

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 20 September 2017

Wards: All

Subject: Crime and policing in Merton

Lead officer: Chief Superintendent Steve Wallace, Borough Commander

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission

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Recommendations:

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission discuss and comment on the crime data provided by the Borough Commander (see Appendix 1)
 2. That the Commission discuss and comment on the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and Metropolitan Police Service consultation document "Public Access and Engagement Strategy" (see Appendix 2)
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Borough Commander has been invited to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting to provide the most recent crime data and to discuss the MOPAC consultation document "Public Access and Engagement Strategy".
- 1.2. Crime data has been provided in the same format as that provided previously and is set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.3. The MOPAC consultation document is attached in Appendix 2
- 1.4. Commission members also identified a number of questions they would like to discuss with the Borough Commander. These were emailed in advance of the meeting so that he could prepare his answers. The questions are set out in section 2 below,

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The questions identified by Commission members and emailed to the Borough Commander in advance of the meeting were:
- 2.2. Crime data and policing in Merton
- 2.3. Could the Borough Commander provide information on any crime and disorder problems that occurred at the festival held on 5 August in Morden Park and identify any lessons learned
- 2.4. Public Access and Engagement Strategy
 1. What assessment has the Borough Commander made of the potential effect on police response times of the proposed closure of Wimbledon police station, particularly around Wimbledon town centre and The

Broadway which has the largest night time economy in the borough and from where most complaints arise?

2. What assessment has the Borough Commander made of the impact on levels of anti-social behaviour in Wimbledon town centre of the closure of Wimbledon police station?
3. Figures suggest that, whilst Merton is consistently one of the safest boroughs in London, Wimbledon town centre remains a crime hotspot. A couple of years ago we were advised that around 45% of all thefts from the person took place in Wimbledon and some 7% of overall crime in the borough occurred within just 200 metres on or around Wimbledon Broadway. Does the Borough Commander believe these figures continue to reflect the situation in Wimbledon town centre and, if not, can he provided updated figures?
4. We know from the 2017 Residents' Survey that people living in Wimbledon town centre already have considerably higher levels of concern than the borough average about crime and anti-social behaviour. What impact does he think the closure of Wimbledon police station would have on fear of crime amongst these residents?
5. What commitments have been given to the Borough Commander in terms of future police numbers in the borough in the event that Wimbledon police station is closed and the land sold off?
6. What information has the Borough Commander been given by the Mayor of London / MOPAC on:
 - a) What the potential revenue saving would be year on year should the closure of Wimbledon police station go ahead and the site be sold;
 - b) How much would be likely to be generated in capital from the sale; and
 - c) How many additional police officers he could expect to see in Merton as a result?
7. Is it the intention to man Mitcham police station 24/7 if Wimbledon police station is closed by the Mayor of London?
8. Given the proposals that have been mooted for super borough groupings, is the Borough Commander concerned that there is a possibility that the Mayor of London together with MOPAC will decide not to have a police station open to the public at all in Merton?

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. Commission members may choose to ask additional questions about the crime data and about the consultation document as well as about any other aspects of policing in Merton.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. Not applicable

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. The deadline for responses to the MOPAC consultation document “Public Access and Engagement Strategy” is 5.30pm on 6 October 2017.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix 1 - crime data for Merton and surrounding boroughs
- Appendix 2 - Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime and Metropolitan Police Service consultation document “Public Access and Engagement Strategy”

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None

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