Police Community Support Officers167 Special Constables1532 Volunteers, Temps, Contractors Cadets and Mini Police



Force Review Update

- Biggest review and restructure of our force since 2010. We are now working in more complex environment, with growing demand and with greater focus on vulnerability and online crime and prevention. Our force structure needs to reflect these changes and meet demand.
- Force review has identified £15.7m of savings. £7m of these savings have been delivered to date.





Force Review Update

- New structure allows us to surge resources to meet demand.
- Buckinghamshire Local Command Unit went live in April 2024, Oxfordshire went live in November 2024 with Berkshire East and Berkshire West following in May 2025.
- New model has better levels of local scrutiny and public oversight through the establishment of LCU Community Scrutiny Panels as well as staying true to the commitments of our Race Action Plan with the revision of LCU Independent Advisory Groups.



Force Review

Benefits of the new Local Command Unit Structure

Double the numbers of Neighbourhood

↑ Domestic Abuse Investigation Units DC's

25 Additional Incident & Crime Response Sergeants

↑ Child Abuse Investigation Unit DC's

Dedicated Mental Health
Officers

Harm Reduction Units

Increased Schools
Officers

Resilient Commands

Financial Savings

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Neighbourhood Policing

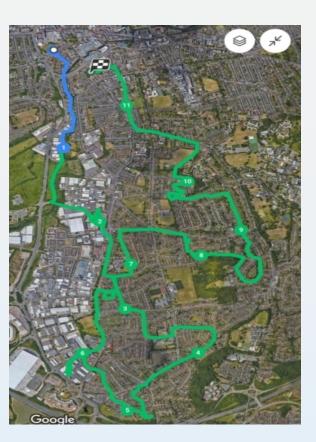
- Op Purchase Increased patrols and collaboration with businesses to focus on reducing retail crime by addressing areas of prevention, enforcement and key areas of demand.
 - 566 business premises registered to DISC a self crime management system, allowing businesses to directly report crime and intelligence.
 - Creation of "Fight Back Against Retail Crime" events, over
 70 retailers attending per event.
 - Overall charge volume increased by 10%.





Neighbourhood Policing





 Development of the Neighbourhood App - Rolled out to entire force. The app will include but will not be limited to embedding engagement logs, linking Thames Valley alerts, hotspots, logging patrol activity, abstractions etc.



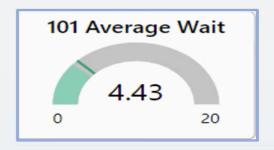
Neighbourhood Policing

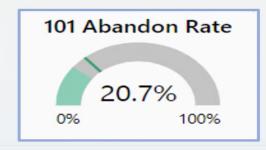
- Thames Valley Alerts We now have over 107,000 users, with 269 extra users added just in December alone and over 586,000 total messages. We've seen 44,520 alert interactions and overall 57.37% overall engagement
- E-scooters/E-Bikes focus Force focus on addressing this issue.
 - SPOCS assigned within Roads Policing & Local Policing Areas.
 - Exploring use of Selecta DNA sprays to tag vehicles and purpertrtors of two wheeled crime.
 - Ongoing engagement with public and schools to educate on legality and risks.
 - Improved capturing of performance data, providing a more detailed and accurate picture.
 - 449 E-Bike and E-Scooter siezed Oct 24'-April 25'. 20 Siezed in Oxfordshire in April 25'

Contact Management and Digital 101

Our Goals:

- Reduce the yearly average time to answer 101 calls to 5 minutes
- Reduce negative abandonment rate for 101 calls
- Ensure 90% of 999 calls are answered within 10 seconds







B

Innovation and use of technology means we are managing demand better but it is not costing us more!

Future Innovation

- Speech and text analytics Software to better understand and manage our demand –
 March 2025
- Al Chabot's to handle non-emergency requests These can assist in reporting minor crimes or providing information to the public, freeing up resources to focus on demand. – May 2025



Courageous Conversations Progamme - Healthy Team Culture
 Training introduced across the force to encourage our people to
 report issues and challenge poor behavior, as well as supporting
 supervisors in preventing, addressing and responding to
 inappropriate behavior and cultural issues within the workplace.











 Project Vigilant – Implemented in 2019 to prevent sexual offending in the night time economy – Outliers and at the forefront Nationally and Internationally, sharing our best practice. 3500 Officers now trained in Vigilant tactics. Average of 25 Vigilant perpetrators identified each month. 99.6% of people stopped under vigilant are male, 85% are a Stanger to the victim and 3/5 have a record for previous VAWG offence.





- Op Soteria Implementing learning and National Operating Model from Operation Soteria Bluestone. Op Yeomanry looking at repeat offending was highlighted as National Good Practice by Op Soteria
- Social Media worked closely with Love Island stars Sharon Gaffka and Georgia Harrison to reach 16-24 year olds on social media, using their experience to share how we deal with violence against women and girls.





- White Ribbon Accredited –
 in the last 18 months and hosted an
 important partnership conference in May,
 highlighting the work we are doing in
 this space.
- Recognition complimented by DCC Maggie Blyth, NPCC lead for VAWG for our work in this space







Does it Matter Campaign
 Launch of does it matter campaign to
 encourage reporting of non-contact sexual
 offences. Supported by Lisa Squires,
 mother of Libby tragically murdered in 2019
 by an offender with a history of Non-Contact
 Sexual offences.



