

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 20 September 2016

Subject: Crime and policing in Merton

Lead officer: Chief Superintendent Steve Wallace, Acting Borough Commander

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

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Recommendations:

- A. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission discuss and comment on the crime data provided by the Acting Borough Commander (see Appendix A) and ask other questions as appropriate.
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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 March 2016 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 Acting Borough Commander has been asked to provide an overview of any changes since the last meeting and anything he wished to draw to the Commission's attention.
- 2.2. Commission members also identified a number of questions they would like to discuss with the Acting Borough Commander. These were emailed in advance of the meeting so that the Acting Borough Commander could prepare his answers
- 2.3. The questions are:
- a. What is the recorded incidence of hate crime for the most recent available period, compared to 12 months ago? Is there a discernible change following the referendum on EU membership?
 - b. As local residents have become aware, dedicated ward officers have reduced in number so would you agree that when there is a high profile event in any ward it would be good practice to have them on duty on that day/weekend and not off?
 - c. Given the recent announcement by Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, that he is to introduce a 2nd dedicated PC in every ward, would the Acting

Borough Commander tell us where specifically these officers are coming from?

- d. What impact, if any, does he expect this to have on a) the flexibility of Merton's police force and b) staffing?
- e. What are the current abstraction rates from Merton to assist policing elsewhere in the capital?
- f. In a recent article in *The Times* newspaper it was suggested that few Metropolitan Police officers actually live within the 32 London Boroughs. How many of Merton's officers of all ranks live within Greater London and how many live in Merton itself?
- g. What is actively being done in the borough to protect vulnerable girls and women from FGM, sexual exploitation and forced marriage? Are there any successful prosecutions to report and, if so, how many?
- h. A number of Raynes Park residents have complained about the frequent drag racing and speeding by 'tuned-up' cars from the traffic lights at Grand Drive up the Bushey Road and over the railway bridge. What are the police doing to investigate this?
- i. Given that this is something residents repeatedly request, will the police be willing to do more traffic speed enforcement in the borough, especially on residential roads where people 'rat-run' much more now?
- j. Residents often complain to their local councillors about low level anti-social behaviour in Merton's town centres and that it would be helpful to see more police officers out patrolling these specific areas. Whilst resources are clearly limited, can the Acting Borough Commander tell us how Merton's police officers are seeking to make themselves more visible to the public in our town centres?
- k. On how many occasions in the past year has Merton's police force acted to enforce the borough-wide Controlled Drinking Zone? Councillors are still receiving complaints from residents about drinkers gathering together in town centres, particularly outside off-licences and supermarkets. They would appreciate reassurance that Merton's police officers will take seriously any notifications they receive and remain committed to enforcing the terms of the CDZ.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Commission members may choose to ask questions about 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. There are no property or resource implications at this time.

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

None for the purpose of this report.

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

Appendix A – crime data for Merton and surrounding boroughs

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None

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