

Report for the JCC on Safer Neighbourhood Board 26/11/2017

The impact of Government funding cuts on Policing and Crime in London with special reference to Merton.

The Mayor of London in 2010 set a target based on his priority of keeping Londoners safe, which was described as 20/20/20.

In simple language to cut MOPAC bundle of crimes (Burglary, Criminal, Robbery, Theft from Motor Vehicle, Theft of Motor Vehicle, Theft from Person and Violence with Injury) by 20%. To boost confidence, satisfaction, trust, accountability and promote good relations between police and public by 20%. To cut costs/savings by 20% not later than 2020.

For this brief, I will restrict myself to the effects of the costs/savings. As a result of the overall Government funding cuts in 2010, the Metropolitan Police was asked to make savings of £600m and a further £400m by 2020. Undoubtedly, the impact will be felt by all 32 London Boroughs. Time frame for these savings, £600m already saved from 2012 – 2016 and the £400m must be by 2020. This is a massive challenge faced by the Metropolitan Police which demands difficult and ruthless decisions.

In an attempt to make these savings, the Police have decided to close Police front counters or sell police stations and to devise a better way of policing and accessing the police through modern technology. The Police stated that these new technologies will result in a savings of £10m that could be spent on frontline policing.

For Merton, the Mayor Office Police and Crime have agreed that Wimbledon Police Station is to be sold for £7m and save £444,000 P/A. The 24/7 front counter provision for Merton will move to Mitcham. This is now a done deal, because prior to arriving at this decision consultation with local residents about the proposal was being discussed with local residents. Though there were strong opposition but there was no counter proposal from residents according to MOPAC. Therefore the MOPAC proposal is to go ahead and this may take up to 2 years, it could be by 2018. Rather unfortunate some of us were not aware of this consultation process.

I find this very ironic, to see the need for such a draconic action when are communities are very nervous of what we are experiencing such as terrorism, knife and gun crime, hate crime, anti-social behaviour, sexual offending, domestic violence as well as and protecting vulnerable people from predatory behaviour.

Though decision has been taken but I will suggest we continue with the opposition and lobby our MPs and Parliament to the effect.

ABAYEH SAVAGE (BAME Voice Representative)