Rural Crime

156 - Completed investigations 156 - Positive Outcomes <u>46</u> (29.4% outcome rate) National Outcome Rate 5.7%.

29 - people arrested for 35 offences

105 Stop Searches with a 42% find rate

589 Stop Checks 149
Intel Submissions

£7, 632,117
recovered since
Taskforce inception (3
years December)
£3,139,750 in 2024

393
Crime Prevention
Advice given

62 S162 Road Traffic Act stops **741**Social Media Posts
(Facebook impressions 2.7million)

342
Drone
Deployments

84 hours of Drone Flying Time



Rural Crime

- TVP Rural Crime Taskforce is increasing in size in October to 3 Sgts and 21 PC's, this will give coverage of 7 days a week 0800hrs till 0200hrs.
- SEPARC South East Partnership Against Rural Crime is Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Thames Valley. We are working together on joint operations tackling Rural Crime. This includes operations at Dover Docks checking Plant/Farm Machinery being taken out of the country.
- Footprint of thefts in TVP goes to a worldwide market, including large generators being sent to the Ukraine and tractor GPS system to USA
- TVP now recognised as blueprint on how to tackle Rural Crime.
- Close working relationship with NFU and CLA meaning the Rural Community has a voice at all times.
- Reported Hare Coursing has drop for 3 yrs. in a row.
- Numerous covert operations being carried out to identify the trade routes of stolen Plant/Farm machinery to bring the handlers to justice.



Road Safety

TVP	Nov 22 – Oct 23	Nov 23 – Oct 24
FPNs - Speed	3991	3838
FPNs - Seatbelts	2668	2383
FPNs - Mobile Phone	2093	1992
<u>Total FPNs</u>	8752	8213
Arrests for Traffic Offences	3006	2970
Arrests other offences	518	550
<u>Total Arrests</u>	3524	3520
Fatal Collisions	34	33
Serious Injury Collisions	328	287
Slight Injury Collisions	2593	2619
<u>Total Collisions</u>	2955	2939
Collision Incident Demand	7855	8030
Highway Disruption	7590	8408
Demand		
Other Road Related	9126	9686
Demand		
Total Road Incident	24571	26124
<u>Demand</u>		



Casualty Reduction trends for TVP on downward trend comparing against 2022

CONTACTS FROM PUBLIC



INCIDENTS ATTENDED



MISSING PEOPLE FOUND



ARRESTS



DOMESTIC ABUSE



RAPE CHARGES



OTHER SEXUAL OFFENCES



SOLVED CRIME



HOMICIDE CRIMES



OVERALL CRIME CHARGES



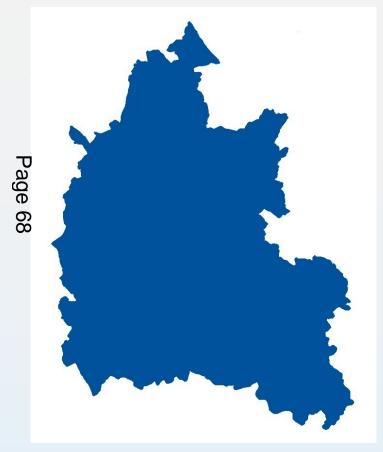


Oxfordshire

		Total	% Change of Solved Crime	Solved Crime Rate
	Crime	46,751	13%	17%
	Domestic Abuse	6,797	-1%	11%
ß	Residential Burglary	1,222	60%	14.5%
	Violence with Injury	4,400	7%	20%
	Knife Enabled Crime	210	0.5%	27.6%
方文	Sexual Offences	1,923	-6%	10%
	Rural Crime	30	2.2%	13.3%

^{*}Figures provided are from 1st June 2024-31st May 2025





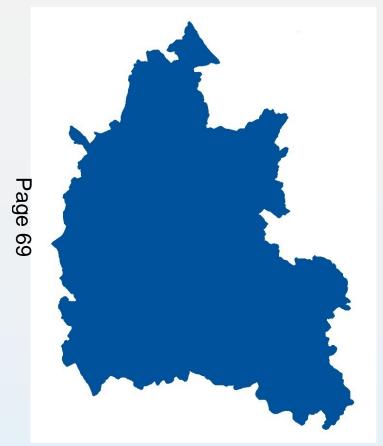
Oxfordshire

- Merger into Oxfordshire Local Command Unit (LCU) This took place in November 2024. No drop in county-wide performance.
- Harm Reduction New harm reduction unit working with partners to focus on the most vulnerable and those who commit the most harm in communities.
- **Proactivity** County-wide proactive team targeting county lines and organised crime.
- Neighbourhoods Neighbourhoods guarantee ASB,
 Retail and town centre crime
- Partnerships Dedicated partnership SMT member to ensure strategic partnerships are maintained and enhanced.



Oxfordshire

County-wide performance priorities



Respond to the public – To improve our attendance times for emergency calls – both Grade 1 and Grade 2 calls.

Bring offenders to justice – To increase the number of offenders charged or brought to justice through out of court resolutions.

Serve victims – To increase victim satisfaction focusing on the victim experience throughout the investigation process.

