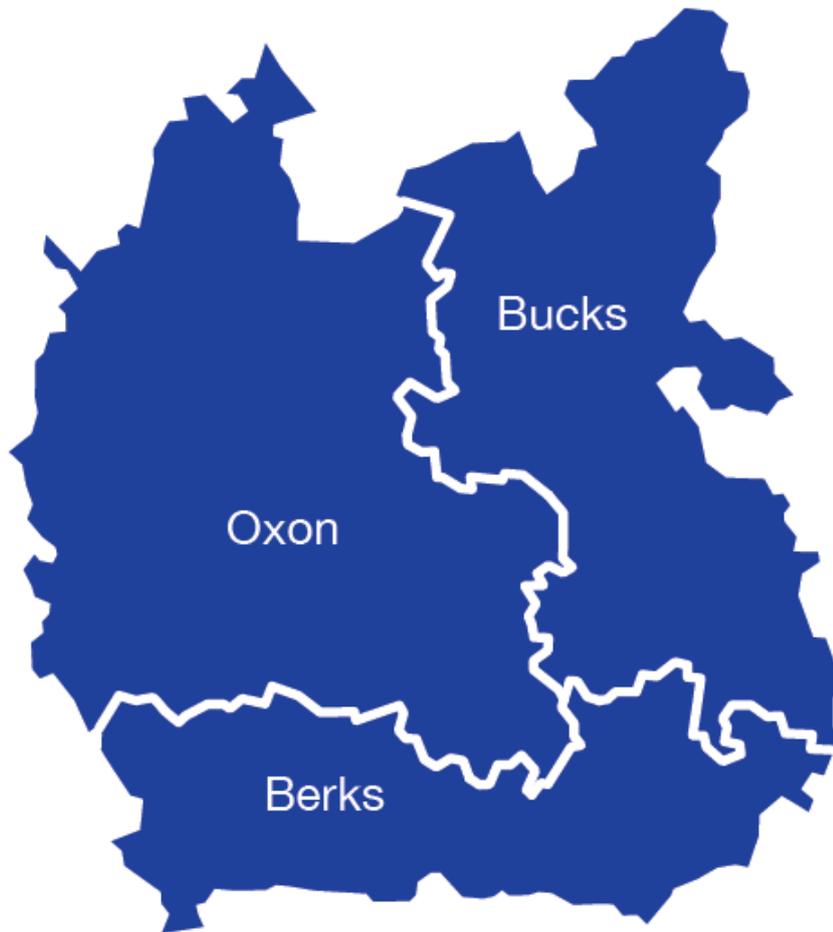


# Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel



## Annual Report 2018/19

The Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel is hosted by South Bucks District Council on behalf of all 18 local authorities in Thames Valley.

It is a joint committee of all 18 local authorities, consisting of a representative from each and two independent co-opted members.

It can be contacted via the address below:

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The Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley is Anthony Stansfeld.

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## Chairman's Introduction

This is the sixth annual report of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel. The Panel continues to both challenge and support the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the Thames Valley and I would like to take this opportunity to praise the hard work and dedication of my fellow Panel Members.



The Panel has fulfilled its main statutory duties this year that is to scrutinise and support the PCC in his role in helping tackle crime and disorder in the Thames Valley. The PCC was elected to hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure an efficient and effective police force for the Thames Valley. Our Panel is continually grateful for the attendance of the Chief Constable to the Panel meetings who provides operational information to assist Members in scrutinising strategic elements of policing.

A Budget Task and Finish Group of the Panel worked with both the PCC and Thames Valley Police Chief Financial Officers on reviewing the PCC's proposed police precept before the proposed precept was submitted to the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel agreed with the PCC's recommendation of an increase in Council Tax for the Police precept, by up to £24 for a Band D property in 2019/20 to enable policing priorities to be met.

One of the themed items looked at by the Panel was the governance of the South East Regional Crime Unit (SE ROCU) and assessing how the PCC held the Chief Constable to account for the performance of SEROCU. This item provided Members with an opportunity to hear about the critical work SEROCU carried out, particularly in relation to tackling serious and organised crime such as "County Lines".

The PCC's Police and Crime Plan and the various strategic police and crime objectives continue to be monitored and scrutinised to enable the effectiveness of the Police performance in the Thames Valley to be monitored.

The newly appointed Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police provided a progress report on the recently implemented new Local Policing Model which has provided an opportunity for the Police to focus on how policing should be delivered, particularly on a local level, across the force and beyond geographical boundaries. Local Policing Areas were aligned to local authority areas, with local commanders being accountable to the Chief Constable and with a consistent approach. This change in policing will be continued to be monitored throughout the next Municipal Year.

**Councillor Trevor Egleton, Chairman of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel**

T. E. S.

## The Police & Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, Anthony Stansfeld, has formally been in post since 22 November 2012 and was re-elected in May 2016.



