

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 28 March 2017

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

Contact officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services,
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Recommendations:

- A. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission discuss and comment on the responses to its questions (see Appendix A) and the crime data provided by the Acting Borough Commander (see Appendix B) 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 he attended previously in September 2016 and to address the questions identified by Commission members in section 2 below. His responses are set out in Appendix A.
- 1.2. He was also requested to provide crime data in the same format as that provided previously. This is set out in Appendix B.

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 (at their meeting on 7 March 2017) 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. Against a framework proposal for 12 forces to cover the 32 Greater London boroughs, what are the options under consideration for a regional amalgamation of police forces to include Merton and where have proposals got to?
 - b. What are the planned arrangements for the deployment of dedicated ward officers in Merton and how close are they to implementation borough wide?
 - c. How is the new ward model working and how is it impacted by reductions in the total number of police officers?

- d. The Acting Borough Commander is asked to comment on recent spikes in domestic burglary and theft of motor cycles (especially mopeds) and bicycles
 - e. Could the Acting Borough Commander ensure that officers' shifts match local events in the borough that need policing support – such as Armed Forces Day. How could the Council assist in ensuring police awareness of such events?
 - f. What is the remit of school police officers and what do they do?
 - g. What is the trend in Merton for internet based crime i.e. identity theft, on line scams, how is it recorded and how should residents report such crimes?
- 2.4. The Acting Borough Commander's responses to these questions are set out in Appendix A.

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 – Acting Borough Commander's response to questions posed by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Appendix B – crime data for Merton and surrounding boroughs

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None

Appendix A:

Acting Borough Commander's response to questions posed by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

- **Against a framework proposal for 12 forces to cover the 32 Greater London boroughs, what are the options under consideration for a regional amalgamation of police forces to include Merton and where have proposals got to ?**

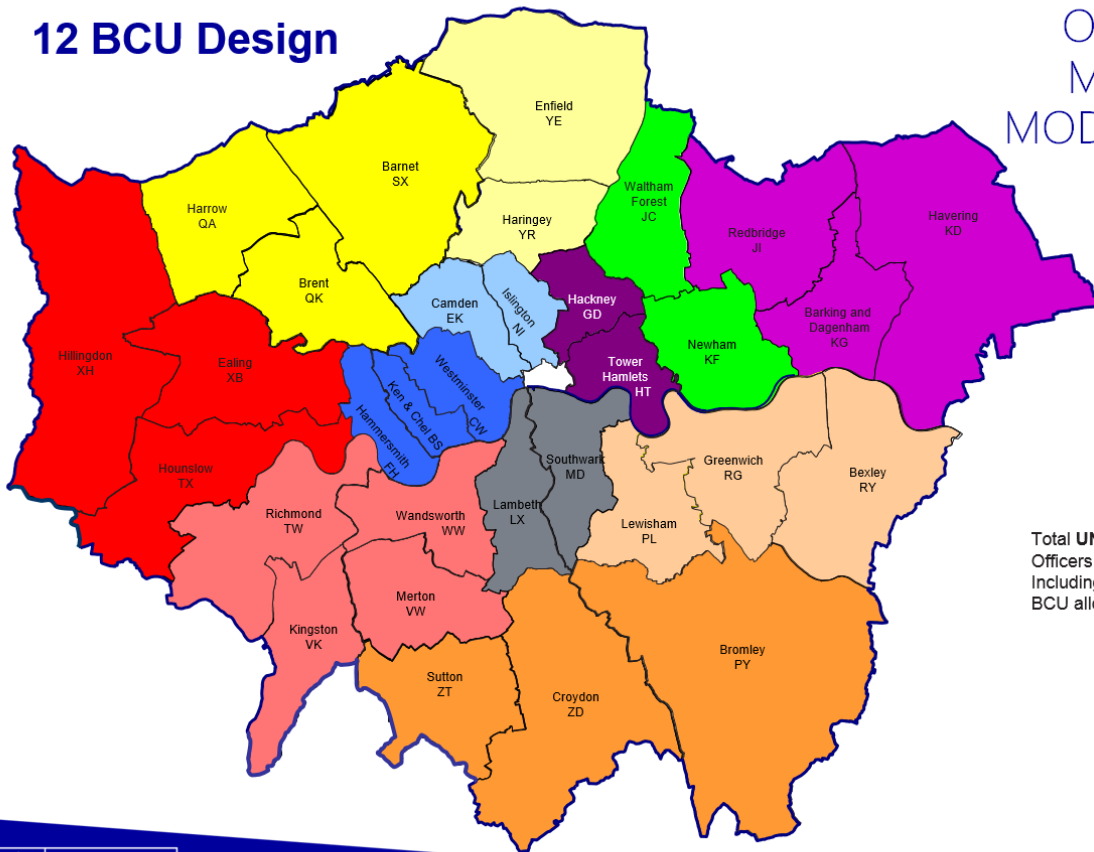
Currently the MPS are testing the new BOCU model, started in January 2017 with the testing of Basic Command Units (BCUs) in two areas - bringing together Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering boroughs, and Camden and Islington boroughs as pathfinder sites. This testing will be reviewed and we await any further developments in the phased implementation process.