Questions



Work Programme Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Liam Walker, Chair | Richard Doney, Scrutiny Officer, richard.doney@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Topic	Relevant strategic priorities	Purpose	Туре	Lead presenters	
	25 June 20	25			
Police and Criminal Justice Plan for Oxfordshire	Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents; work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.	As part of its Crime and Disorder Panel responsibilities, the Committee has invited the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police to report on progress against the Police and Crime Plan.	Overview and scrutiny – meeting as the Crime and Disorder Panel	Matthew Barber; Jason Hogg	
Citizens Assembly Update	Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work; preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces; work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit	To review whether the Council's plans align with community needs and desires while promoting the wellbeing of Oxfordshire residents.	Overview and scrutiny	Paul Fermer, Susannah Wintersgill	
	Additional meeting: Week begi	nning 17 August 2025			
Traffic Filter Trial Delay –	Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work; preserve and improve	To consider the results of the public	Overview and Scrutiny	Paul Fermer, Aron Wisdom	



Mitigation Proposals (if approved for consultation on 17 June 2025)	access to nature and green spaces; work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit	consultation and to consider officer recommendations before they are submitted to Cabinet for determination.		
ĺ	24 September	2025		
Future Bus Regulation Options	Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents; put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work; preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces; work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit	To note the findings of the Future Bus Regulation Options Report and consider officer recommendations before they are submitted to Cabinet for determination.	Overview and scrutiny	Paul Fermer, Katharine Bloomfield
Verge and Vegetation Management	Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents; put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work; preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces; work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit	To consider the Council's approach.	Overview and scrutiny	Sean Rooney; Paul Wilson
Oxfordshire Rail Strategy – progress update and public consultation	Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents; put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work; preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces; work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit	To consider the draft Strategy during the public consultation period	Overview and Scrutiny	Robin Rogers, Pete Brunskill
	12 November	2025		
Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue	Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents; work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.	To receive the Chief Fire Officer's report on progress on fire	Overview and scrutiny	Rob McDougall



	•			
Service		improvement work, in		
Improvement		the light of His		
		Majesty's Inspectorate		
		of Constabularies and		
		Fire and Rescue		
		Services report.		
s.106	Put action to address the climate emergency at	To review the	Overview	Robin Rogers,
Improvement	the heart of our work; preserve and improve	Infrastructure Funding	and scrutiny	Paul Fermer
Project and	access to nature and green spaces; work with	Statement for 2024/25		
Infrastructure	local businesses and partners for	and to receive an		
Funding	environmental, economic and social benefit	update on phase 3 of		
Statement		the s.106 Improvement		
		Project		
Movement and	Put action to address the climate emergency at	To consider the	Overview	Hannah Battye,
Place Plans	the heart of our work; preserve and improve	proposed Movement	and scrutiny	Ben Smith
	access to nature and green spaces; work with	and Place Plans		
	local businesses and partners for	immediately prior to		
	environmental, economic and social benefit	Cabinet's		
		determination		
	4 February 2	2026		
	22 April 20	26		



	Sub-groups/Working Groups					
Name	Relevant strategic priorities	Description	Outcomes	Members		
Working Group	Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents; put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work; preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces; work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit					



Recommendation Tracker Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Liam Walker, Chair | Richard Doney, Scrutiny Officer, richard.doney@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The action and recommendation tracker enables the Committee to monitor progress against agreed actions and recommendations. The tracker is updated with the actions and recommendations agreed at each meeting. Once an action or recommendation has been completed or fully implemented, it will be shaded green and reported into the next meeting of the Committee, after which it will be removed from the tracker.

KFY	Due to Cahinet	In progress	Complete
175	Due to Cabinet	iii progress	Complete

Page

Recommendations:

Meeting eate	ltem	Recommendation	Lead	Update/response
05-Feb-25	Network Coordination of Road and Street	That the Council should explore different models for compliance and enforcement with regard to highways works, including the use of technology and crowdsourcing to report issues.	Paul Fermer; Keith	Accepted See agenda item 7
	Works and Lane Rental for Oxfordshire	2. That the Council should increase	Stenning	Partially Accepted See agenda item 7
23-Apr-25	Transport Working Group	That the Council should invest in resources to audit and map existing cycling and walking infrastructure to understand the current status, condition, and quality (including LTN)	Paul Fermer; Robin Rogers; Hannah Battye	With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025

KEY	Due to Cabinet	With Cabinet	Complete

Meeting date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Update/response
		1/20 compliance) and identify gaps, including processes to crowdsource.		
		2. That the Council should use open data tools to create publicly accessible, interactive maps that show the status of LCWIP delivery and future projects.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		3. That the Council should ensure all relevant teams are trained in LTN 1/20 guidance, and that active travel is integrated into their day-to-day responsibilities.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
Page 76		4. That the Council should develop a clear governance structure that outlines the roles and responsibilities of different teams in delivering the LCWIP.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
O)		5. That the Council should develop its own in-house capacity to design and develop active travel schemes and bring them forward for delivery.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		6. That the Council should actively develop a strategic approach to funding that includes identifying potential sources of funding and engaging with external organisations to secure financial support, including a revised approach to active travel whereby strategic funding becomes business as usual.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		7. That the Council should adopt an agreed methodology to calculate how		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025

