

## **Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission**

**Date: 21 March 2018**

Wards: All

### **Subject: Crime and policing in Merton**

Lead officer: Chief Superintendent Peter Laverick, Acting Borough Commander

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

Contact officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services,  
[Julia.regan@merton.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.regan@merton.gov.uk), 0208 545 3864

---

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission discuss and comment on the crime data provided by the Acting Borough Commander (see Appendix 1) and ask other questions as appropriate.
- 

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The Acting Borough Commander has been invited to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting to give a brief overview of any changes since the previous Borough Commander attended the Commission in September 2017 and to address the questions identified by Commission members as set out in section 2 below.
- 1.2. He was also requested to provide crime data in the same format as that provided previously. This is set out in Appendix A.

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. The questions identified by Commission members and emailed to the Acting Borough Commander in advance of the meeting were:
  1. To confirm the start date for the new Borough Command Unit
  2. To confirm that Merton will continue to be policed at full strength with dedicated ward officers and PCSOs
  3. To confirm he is aware of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's aspiration to keep a police station in Merton – see discussion and submission to MOPAC (set out in paragraph 2.2 below)
  4. To provide information on the number of senior officers across the BCU and where they will be based.
  5. What can the police do to provide activities for young people to keep them from roaming the streets?
  6. What progress has been made to control street drinking and drinking in parks?

2.2. Commission's comments on the MOPAC consultation on the public access and engagement strategy - Extract from minutes of Commission meeting on 20 Sep 2017:

Members of the Commission discussed the consultation document and the information provided by the Borough Commander and made a number of points that the Commission AGREED should be included in its formal response to the consultation:

The Commission agreed that it is important to have a debate about the best way to resource policing in the borough and that the location of police stations would not necessarily be the same as at present. It was noted that the operational presence on the street does not necessarily have to be matched by public access to police stations.

The Commission asked whether a pragmatic proposal could be developed that would differ from the traditional police station but would provide a 24/7 "shop front". Some members expressed a preference for a traditional police station to provide reassurance to the public and act as a deterrent to criminals.

Noted that Wimbledon is a significant transport hub and suggested that moving a police front office away from Wimbledon would send the wrong message to the public. Members supported the retention of a front office in Wimbledon and suggested that the building could be reconfigured for other uses (such as housing) to generate revenue.

Views differed on whether Mitcham Police Station was currently in the best location to serve Mitcham town centre and whether an alternative location in the east of the borough would work better operationally for accessing other parts of the borough.

The Commission questioned whether it is wise to cut so much from police budgets at a time of increasing terrorism and civil unrest.

**3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

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

**4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. Not applicable

**5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. Not applicable

**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
- 12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**
- 12.1. None

This page is intentionally left blank