



## Minutes

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2020 VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 7.50 PM**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

R Scott (Chairman), P Strachan (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, C Adams, J Adey, S Adoh, K Ahmed, Z Ahmed, D Anthony, M Appleyard, M Asif, A Bacon, R Bagge, D Barnes, P Bastiman, M Bateman, A Baughan, B Bendyshe-Brown, M Bezzant, P Birchley, J Bloom, A Bond, S Bowles, M Bradford, J Brandis, C Branston, D Bray, S Broadbent, N Brown, S Brown, J Burton, T Butcher, D Carroll, B Chapple OBE, S Chapple, S Chhokar, J Chilver, A Christensen, C Clare, L Clarke OBE, M Clarke, A Cole, S Cole, P Cooper, A Cranmer, E Culverhouse, I Darby, D Dhillon, T Egleton, C Etholen, B Everitt, R Farmer, P Fealey, M Flys, C Ford, B Foster, R Gaffney, B Gibbs, J Gladwin, N Glover, S Graham, T Green, P Griffin, G Hall, M Hanif, B Harding, M Harker OBE, G Harris, M Harris, C Harriss, M Harrold, M Hashmi, D Hayday, A Hill, G Hollis, P Hudson, T Hunter-Watts, A Hussain, Maz Hussain, Majid Hussain, Mahboob Hussain JP, N Hussain, A Huxley, P Irwin, C Jackson, S Jarvis, S Jenkins, D Johncock, C Jones, P Jones, J Jordan, P Kelly, R Khan, R King, M Knight, S Lambert, J Langley, T Lee, M Lewis, J Lowen-Cooper, D Lyons, J MacBean, A Macpherson, W Mallen, N Marshall, D Martin, P Martin, V Martin, H McCarthy, I McEnnis, T Mills, L Monger, G Moore, H Mordue, N Naylor, R Newcombe, R Newman, C Oliver, S Patel, C Paternoster, B Pearce, G Peart, D Pepler, D Phillips, G Powell, R Raja, S Raja, W Raja, M Rand, S Raven, J Read, R Reed, S Renshell, B Roberts, C Rouse, J Rush, B Russel, G Sandy, R Sangster, D Saunders, M Shaw, N Shepherd, D Smith, L Smith BEM, Michael Smith, Mike Smith, N Southworth, M Stamp, B Stanier Bt, M Stannard, R Stuchbury, L Sullivan, J Teesdale, N Teesdale, M Tett, M Titterington, D Town, A Turner, P Turner, A Waite, L Walsh, J Ward, J Wassell, J Waters, D Watson, J Wertheim, W Whyte, A Wight, G Williams, F Wilson, R Wilson, M Winn and K Wood

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Countess Elizabeth Howe, the Lord Lieutenant and Andrew Farncombe, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire

### **Minutes silence**

A minute's silence was held in memory of former Chiltern District Councillor, Alan Dibbo who represented the Penn ward between 1979-1999, serving as Chairman of the Council between 1993-1995 and Ian Westgate, a former Corporate Director at Wycombe District Council who both sadly passed away recently. Alan and Ian achieved a great deal in their time at their respective councils and would be greatly missed.

## Agenda Item

### 1 MINUTES

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from A Collingwood, A Garth, L Hazell, P Hogan, D Knights, W Matthews, S Morgan, C Poll, S Saddique, H Wallace, C Whitehead and L Wood.

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S Lambert declared an interest in agenda item 9, specifically the 'Buckinghamshire Council becoming a Social Housing Provider' Notice of Motion as he was the Vice-Chairman of the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust and a Director of Fairfax Housing Limited and Fairfax Design and Build Limited which operate in the Buckinghamshire area. Councillor Lambert would take no part in the discussion of that item.

Councillor A Macpherson also declared an interest in agenda item 9, specifically the 'Buckinghamshire Council becoming a Social Housing Provider' Notice of Motion as she was a Board Member of the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust. Councillor Macpherson would take no part in the discussion of that item.

### 4 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed the Members of the Council to the meeting. The Chairman also welcomed Countess Elizabeth Howe, the new Lord Lieutenant, and Andrew Farncombe, the High Sheriff, who were also in attendance. Lady Howe was appointed by Her Majesty the Queen in June and had succeeded Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher Bt. upon his retirement on 27 November. As a long-time resident of Buckinghamshire, Lady Howe has been involved in school governorships and in many local charitable causes. She was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 1995 and High Sheriff in 2010.