KEY	Due to Cabinet	With Cabinet	Complete

Meeting date	ltem	Recommendation	Lead	Update/response
		much is currently spent on active travel per person per year, in line with Department for Transport metrics.		
		8. That the Council should match Scottish levels of funding for active travel, currently at £50 per resident per year.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		9. That the Council should create a prioritisation matrix to systematically allocate funding to projects based on their impact and feasibility.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
Page 77		10. That the Council should strengthen partnerships with local organisations, such as universities, colleges, and health institutions, to leverage their resources and support for active travel projects.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
7		11. That the Council should encourage these organisations to invest in specific projects by providing clear information on the benefits and costs, using the open data tools to support this.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		12. That the Council should develop a Coproduction Handbook to guide the involvement of local stakeholders and the public in the design and delivery of active travel projects.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		13. That the Council should use interactive online maps and other tools to keep		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025

KEY	Due to Cabinet	With Cabinet	Complete

Meeting date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Update/response
		the public informed about the progress of projects and to gather their input.		
		14. That the Council should work transparently with local communities to complete the open data mapping and to adopt the Active Travel England Guidance on Best Practice Community Consultation and Engagement.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
Page		15. That the Council should use the Futures Toolkit, adopting tools such as strategic forecasting, backcasting, and forecasting, so as to become more comfortable with uncertainty in implementing its vision-led approach.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
e 78		16. That the Council should ensure, in its development and implementation of Movement and Place Strategies, that data is used as a key strategic tool with mode share targets being widely used.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		17. That the Council ensures vision-led planning is data-led with projects at all levels being assessed against modal share targets.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		18. That the Council should work to ensure that strategic funding for active travel is a priority for Enterprise Oxfordshire.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		19. That the Council should ensure that there is sufficient capacity for future versions of the Oxfordshire		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025

KEY	Due to Cabinet	With Cabinet	Complete

Meeting date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Update/response
		Infrastructure Strategy to be measured against modal share targets and the LTCP's headline targets.		
		20. That the Council should ensure further resource is provided to the active travel teams to enable it to participate in developer fora in order to engage developers at an early stage and to highlight the importance of mode share targets in their considerations.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
P		That the Council should include more detail of contractual agreements, including trigger points for funding release, within the s.106 dashboard.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
Page 79		 That the Council should include information within the dashboard linking projects to LTCP targets, including modal share. 		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
00 Ann 05	S.106	 That the Council should prioritise dataset integration to enhance the dashboard's capabilities. 	Dahia Dagara	With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
23-Apr-25	Improvement Programme	4. That the Council should ensure that there is sufficient officer resource to be represented at developer fora.	Robin Rogers	With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		5. That the Council should publish milestones and targets for its Key Performance Indicators related to the s.106 Improvement Project.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
		 That the Council should continue to explore the benefits of Local Development Orders and whether they should be used more widely. 		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025

KEY	Due to Cabinet	With Cabinet	Complete

Meeting date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Update/response
		7. That the Council should celebrate the learning that has arisen from the s.106 Improvement Project and disseminate it across the organisation.		With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
23-Apr-25	Rail Strategy	That the Council should integrate the Futures-led Foresight approach into the Rail Strategy modelling, to ensure it aligns with the approach of the LTCP and to ensure and enable long-term strategic planning.	Paul Fermer; Bryan Evans;	With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
Page		2. That the Council should support private-public finance upskilling and apply lessons from the funding of the Elizabeth Line.	Pete Brunskill	With Cabinet since 17 th June 2025
ge 80				



Action Tracker Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Liam Walker, Chair | Richard Doney, Scrutiny Officer, richard.doney@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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	KEY	Delayed	In progress		Complete	
Meeting date	ltem	Action	Lead		Update/response	
ס	There are no outstanding action items					
B						



Recommendation Update Tracker Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Liam Walker, Chair | Richard Doney, Scrutiny Officer, richard.doney@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The recommendation update tracker enables the Committee to monitor progress accepted recommendations. The tracker is updated with recommendations accepted by Cabinet. Once a recommendation has been updated, it will be shaded green and reported into the next meeting of the Committee, after which it will be removed from the tracker. If the recommendation will be update in the form of a separate item, it will be shaded yellow.

Pa

KEY Update Pending Update in Item Updated

Response NDate	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Update
		1. That the Council should work to establish a partnership board to monitor progress on Vision Zero with Thames Valley Police being fully involved as a key partner.		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
		2. That the Council should continue to engage with Thames Valley Police in order to encourage enforcement of speed limits.		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
17-Sep-24	Vision Zero	3. That the Council should identify additional powers that would support delivery of responsibilities and Vision Zero ambitions and request of the Secretary of State for Transport that Government considers implementing them.	Paul Fermer	Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
		4. That the Council should engage with other local authorities particularly those with similarly diverse counties and learn from them as well as to take learning from best practice in other authorities.		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex

KEY	Update Pending	Update in Item	Undated
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Cabinet Response Date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Update
		5. That the Council should add greater emphasis on the five pillars as integral to the Vision Zero Key Areas		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
		6. That the Council should ensure that its Vision Zero ambitions should be led by evidence and not be overly focused on behaviour		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
		7. That the Council should continue to prioritise its infrastructure projects on the basis of data and evidence, taking account of the insights of local members.		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
		8. That the Council should publish the danger hotspots on its website clearly linked to the underlying evidence.		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
_		9. That the Council should publish the numbers of road deaths of children and teenagers, and also by sex, clearly linked to Vision Zero.		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
Page 83		10.That the Council should add SUVs and motorcycle categories to its safer vehicles section. It should also delineate the number and proportion of collisions involve SUVs		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
ω		11. That the Council should set out, in as much detail as possible, information relating to the budget for this strategy and the costs associated with it, as well as the associated ongoing revenue costs.		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
		12. That the Council should ensure that existing road layouts are considered as material planning considerations in its responses to applications for new residential developments		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
		13. That the Council should undertake a safety audit of past road safety initiatives to learn from what has – or has not – worked previously		Update available in recommendation tracker Annex
19-Nov-24	Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan	That the Council should arrange for improved communications, particularly about reuse, at Household Waste and Recycling Centres and in publicity about the same.	Rachel Burns	Update due in Autumn