The proposed mergers and who Merton may be merged with to form the new BCU (no final decisions have been made) are currently Kingston, Richmond and Wandsworth. Local consultation and briefings have begun and Mr Wallace, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Mark Simmons and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Sophie Linden met with Ged Curran on 28th February for consultation.

So at this stage no further information is available on the proposal whilst testing takes place on the pathfinder Boroughs.

12 BCU Design

ONE
MET
MODEL 2020



Total UNFUNDED
Officers in 2020
Including SCO17
BCU allocation



- **What are the planned arrangements for the deployment of dedicated ward officers in Merton and how close are they to implementation borough wide?**

40 dedicated ward officers - two per ward, an increase of 100 %. Anticipate all will be in post by May 2017. Realigned from current neighbourhood officer strength. Remaining neighbourhood officers will continue to target neighbourhood crime until we move to the BCU model and revised working practices.

- **How is the new ward model working and how is it impacted by reductions in the total number of police officers?**

The new ward model has not changed yet and is part of the wider Met Change programme.

Total Neighbourhood police officer target strength remains the same as it has been over the past few years, and won't change until we move to the BCU model. We have selected a second dedicated ward officer for each ward who should all be in post by May 2017. This allows some continuity during the transition period to the BCU model.

The remaining neighbourhood officers will be amalgamated into three problem solving teams of one sergeant and 10 constables, split between the three neighbourhood areas. Their focus

will be to target neighbourhood crime and those neighbourhood priorities agreed by the Safer Neighbourhood Board. In addition we will maintain our small Borough Tasking Team for proactive work. Their focus will be the MOPAC priorities and locally agreed police priorities of house burglary and theft of motor vehicle - specifically mopeds and moped associated crime.

- **The Acting Borough Commander is asked to comment on recent spikes in domestic burglary and theft of motor cycles (especially mopeds) and bicycles**

Domestic burglary

Verbal update from C/Supt Wallace

Motor cycles / mopeds

Operation Venice – Verbal update from C/Supt Wallace

Pedal cycles

Theft of pedal cycles – FYTD – 16/3/17 – Increase 26%

	Offences	Vol. Change	SDs	SDs Vol. Change	SD Rate	Change (ppt)
Merton	375	84.0	13	3.0	3.5%	0.0
Ward Name						
Trinity	59	24.0	1	-1.0	1.7%	-4.0
Dundonald	42	13.0	1	0.0	2.4%	-1.1
Colliers Wood	39	11.0	1	1.0	2.6%	2.6
Hillside	29	9.0	2	1.0	6.9%	1.9
Abbey	24	3.0	0	0.0	0.0%	0.0
Figge's Marsh	23	9.0	3	3.0	13.0%	13.0
Merton Park	23	2.0	2	2.0	8.7%	8.7
Cricket Green	22	12.0	2	1.0	9.1%	-0.9
Raynes Park	20	4.0	0	0.0	0.0%	0.0
Wimbledon Park	17	0.0	0	0.0	0.0%	0.0
Village	14	-3.0	0	0.0	0.0%	0.0
Ravensbury	12	5.0	0	0.0	0.0%	0.0
Graveney	10	5.0	0	-1.0	0.0%	-20.0
West Barnes	9	1.0	1	1.0	11.1%	11.1
Lavender Fields	8	0.0	0	-2.0	0.0%	-25.0
St Helier	7	-5.0	0	0.0	0.0%	0.0
Cannon Hill	6	-5.0	0	0.0	0.0%	0.0
Longthornton	5	4.0	0	0.0	0.0%	0.0
Pollards Hill	5	-5.0	0	-1.0	0.0%	-10.0
Lower Morden	1	0.0	0	-1.0	0.0%	-100.0

- **Could the Acting Borough Commander ensure that officers' shifts match local events in the borough that need policing support – such as Armed Forces Day. How could the Council assist in ensuring police awareness of such events?**

The council can assist by notifying police as soon as is reasonable of any known event – However police Regulations dictate that officers are given a shift rota published a year in advance so known events are placed into the roster, such as Notting Hill Carnival, November firework period, New Year's Eve and such like where demand is at it greatest for both local events and those within London, tis should only be changed as an exigency of duty or the officers request. That said DWO are generally exempt from being deployed other than their ward so should be available to accommodate local known events. Potential issues arise where events may fall on a Bank Holiday, due to the financial constraints imposed on the service no NPT officers are rostered to work on Bank holidays. To my knowledge there has not been an issue supporting events such as Armed forces day with a police presence.

- **What is the remit of school police officers and what do they do?**

There are currently 1 sergeant and 8 constables deployed within the safer schools partnership – Three of these posts are fully funded. Additional activities that they carry out such as regular weapon screening arch Ops, & involvement in the running of other youth diversion projects, such as the Youth PI Boot Camps & Boxing Clubs on this Borough.