The Chairman was also pleased to welcome Matthew Barber, the Thames Valley Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, and John Campbell, the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, to the meeting.

It was noted that that whilst the County had moved into Tier 2 of the Covid restrictions, it was hoped that this would be for as short a period as possible. The Council was very mindful of the effects of the pandemic on residents, members, staff and businesses. On behalf of Council, the Chairman again thanked all those who were continuing to brilliantly support residents at this difficult time.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had been able to attend a number of events over recent weeks, including physically attending the presentation of three British Empire Medals; remembrance wreath laying in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Marlow; High Wycombe Town centre lights; and the re-opening of Marlow Library. In addition, the Chairman virtually attended the Annual General Meeting of the Chiltern Child Contact Centre.

The Chairman passed on his thanks to members who laid wreaths on behalf of the Council at local remembrance events.

The Chairman advised that he had the pleasure of presenting past Chairmen's badges to Cllr Brian Roberts, as the last County Council Chairman and to Cllr Judy Brandis, as the last Chairman

of Aylesbury Vale District Council. The Chairman thanked them both for their service.

Members were advised that a very helpful Councillor Casework guide had been published on the members' area of the Council's intranet site which contained useful information that would help members to respond to resident's queries. The Chairman thanked the officers in Democratic Services for putting this together.

It was noted that the Communities and Localities Select Committee were undertaking an Inquiry to assess the effectiveness of community grants during the Covid 19 pandemic. As part of their evidence gathering, a survey had been sent to all members requesting their feedback. Members were asked to please complete the survey if they had not already done so.

## **5 PETITIONS**

There were no petitions presented to full Council.

## **6 PRESENTATION FROM THAMES VALLEY DEPUTY PCC AND CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Chairman welcomed Matthew Barber, Thames Valley Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, and John Campbell, Thames Valley Police Chief Constable, to the meeting. They were also joined by the three Local Police Area Commanders - Superintendent Mike Loebenberg (Aylesbury Vale), Superintendent Amy Clements (Chiltern and South Bucks) and Superintendent Emma Burroughs (Wycombe).

Full Council received a presentation from the Chief Constable. The presentation in its entirety can be found appended to these minutes. In summary the presentation provided members with information and updates on the following:

- With regards to local policing, the Local Policing Areas model had been restructured and there had been an increase to patrol numbers. Year on year arrests had increased by 13% and stop and search incidents had increased by 58%.
- There was now an increased number of locally based detectives, many with specialist capabilities. Force wide outcomes (detections) were up 24% from this time last year.
- The 101 call handling service had seen an improvement in waiting times which had reduced to around two minutes for an average call time. 999 call time responses remained strong at 7.6 seconds. Online reporting had increased substantially from the previous year and the force was working on satisfaction rates to ensure people received the same level of service as they would expect through telephone calls or physical visits.
- Three men had been found guilty of the manslaughter of PC Andrew Harper. Two appeals had been lodged, one from the Attorney General who believed the sentences were too lenient and one from the defendants who believed the sentences were too harsh. The Court of Appeal would deal with the appeals in due course.
- A large amount of protest activity had taken place since 1 June 2020 and this had been carefully facilitated by the police. There had been no issues of arrests in this force area which reflected the good liaison between the police and protest organisers.
- TVP had the largest footprint of HS2 activity in the country and this presented a significant policing challenge, both in terms of resourcing and in balancing the needs of protesters. Local residents were concerned about damage and the impact on their communities and non-residents would also visit the area to protest accordingly. The police have had to mobilise resources on a number of occasions for spontaneous

protests which were often violent in nature. There had been occasions officers had been contaminated with human waste and another occasion where a protester attempted to remove hydraulic pipes from a cherry picker an officer was using. Resourcing protests took resources away from local policing and this information had been shared with local MPs along with the associated costs with a view to a case being made to the Home Office to request additional funding due to the long term nature of the HS2 project.