KEY	Update Pending	Update in Item	Updated

Cabinet Response Date	ltem	Recommendation	Lead	Update
		2. That the Council should ensure that the outworking of the Circular Economy Strategy results in reduced costs and can demonstrate the scale of savings achieved.		Update due in Autumn
		3. That the Council should work to introduce cross-border arrangements with neighbouring authorities so that Oxfordshire residents can use Household Waste and Recycling Centres outside the county.		Update due in Autumn
		4. That the Council should make explicit its role in the Circular Economy Strategy as a lead partner and set out how it will build partnerships both within the county and across county borders.		Update due in Autumn
Page		 That the Council should investigate how best to retrofit sustainable drainage systems, as well as other flood prevention measures, to Council maintained properties and streets. 		Update due in Autumn
84		 That the Council should improve communications to Members, raising awareness of the up-to-date Flood Toolkit generally as well as active flood measures in the event of emergencies. 	Paul	Update due in Autumn
25-Feb-25	Flood Event Response	 That the Council should improve social media communication for residents during flooding and other emergencies. 	Fermer; Teresa Kirkham;	Update due in Autumn
		 That the Council should promote the benefits of creating of community emergency plans by parish councils and support the Resilience team to do that. 	Kerry Middleton	Update due in Autumn
		5. That the Council should commit to working closely with partners to ensure that s.19 reports are completed swiftly, and recommendations can be acted upon.		Update due in Autumn
		6. That the Council should investigate the role and responsibilities of OFWAT and the potential for invoking s.94 measures.		Update due in Autumn

KEY	Update Pending	Update in Item	Updated

Cabinet Response Date	Item	Recommendation	Lead	Update
25-Feb-25	LTCP Progress Report	 That the Council, for the headline LTCP targets on car use reduction, should move from a car trip to car mileage reduction measure. 	Paul Fermer	Update due in Autumn
25-Mar-25	City Centre Accommodation Strategy –	 That the Council should work to ensure that public access to New and Old County Hall is maintained insofar as is possible. 	· Vic Kurzeja	Update due in Winter
ZO IVICII ZO	Disposal of Old and New County Hall	That the Council should set out its strategy and action plan for the city centre's redevelopment and regeneration.	vic Kurzeja	Update due in Winter
		That the Council should publish an outline of the milestones identified as requirements for the success of the project with associated deadlines		Updated in S.106 item at 23-Apr-25 Committee
Page 8	Infrastructure Funding Statement and s.106 Funding Report	 That the Council should identify who is ultimately responsible for driving the success of the improvement project and by what measures they will be held accountable to ensure effective utilisation of funds. 	Paul Fermer; Robin Rogers; Nicholas Perrins	Updated in S.106 item at 23-Apr-25 Committee
დ ე 22-Apr-25		 That the Council undertakes the Local Government Association's Planning Advisory Service self- assessment toolkit – 'Improving the governance of developer contributions in order to evaluate and improve current practices.' 		Updated in S.106 item at 23-Apr-25 Committee
		 That the Council commits to working closely with district councils and other partners to ensure there are holistic plans in place for infrastructure needs. 		Updated in S.106 item at 23-Apr-25 Committee
		 That the Council take steps to correct any favourability biases in project planning and delivery to ensure a pragmatic and realistic approach. 		Updated in S.106 item at 23-Apr-25 Committee
		 That the Council uses the Government Office for Science's The Futures Toolkit in order to ensure its plans and policies are robust and realistic. 		Updated in S.106 item at 23-Apr-25 Committee

KEY	Update Pending	Update in Item	Updated
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Cabinet Response Date	ltem	Recommendation	Lead	Update
		 That the data dashboard is launched without further delay to ensure that members can monitor s.106 funds and projects. 		Updated in S.106 item at 23-Apr-25 Committee
		That the Council should implement a risk rating for s.106 moneys being reclaimed if they are not spent in time so that issues can be addressed proactively.		Updated in S.106 item at 23-Apr-25 Committee
		That the Council should ensure the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is aligned with climate finance and natural capital work happening locally and nationally.		Update due in Winter
F		 That the Council should ensure that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is aligned with the Government's five missions and their outputs. 	Chloe Edwards; Beccy Micklem	Update due in Winter
Page 86		3. That the Council should ensure the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is aligned with the Local Transport Connectivity Plan and the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy on the nature costs of roads and rails.		Update due in Winter
25-Mar-25	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	4. That the Council should develop a delivery plan to ensure that teams within the County Council have integrated and adopted the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.		Update due in Winter
		5. That the Council should make explicit in an annex to the documentation the implications of the strategy for district councils, town and parish councils, neighbourhood groups, and other key partners as well as the actions expected of them.		Update due in Winter
		6. That the Council should strengthen the explanations within the strategy of the benefits to health and wellbeing of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.		Update due in Winter
		7. That the Council should consider how best it can publicise positive elements of nature recovery that are already happening.		Update due in Winter