## The Police & Crime Plan 2017-2021

The Police & Crime Commissioner sets out in a [Police and Crime Plan](#) his objectives for his four year term of office. This document is of great importance to the Police & Crime Panel as a point of reference in fulfilling its duty to scrutinise and review the actions and decisions of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Throughout the year, the Police and Crime Panel receives monitoring reports on how these objectives are being met. The Thames Valley Police Delivery Plan will describe how the Force will address the objectives of the PCC's Plan.



The Police and Crime Plan sets out the Commissioner's strategic police and crime objectives for the Thames Valley with regard to:

- the policing of the area;
- crime and disorder reduction, and

- the discharge by Thames Valley of its national or international functions

The Plan must also cover:

- The policing of Thames Valley which the Chief Constable is to provide
- The financial and other resources which the Commissioner is to provide to the Chief Constable
- The means by which the Chief Constable will report to the Commissioner on the provision of policing
- The means by which the Chief Constable's performance in providing policing is measured
- The crime and disorder reduction grants which the Commissioner is to make, and the conditions (if any) of those grants

The Plan draws upon a wide range of information from the police, community safety and criminal justice partners to ensure it reflects the police and crime issues which are affecting the Thames Valley. It also covers a much wider range of service responsibilities than any plan previously developed by the police, community safety partnerships (CSPs) or any other individual community safety responsible authority. The Plan will bring together the priorities of all agencies and authorities with a responsibility for cutting crime and improving community safety.

### The PCC's Strategic Objectives

The Police and Crime Commissioner Strategic Objectives are:-

- Vulnerability—managing demand on services through working together.
- Prevention and early intervention—improving safeguarding in physical and virtual spaces .
- Reducing reoffending—targeting and managing harm and risk.
- Serious organised crime and terrorism—improving the local response.
- Police ethics and reform— increasing the pace of change

The PCC Annual Report 2017/18 which was considered by the Police and Crime Panel, provided details of progress made in meeting the PCC's objectives contained in the Police and Crime Plan. Included in this were stand out statistics on crime in the Thames Valley, namely:- There had been an 8.7% increase in crime in the Thames Valley, compared to nationally of 15%. There were 44,000 less crimes than there were 10 years ago and 58,000 less offences, compared to 15 years ago. For crimes of violence against individuals, there had been an increase to 12.5%, which was well below the national average. Sexual offences increased by 9.7%, compared to a 25% increase nationally. Increase in burglary by 9% which was just below the national average. There had been an increase of serious weapon offences, which had increased by 13%, but less than the national average increase of 25%.

In relation to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) annual inspection, TVP received a grade of "Outstanding" in terms of efficiency, "Good" for effectiveness and "Good" for legitimacy. These were the best overall results in

terms of inspections for any police force in the country, with the exception of the better funded Durham.

## The Role of the Police & Crime Panel



The Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel **examines** and **reviews** how the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley carries out his responsibilities to ensure that Thames Valley Police runs efficiently and effectively. In addition to this the Panel has a role to play in **supporting** the Commissioner in his work.

### Scrutiny and Support

This year the Panel and its Sub-groups have:-

- Continued to review the **New Operating Model of Local Policing**. This new model had provided an opportunity for the Police to focus on how policing should be delivered, particularly on a local level, across the force and beyond geographical boundaries. This new strategy for the delivery of neighbourhood policing for Thames Valley Police was intended to complement the commitment of working together to make communities safer, and comprised the following four elements: Visibility - to increase public confidence and reduce crime; Engagement - to enable the participation of communities in policing at their chosen level; Problem solving - to identify, establish causation, respond and address local problems and Community Resilience - to increase public involvement in policing.
- Looked at the governance of the **South East Regional Crime Unit (SE ROCU)** and the Panel examined how the Police and Crime Commissioner held the Chief Constable to

account for the performance of SEROCU. Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) formed a critical part of the national policing network and provided a range of specialist policing capabilities to forces which helped them to tackle serious and organised crime effectively. One such serious and organised crime was around “**County Lines**”. This was a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas (within the UK), using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They were likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they would often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. The Panel asked a number of questions to the PCC around what the Police were doing to counteract this criminal activity around the Thames Valley. The threat of the “County Lines” danger was widespread, emanating from the Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool and London areas. Trafficking of people from one area to another took place and both adults and children within the Thames Valley area had been identified. SEROCU was the lead ROCU for “County Lines”, influencing national working groups, and working directly on the national response to this issue. This benefitted the South East as pilot schemes were used in the region. The South East had the greatest level of “County Lines” activity, mainly because of the proactive identification of the problem which had been carried out by SEROCU.