- Operation Venetic had targeted serious and organised crime across the Thames Valley and the South East. A number of arrests had been made in the TVP area with investigations ongoing. It was an example of Thames Valley Police working successfully in partnership with the National Crime Agency.
- A number of local officers had been drawn in to support the response of the Forbury Gardens terrorist incident in Reading.
- Operation Restore was TVP's response to the covid-19 pandemic. This involved supporting the repatriation of UK nationals from Wuhan in January, maintaining policing services, and protecting the workforce including response officers who were often entering chaotic circumstances. The force also supported a number of covid-19 testing sites through the Local Resilience Forum.
- TVP's strategy of enforcement involved 'engage, explain, encourage, enforce' with the vast majority of communities being compliant. Fewer fixed penalty notices had been issued in the second wave of lockdown compared to the first. The notices often related to the rule of six not being followed, failing to use face coverings and failing to quarantine in line with guidance. There had been over 37,000 covid related incidents in the Thames Valley, over 3,000 of these were in Buckinghamshire with 250 Fixed Penalty Notices having been issued in Buckinghamshire.
- 781 officers were assaulted in Thames Valley between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020, which was a 22% increase on the previous year. 135 of these assaults took place in Buckinghamshire. 30 officers in Buckinghamshire were spat at, 6 officers were exposed to a blood born virus risk and 30 assaults had been Covid-19 related. These cases had been dealt with strongly by the courts with appropriate sentences given to perpetrators.
- An update on officer recruitment was given. Recruitment had opened in June with 23.5% of applications coming from BAME applicants. The increase in numbers was welcomed although would not bring the force back to its previous levels.
- The Superintendents of each respective local policing area provided an update on policing and criminal activity in their areas as noted in the presentation.

In response to Members' questions the following main points were noted:

A question was asked on staffing levels within neighbourhood policing and it was queried whether numbers would now increase following the recruitment programme. The Chief Constable explained that TVP remained committed to neighbourhood policing and that the aim was to reduce turnover in this area to aid consistency. A review was ongoing in this area with a view to enhancing neighbourhood policing. The first wave of officer recruitment would be focused on local policing with a proportion going into local policing areas and some into neighbourhood policing. Superintendent Burroughs explained that for the Wycombe area, neighbourhood policing was strong and whilst officers were pulled away in exceptional

circumstances, where possible they were protected to remain in the area. The Deputy PCC added that PCSO's remained key to neighbourhood policing and the huge value that they add was recognised.

A member raised the issue of the introduction and enforcement of additional 20 mph zones for areas with high pedestrian use. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner explained that it was for the highways authority to set speed limits in consultation with the police, acknowledging that on occasion there would be genuine highways technicalities which would prevent certain speed changes. If more 20mph zones were to be implemented, these would have the same enforcement as other zones with the police continuing to prioritise the fast road network where fatalities and serious accidents were more likely to occur. It was understood that the Department for Transport was looking at the enforcement of 20mph zones with a possibility that this may be delegated in certain circumstances to local authorities at some point should legislation allow it.

In response to a query on speedwatch initiatives having access to ANPR and average speed cameras, Community Speedwatch was highlighted as an excellent initiative which the force would continue to look at supporting the improvement of. The Deputy PCC explained that whilst he was keen that volunteers had the widest spread of technology available to them as possible, there were some issues with what was permissible by the Home Office and Department for Transport. He added that if the pilot scheme which was currently underway was successful, he was hopeful that some PCC funding could be used so that a good range of standard equipment could be provided to community speedwatch groups which would be approved by the Police and would meet the Home Office and Department for Transport guidance. The Chief Constable was unaware of forces allowing members of the public access to ANPR due to the sensitive nature of data available although he would look into this further. Average speed cameras were said to be moderately successful, but involved significant costs. Hampshire Constabulary was piloting a scheme using average speed cameras which TVP would be keen to see the results of to aid future decisions.

In a further question that related to speeding concerns, members were advised that number plate and facial recognition required further discussion due to issues with accuracy and its ethical use. A fundamental review of ANPR would be undertaken to ensure a strategic approach moving forward.

A question was asked about a specific incident in the High Wycombe area and the investigation process was queried. The member was advised that the police were unaware of anyone who had a motive in the particular case and the CCTV footage had been poor due to lack of lighting and camera positioning. Reassurance patrols had been made and the case would be followed up if the victims were aware of any potential perpetrator(s).