KEY	Update Pending	Update in Item	Updated
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Cabinet Response Date	ltem	Recommendation	Lead	Update
		8. That the Council should ensure it sets an example maintaining its own land for nature recovery and biodiversity gain, as the Responsible Authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.		Update due in Winter
		That the Council should work with schools to support them to promote biodiversity and nature recovery in their grounds.		Update due in Winter
		10. That the Council should investigate the costs of collecting and/or piling mown grass to enhance wildflower growth and other biodiversity benefits.		Update due in Winter
Pe		11. That the Council should explore the possibilities of supporting flood defences through biodiversity means, including swales, sustainable drainage systems, and rain gardens.		Update due in Winter
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Vision Zero Place OSC Recommendation Update

1. That the Council should work to establish a partnership board to monitor progress on Vision Zero with Thames Valley Police being fully

Recommendation

involved as a key

partner.

Update 17.06.25

The update from the previous recommendation response still is very much the case:

Thames Valley Police (TVP) are involved in with OCC with the delivery of road safety across Oxfordshire, both operationally and strategically. The update from the previous recommendation response still is very much the case:

TVP have always been one of our Vision Zero Partners and have a standing invite to our OCC Vision Zero Streeting Group, as well as our Vision Zero Wider Stakeholder Group.

CC Vision Zero Road Safety Leads are also members of the TVP lead Thames Valley Road Safety Working Group, which meets every six months, and chaired by Thames Valley Police Detective Chief Inspector (Road Policing) The Group meeting is attended by road safety officers and representatives from all the other local authorities in the Thames Valley area. This forum is used as an opportunity for OCC and other local authorities to engage with Thames Valley Police on operational road safety matters. It provides OCC the opportunity to engage with TVP, share any road safety issues or enforcement concerns, discuss specific locations of concern, and learn about what else is happening regarding TVP road safety enforcement across the Thames Valley area.

TVP is involved in joint road safety operations with Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue, such as holding 'Be Bright, Be Seen' and Vision Zero Road Cycle Safety events.

The main update since the previous recommendation update is that since publishing their own Road Safety Strategy, Thames Valley Police have also stood up their Thames Valley wide Road Safety Partnership Group Meeting. OCC is member of the Group, along with road safety representatives from all Thames Valley Councils, including front line services. This forum is used as an opportunity for OCC and other local authorities to engage with Thames Valley Police on strategic road safety matters.

Recommendation	Update 17.06.25
2. That the Council	The update from the previous recommendation response still is very
should continue to	much the case:
engage with Thames	
Valley Police in order to	OCC continues to engage with TVP to encourage the enforcement of
encourage enforcement of speed limits.	speed limits in several ways. There are the day-to-day operational highway management discussions that take place between OCC, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue service and TVP and these include the enforcement of speed if required.
	TVP is also always a statutory consultee on Vision Zero and OCC's highway scheme consultations, including highway schemes, and where there are speed limit changes.
	Commitments have also been made by TVP for partnership working with OCC into the installation of new speed enforcement equipment, including average speed camera systems.
	Detailed work is in progress for the provision of a combined speed and red-light safety camera system at A40 Oxford Northern Bypass, at its junction with Barton Fields Road, as well as an Average Speed Camera scheme for the A420. It is expected this will be delivered in 2025/26.
3. That the Council should identify additional powers that would	The update from the previous recommendation response still is very much the case:
support delivery of responsibilities and Vision Zero ambitions and request of the Secretary of State for Transport that Government considers implementing them.	Via the Vision Zero programme, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue are engaging nationally on the discussions with Central Government regarding support for Graduated Licences for young drivers. The high proportion of young drivers involved road safety incidents could be reduced via the on benefits of Graduated licences, but further evidence is needed to support discussions both nationally and at Central Government.
implementing them.	OCC are also still awaiting further guidance from Central Government on the potential change for single carriageway speed limits; so far nothing in 2025 has yet been issued.
	The government is also emphasising that 20mph speed limits should be used where they are needed and supported by local communities, which very much the approach that OCC has taken to implementing the 20pmh programme.
	There will be an annual review report submitted to Cabinet (Q4'25) on the Vision Zero Programme, and we will identify additional local authority powers following that as the annual review report will provide the data and evidence on the areas where additional powers would have the most benefit for Vision Zero delivery.