Minimum requirements for the role of a Safer Schools Officer (SSO) are to:

- Provide visible and familiar contact with assigned school(s) at priority times as agreed with the school.
- Be a point of contact between school(s) and police.
- Advise Head Teacher(s) and their staff on policing issues.
- Provide regular briefing updates to school staff on policing issues.
- Establish and maintain a student ward panel to set school policing priorities.
- Conduct crime investigations and facilitate those of their colleagues.
- Work in partnership with the school(s) to ensure a correct balance between engagement and enforcement, pursuing a restorative approach where appropriate.
- Make pupil referrals to VPC and partnership agencies as necessary, for the purpose of safeguarding the child's welfare and/or diverting them from criminal activity/ASB.
- Participate, as appropriate, in multi-agency case conferences within and outside the school environment for students coming to notice.
- Gather intelligence in relation to pupil behaviour linked or potentially linked to crime or ASB.
- Share information with school staff, fellow SSOs and the local Dedicated Ward Officer (DWO) in accordance with information sharing agreements
- Perform regular uniform patrols in the vicinity of the school(s) to address, truancy, ASB and crime, working with STTs and SNTs as required, particularly on after school patrols.
- Perform weapons sweeps of identified hotspots within and outside the school boundaries
- Deliver MPS key messages to pupils around general policing themes of crime prevention and personal safety, and facilitate delivery on more specialist themes (eg. SC&O1 Joint Enterprise, SC&O8 Decisions & Consequences, SC&O19 Op Makepeace)
- Assist other schools not in a Safer Schools Partnership as required.

- Regularly liaise with local primary schools and SNT officers with responsibility for local primary schools to deliver early intervention and improve trust and confidence in the police.
- Assist with the running of Senior VPC evenings
- Where appropriate, run a Junior VPC unit
- **What is the trend in Merton for internet based crime i.e. identity theft, on line scams, how is it recorded and how should residents report such crimes?**

Action Fraud is the national reporting centre for fraud and internet crime. Action Fraud takes reports relating to the vast majority of fraud types, with a very few exceptions.

It also takes reports of cyber crime. This is not limited to fraud-related or financial cyber crime, however there must be an element of computer hacking/misuse involved to gain access to the victims computer / twitter / facebook accounts etc.

Action Fraud is “owned” by the National Fraud Authority (NFA), an Executive Agency in the Home Office. The NFA is responsible for coordinating the work of the UK’s counter fraud community. The Action Fraud service works in support of the police services of the UK in recording all types of fraud in order to develop a national understanding of fraud, and how to prevent and reduce victimisation in the future.

In most instances you can safely refer anyone with a fraud crime to report to Action Fraud, the national fraud and internet crime reporting centre. This applies to anyone who has been a victim of fraud, or an attempted fraud, or internet crime. Action Fraud also accepts information reports where people have been in a situation where fraud could have occurred but didn’t. **The most convenient way for people to report is online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or if they require more support then specialist advisors are available on 0300 123 2040.**

Police will deploy if there is a “call for service” i.e. a suspect is committing now or has recently committed a fraud, or there is a known *local* offender within the MPS, or the victim is vulnerable

The following offences are **NOT** dealt with by Action Fraud and will be recorded as per MPS Crime Reporting policy

- Making off without payments (petrol drive outs) and any other form of ‘bilking’, i.e. running off without paying for a taxi or running out of a restaurant without paying for your food/drinks bill.
- Forgery or use of drug prescriptions
- Other forgery
- Possession of false documents
- Forgery - of vehicle/driver records
- Preserved other Fraud & repealed fraud (pre 2006 Act)

- Make/supply articles for use in fraud
- Possess articles for fraud

All of the reports Action Fraud records are transferred securely each day to the NFIB Know Fraud database where they will be analysed together with all other fraud data being received nationally. Where there is either actionable intelligence or viable lines of enquiry, intelligence packages will be sent out to police forces to investigate.

Data is not retained by MPS but obtainable from Action Fraud and Office of National Statistics

Statistics

Table E9: Fraud offences referred to National Fraud Intelligence Bureau by Action Fraud by police force area, English regions and Wales, year ending September 2015 compared with year ending September 2016

Area Name	Oct '15 to Sep '16	Number of offences - percentage change from previous year
Metropolitan Police	38,306	4
		-11

Next release date - 27 April 2017

Fraud stats for: Greater London -

The statistics on the map represent crime and information reports submitted over the last five months. The counties and regions are based on data that has been submitted and analysed

Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (not PSP) 4318

Other Fraud (not covered elsewhere) 3174

Application Fraud (excluding Mortgages) 2039

Online Shopping and Auctions 1953

Telecom Industry Fraud (Misuse of Contracts) 1739

Appendix B – crime data for Merton and neighbouring boroughs