- Continued to monitor the development of TV Police new **Contact Management Platform**. The new Contact Management Platform (CMP) will ensure that Thames Valley Police is a modern, digital, police force that continues to future-proof the policing service in the Thames Valley. It will enable Thames Valley Police to replace over 20 systems in use across the Force and work jointly with Hampshire Constabulary to improve the assessment of emergency and non-emergency calls and provide a better response to those in need. There have been delays in implementing this system which has meant the PCC agreed to allocate another £4million to this project to extend the system testing period.
- Received updates from the PCC on the performance of TVP’s handling of “999” and “**101 calls**”. There have been problems with national Police Forces’ performance in relation to non-emergency “101” calls, with some users complaining of excessive waiting at certain times. The Panel was given assurances by the PCC and the Chief Constable that this service would improve and the Panel continued to monitor this.
- Been provided with the Police and Crime Commissioner’s view on the published report by the **Home Affairs Committee on “Policing for the Future”**. The report looked at the changing demands on policing and the Home Affairs Committee found that forces are struggling to cope in the face of changing and rising crimes, as a result of falling staff numbers, outdated technology, capabilities, structures, fragmentation and a failure of Home Office leadership. The report recommended major changes to the police response to new and growing crimes and warned that the Home Office cannot continue to stand back while police forces struggle. Generally the PCC informed the

Panel that he agreed with many of the findings in the report. The Panel was informed that nationally there had been an upturn in crime, although in the Thames Valley this had been less. Reference was made to the changes to the recording of crime which had affected the crime figures. For instance one crime could involve a few incidents, which had to be recorded individually. The Home Office had also changed the criteria of certain crimes, with for example household burglary now including outside sheds. The overall picture, however, was of rising crime and a reduction in the number of Police Officers. There had been a reduction of 20,000 Police Officers nationally; the Thames Valley Police budget had dropped in real terms, by £100m since 2010/11. Those who committed crimes which went undetected carried on committing more crimes and the cycle continued.

- Scrutinised the Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley's **proposed Council Tax precept for 2019/20**. As in previous years, the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel formed a Budget Task & Finish Group to assist in discharging its statutory duty to scrutinise this element of its responsibility. After careful examination of the Police Budget for 2019/20, which involved meetings with the Chief Finance Officers of both the PCC and of TV Police, it was recommended to the Police and Crime Panel that the Police Precept be increased to £24 for Band D council tax in 2019/20 followed by 2% per annum in later years. The reason for this increase was to provide extra funding to enable the Police to increase Police numbers to help in the fight against the increase in crime. After funding pay and price rises, the proposed increase in Council Tax enabled an investment of around £8.5m in a number of priority policing areas within the Thames Valley. The PCC made the following commitments which would be monitored by the Police and Crime Panel:
  - To improve services to the public through contact management by reducing 101 call handling times (£1.3m)
  - To increase frontline policing by recruiting additional officers and staff to respond to increasing crime demand and complexity (£2.5m)
  - To improve investigative capacity and process for complex crimes (£2.2m)
  - To increase the Digital Development Programmes (£2.5m) and increase digital capability by exploiting the modern platforms which have been invested in.
- A **Confirmation Hearing** took place in February 2019 which confirmed the appointment of the new Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, Mr John Campbell.
- **Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Sub-Committee**– This Sub-Committee was set up by the Police and Crime Panel to prevent and take action with regard to Child Sexual Exploitation across the Thames Valley and to provide assurance to Panel Members. One of the main outcomes of this Sub-Committee was in relation to taxi licensing safeguarding, where it has been agreed that a TVP single point of contact (SPOC) be piloted for a year, and funded by the PCC, in relation to taxi licensing safeguarding. The work of this post holder would continue to be monitored.



### Members of the Police & Crime Panel

- Aylesbury Vale District Council— Mark Winn
- Bracknell Forest Council—Iain McCracken
- Buckinghamshire County Council— Bill Bendyshe - Brown
- Cherwell District Council— Andrew McHugh
- Chiltern District Council—Emily Culverhouse
- Milton Keynes Council— Robin Bradburn
- Oxford City Council— Tom Hayes
- Oxfordshire County Council—Kieron Mallon
- Reading Borough Council—Sophia James
- Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council - Derek Sharp
- Slough Borough Council— Pavitar Mann
- South Bucks District Council—Trevor Egleton
- South Oxfordshire District Council—Alan Thompson
- Vale of White Horse District Council—Eric Batts
- West Berkshire Council— Emma Webster
- West Oxfordshire District Council— Norman MacRae
- Wokingham Borough Council—Barrie Patman
- Wycombe District Council— David Carroll

The two independent co-opted members were:

- Curtis James Marshall
- Julia Girling

## **Looking to the Future**

The Panel will continue to scrutinise and monitor the PCC's Police and Crime Plan to ensure his five strategic priorities are being met to improve policing for residents of the Thames Valley.

The Panel will continue to keep the new Local Police Model under review with a report expected on its first year in operation to be considered by the Panel

Themed items will be considered at future meetings on:

- **Victims First** (including Domestic Violence and Abuse and Exploitation)
- The increase in crime rates and the fall in the number of prosecutions and the restructuring of courts and the implications of this on the **Criminal Justice System**.
- Governance of **Thames Valley Police Collaborations** - The Police and Crime Panel has a statutory duty to scrutinise the role of the Police and Commissioner in the collaborative work being undertaken with other Forces by the Chief Constable under the South East Regional Integration Partnership (SERIP).
- Exploitation - Preventing CSE/Modern Slavery/Forced Marriage/Hidden Harm/ FGM