Update 17.06.25
OCC road safety leads continue to engage with other local authorities regarding road safety; as detailed in the previous recommendation update; There is road safety engagement with other local authorities operationally on a day-to-day basis, OCC Vision Zero leads also engage formally and strategically with Thames Valley's local authorities through the Thames Valley Road Safety Group led by TVP. The Vision Zero Programme has also recently stood up a new Workshop Group that is called the Urban / Rural Road Safety Group, that is focused on looking at Road Safety concerns for each of Oxfordshire's 5 areas in turn. Local Cllrs are being invited to these workshops to talk through their sites of road safety concerns in more detail.
The update from the previous recommendation response still is very much the case, and in addition to this, the Vision Zero Programme is also focusing on Safe Speeds as one of the most effective ways to reduce road safety incidents across Oxfordshire. As part of the Vision Zero Speed Management Schemes work for 2025/26, there are a number of speed management schemes being developed for the <i>A and B Roads – Speed Limit Review.</i> This review is looking at all A and B roads across Oxfordshire in a phased approach, to ensure parity across Oxfordshire. The initial schemes will be reviewing the
A361, A417, A418, and the A413. The intention is to, over the course of the year, review all the main A and B roads for speed road safety improvements. The update from the previous recommendation response still is very much the case, OCC uses TVP STATS19 road safety incident data as the basis for the road safety analysis which informs the Vision Zero Programme. The data is analysed to understand if there have
interactions between road users, and why they have occurred. The data also provides confidential information on the causes of incidents if this has been reported on by TVP. OCC has also developed the new traffic and road safety scheme prioritisation framework which will include consideration of the benefits of the scheme in relation to all the LTCP key objectives, including road safety. This prioritisation framework has been used to analyse road safety information and LTCP objectives to develop the 25/26 Vision
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Recommendation	Update 17.06.25
7. That the Council	The update from the previous recommendation response still is very
should continue to	much the case, TVP's SATS19 road safety incident data goes through a
prioritise its infrastructure	process of analysis by the Vision Zero team to develop the VZ road
projects on the basis of	safety schemes.
data and evidence,	
taking account of the	The new Vision Zero Urban / Rural Road Safety Group is also being used to gather evidence on road safety concerns for each of
insights of local members.	Oxfordshire's 5 areas in turn. Local Clirs are being invited to these
members.	workshops to talk through their sites of road safety concerns in more
	detail, and this information is being used in addition to TVP's STATS19
	data to evidence sites of road safety concern.
8. That the Council	The update from the previous recommendation response still is very
should publish the	much the case, we would like to suggest an amendment to the
danger hotspots on its	recommendation wording, as Vision Zero is aiming to establish clearer
website clearly linked to	road safety language and understanding. It is proposed the
the underlying evidence.	recommendation be re-worded as: 'That the council should publish Oxfordshire's road safety sites of concern on its website providing
	information on the road safety incidents'
	morniagon on the road salety mordents
	Oxfordshire's road safety data is already publicly available via the
	website CrashMap (<u>CrashMap - UK Road Safety Map</u>). CrashMap can
	be accessed via OCC's website. Crash Map is an online platform where
	road collisions are published for the members of the public to see. This
	data provides the locations, incident type, and date of the collision but
	withholds any confidential information. With roads safety incidents the
	contributory factors of individual incidents will remain confidential, as in many cases it pertains to medical and personal information that cannot
	be shared.
	bo charoa.
	The Vision Zero Programme is also developing a Vision Zero website
	that will also reference CrashMap.
9. That the Council	The update from the previous recommendation response still is very
should publish the	much the case, Road safety incident data on the number of road deaths
numbers of road deaths	of children, and also by sex is already published in OCC's road casualty
of children and	reports (Road casualties Oxfordshire County Council. Child' casualties
teenagers, and also by sex, clearly	include those injured who are aged between 0 and 15, whilst 'adult' casualties include those who are aged 16 and above. STATS19 data
linked to Vision Zero.	does not however provide a 'teenage' data field.
minod to violon Zolo.	deserver provide a teeriage data field.
	Feedback on the layout and contents of the previous Road Safety
	causality reports has been received, and the 2022 and 2023 road
	casualty reports have been re-designed to provide a more Vision Zero
	approach to road safety data analysis. The reports now provide greater
	theme analysis and more information on the causes of road safety
	incidents across Oxfordshire.

Recommendation 10.That the Council should add SUVs and motorcycle categories to its safer vehicles section. It should also delineate the number and proportion of collisions involve SUVs

Update 17.06.25

Car

Taxi / Private hire car

Van - Goods vehicle 3.5 tonnes mgw and under

Goods vehicle over 3.5 tonnes mgw and under 7.5 tonnes mgw

Goods vehicle 7.5 tonnes mgw & over Goods vehicle - unknown weight

M/cycle 50cc and under

M/cycle over 50cc and up to 125cc

M/cycle over 125cc and up to 500cc

Motorcycle over 500cc

Motorcycle - cc unknown

Electric Motorcycle

Pedal cycle

Bus or coach (17 or more passenger seats)

Minibus (8-16 passenger seats)

Agricultural vehicle (include diggers etc)

Ridden horse

Mobility scooter

Tram / Light rail

The update from the previous recommendation response still is very much the case; currently, the category of the vehicle type recorded involved in a road safety incident is set by the national STATS19 road safety incident data set. The police are only able to use The STATS19 road safety vehicle type data in recording and sharing information about a road safety incident. The STATS19 road safety vehicle type data set is as follows (taken from National STAT19 form):

The road safety incident data received from Thames Valley Police does not always indicate the make of the car involved in the incident or whether the vehicle is considered an SUV. As a result, it is not possible to give road safety incident figures on specific car vehicle types such as SUVs.

Motorcycle data is recorded via the STAT19 data and is this reflected in OCC's road safety causality reports. Motorcyclists are considered vulnerable road users within OCC's highways and Vision Zero schemes, and focus is given to their road safety incident analysis.

Recommendation

11.That the Council should set out, in as much detail as possible, information relating to the budget for this strategy and the costs associated with it, as well as the associated ongoing revenue costs.

