

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

**Date:** 14 July 2015

### **Subject: Policing in Merton**

Lead officer: Stuart Macleod, Merton 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 report and crime data provided by the 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 Borough Commander has been invited to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting to give a brief presentation setting out his plans and challenges for the year ahead.
- 1.2. He has also been requested to provide a written report to answer questions previously raised by the Commission and to provide crime data in the same format as that provided to the Commission's meeting on 25 March 2015. This is set out in Appendix A.
- 1.3. The definition and recording of hate crime was discussed at the Commission's topic workshop on 20 May. Information from a report to the Joint Consultative Committee With Ethnic Minority Organisations has therefore been included below so that the Borough Commander can comment at the Commission's meeting.

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. Chief Superintendent David Palmer attended the Commission's meeting on 25 March 2015. At this meeting the Commission requested a written report to its meeting on 14 July to include:
- Information about the review that has taken place of the allocation of officers to the three sectors in Merton
  - Outcome of the consultation with MOPAC about the proposed move from 3 to 2 sectors in the borough
  - Crime data in same format as for 25 March meeting
  - Formal response to the questions sent previously in relation to the motion of Full Council on 19 November 2014:
    - I. whether a review of the deployment of officers has been carried out and, if so, what was its nature
    - II. what are the current levels of crime in the three sectors

III. what is the current deployment of officers in each of the three sectors and the rationale for this

IV. The Commission understands that of the 300 officers on the borough, 200 are dedicated to specific areas and 100 are retained for flexible deployment. How are these 100 being deployed at present?

- 2.2. These requests were sent to the Borough Commander by email on 9 April and a reminder was sent on 3 June.
- 2.3. Following a request made at the scrutiny topic workshop on 20 May, and conveyed to the Borough Commander by email on 3 June, he has also been asked to give his view on how well the neighbourhood watch scheme is working in Merton.
- 2.4. Appendix A contains a report from the Borough Commander plus Metropolitan Police performance indicators for Merton for the past three months on a rolling 12 month basis for Merton plus snapshot information for Merton's statistical neighbours.
- 2.5. In response to a topic suggestion made by Merton Centre for Independent Living, members at the Commission's topic workshop on 20 May requested that information on hate crime provided to the Joint Consultative Committee be sent to the Commission's meeting so that the Borough Commander could be asked to comment on the categorisation. Merton CIL's concern was that disability hate crime is not recorded as a distinct category and they asked when this would be addressed.
- 2.6. The hate crime data received by the Joint Consultative Committee With Ethnic Minority Organisations meeting in December 2014 for the preceding year was:

Hate Crime Performance, (up until 20/11/14)

Hate Flag	MPS		Merton	
	Offences	SDs	Offences	SDs
Racist and Religious	7525	28.7%	131	32.8%
Racist	7289	29.3%	114	18.4%
Faith	796	16.7%	23	47.8%
Anti-Semitic	242	14.0%	1	0.00%
Islamophobic	453	19.4%	20	55.0%

Race and religious crime is defined as any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person, or any offence where the offender demonstrates hostility based on the victim's membership of a racial or religious group. Some crimes will be double counted, for example, some crimes are flagged as both racist and religious and therefore the sum of racist crimes and faith crimes exceeds the number of overall offences.

**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 – report from the Borough Commander plus MOPAC performance indicators

**12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1. None

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