Update 17.06.25

Please see below for the Vision Zero Capital Budget Spend for last year 2024/25, and the spend being rolled over into 2025/26:

Programme / Cost code	2024 / 25 End of Year Actual		
Total Budget currently allocated	1,455,000.00		
VZ Programme C.AT00801.01	-2,521.00		
Cycle Safety & Connectivity C.AT00802.01	199,212.00		
Corridor/Strategic Road Safety Improvements C.AT00803.01	37,638.00		
Junction incidents hot spots (cluster sites) C.AT00804.01	288,571.00		
Speed Management Programme C.AT00805.01	96,300.00		
Safer Routes To School C.AT00806.01	302,070.00		
Total Spend 2024 / 25 (Predicated forecast 2025 / 26)	921,270.00		
Underspend 2024 / 25 Roll over into next year new total 2025 / 26 budget	533,730.80		

12. That the Council should ensure that existing road layouts are considered as material planning considerations in its responses to applications for new residential developments

The update from the previous recommendation response still is very much the case;

Existing road layout is considered as a material consideration when the OCC is assessing any planning application on its merits. To assist OCC with these assessments both National & Local Policies and Design Guidance are considered:

- o Manual for Streets 1 and 2
- o Local Travel Connectivity Plan (Part 2)
- o Street Design Guide
- o Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)
- o National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

As part of a planning submission, any new proposed road layout is expected to be accompanied with a road safety audit. OCC's Transport Development Management (TDM) team ensure all planning submissions contain a road safety audit. Further information on how the TDM work with developers to ensure road safety is considered is detailed on the TDM webpages: Transport Development Management (TDM) | Oxfordshire County Council Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro forma 14

Also, all new residential development road layouts have to be designed to have a speed limit 20mph. The new Vision Zero Checklist, which is due to be piloted, will also act as a way.

Recommendation	Update 17.06.25
13.That the Council should undertake a safety audit of past road	The update from the previous recommendation response still is very much the case;
safety initiatives to learn from what has – or has not – worked previously	There are two new processes that Vision Zero leads are currently being developed that will support the analysis of road safety infrastructure schemes and it anticipated these will be in place by end of 2024: o The national GG119 Road Safety audit process is carried out as part of the design of road safety and highway schemes, and it is undertaken at key stages in the design, construction and early operation of a highway scheme. The road safety audits must be undertaken by qualified road safety engineers with experience of collision data analysis. At stages 1,2,3 the aim the audit is to identify the relevant road safety matters before implementation, and stage 4, which is carried out post scheme implementation, communicates any road collision data analysis. It is the stage 4 which provides the key evidence, data and learning on what has worked, or not worked with the scheme post implementation. Vision Zero leads are designing a supplemental road safety process where a scheme of any size, can be audited at any stage, and reviewed (stage 4).
	OCC Post Collision Review Group, with input from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Services and the Road Safey Foundation will be stood up in 2025. The Post Collision Review Group will analyse fatal road safety incidents and ensure the learning from them is shared within Vision Zero programme and the Fire and Rescue Services. This Review Group will be confidential and based upon the processes used by the NHS within child fatality reviews.



Annex - Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro forma

Under section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, Overview and Scrutiny Committees must require the Cabinet or local authority to respond to a report or recommendations made thereto by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such a response must be provided within two months from the date on which it is requested and, if the report or recommendations in questions were published, the response also must be so.

This template provides a structure which respondents are encouraged to use. However, respondents are welcome to depart from the suggested structure provided the same information is included in a response. The usual way to publish a response is to include it in the agenda of a meeting of the body to which the report or recommendations were addressed.

Issue: Streetworks Management

Lead Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Andrew Gant, Cabinet member for Transport Management

Date response requested: 25 March 2025

Response to report:

Enter text here.

Response to recommendations:

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale (unless rejected)
That the Council should explore different models for compliance and enforcement with regard to highways works, including the use of technology and crowdsourcing to report issues.	Accept	Network Management are always looking at ways and means to improve how compliance on the network is managed and improved and are keen to embrace new technologies. This is demonstrated through the introduction of new technologies e.g. Symology Aurora as our management system and being early adopters for new powers to better manage the highway e.g. Lane Rental application. A significant amount of work has been undertaken to adopt latest technologies.

¹ Date of the meeting at which report/recommendations were received

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² Date of the meeting at which report/recommendations were received

Annex - Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro forma

	t F	The service has received additional investment or allow for increased 'boots on the ground' to proactively investigate and manage works. All users of the highway, including our exported to be exported to be exported to report issues identified. Issues the protocolor of the public, wolunteers are all able and encouraged to use imported on fixmystreet will be triaged and callocated to officers to investigate and respond to the protocolor of
That the Council should increase enforcement on 'street scars' and ensure proper reinstatement of road surfaces after works.	accept t	The service has received additional investment o allow for increased 'boots on the ground' to proactively investigate and manage works ncluding street scars. Statutory Undertakers are bound via the Code of Practice for the

Annex - Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro forma

Reinstatement of Openings on the Highway to match the colour of their reinstatement to the colour of the road surface, however as the road surface will fade with age the 'scar' will very often be more prominent than the surrounding surface. Where the incorrect colour is used officers will enforce legislation to ensure the Statutory Undertaker reinstates correctly.
Unfortunately the council can rarely ask for full width reinstatements to be made when works are carried out as legislation does not allow statutory undertakers to carry out reinstatements that improve the condition of the highway. Only when a statutory undertakers works are expected to cause failure of the wider area of highway can this be requested.

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