In relation to policing numbers and budget pressures, the Chief Constable reported that at the present time the size of the officer establishment was approximately 4,000 officers to police the approximate 2.5 million residents of Thames Valley. Over the last ten years or so, the force had lost around 750 officers, but the assurances given as part of the officer uplift would result in 450 officers being recruited. This included 183 officers in the first wave of recruitment. The force had also lost operational staff posts, which had an impact on local policing.

A member raised a concern about the rise in domestic violence and questioned whether there were any new initiatives to address the behaviour of perpetrators. Members were advised that over the lockdown period there had not been a particular increase in cases, in some cases due to offenders not living with victims. TVP had proactively and sensitively contacted around 1,500 historic victims of domestic abuse during the lockdown period and very few offences were

discovered. Local commanders can endorse domestic violence protection orders to protect victims and the force continued to work with partners on offender management schemes. The perpetrator programme funded through the PCC office had been through a thorough review process and it was being looked at as to how similar programmes could be funded in the future. The Bucks Family Drug and Alcohol Court was also highlighted as being proactive in dealing with issues where addiction was involved and an additional officer role had been funded to support this and expand the role across Bucks and Milton Keynes.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable and the Local Police Area Commanders for their time and contributions.

## **7 MINOR REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Full Council were asked to note the changes made to the Council's Constitution by the Council's Monitoring Officer under delegated powers. Since approval of the Constitution on 27 February 2020, it has been necessary to make a number of minor amendments to the Constitution to correct minor errors and to ensure it is consistent and reflects updated legislation, including in relation to coronavirus. A schedule of the amendments which have been made by the Monitoring Officer under delegated powers was appended for full Council to note.

Notification of changes would normally have been presented to both the Standards and General Purposes Committee and Audit and Governance Committee prior to coming to full Council, however due to the timings of Committee meetings this was not possible and therefore the report and the appendix were provided to the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of both Committees. The Chairmen made suggested useful amendments which have been reflected in the report and the appendix.

Full Council noted that the process for review of the Constitution had started. As changes to the Constitution would normally be via recommendation from the Standard and General Purposes Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee, a Working Group had been set up comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of each of those Committees. The Working Group has had one meeting and agreed that an information gathering exercise from both officers, members and, where appropriate, other stakeholders, should be carried out. The aim was for information gathering to take place in the New Year and that it should include the issue of planning call in by Town and Parish Councils. The information gathering would be used to inform proposed changes, in conjunction with the Working Group, and once formal changes have been drafted these could be put forward to Council via the Committees.

The Working Group also agreed that to assist the use of the Constitution, minor changes would normally only take place on a bi-annual basis and for reference purposes there should be a version control record.

Members commented on recognising the importance of Town and Parish Councils involvement in determining planning applications and welcomed these issues being looked at further by the Constitution Member Working Group.

It was moved by Cllr R Scott, seconded by Cllr P Strachan and

### **Resolved:**

That the changes made to the Council's Constitution by the Monitoring Officer as appended to the report be noted.

## **8 REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS**

Full Council received update reports from each of the Cabinet Members. These were appended to the agenda pack and members were invited to submit questions ahead of the meeting. Cabinet members briefly presented their written updates and where questions were asked these have been summarised below: -

### **The Leader, Martin Tett**

The Leader provided an update on the covid-19 vaccination rollout in Buckinghamshire. He explained that there would be three stages to the roll out. The first stage would be the setting up of hospital hubs which would be aimed at residents over 80 and health and social care staff. Secondly, there would be a series of local vaccination centres targeting those 50 and over, which would include a roving service associated with visiting care homes and for those who cannot make it to centres. Then finally, there would be at least two mass vaccination centres for those aged 18 and over. The Leader advised residents to wait to be contacted.

The Leader took questions on HS2, local business support, community boards, covid tiering and local enterprise zones. In response to a query on the Council's commitment to protecting residents from impacts arising from HS2 and the importance of having a Cabinet member focused solely on the project, the Leader advised that he was well aware of the damage already caused throughout various localities in Buckinghamshire as a result of HS2 and East West Rail works and understood the need to have a consistent approach which involved close working among senior officers, members and town and parish councils. The Leader could not comment on the Cabinet role from May 2021 as this would be for the Leader elected following the elections to decide, although acknowledged that HS2 required close attention and this would be looked at in the new year.

In response to a question on what the Council could do to protect wildlife habitats being severely affected from HS2 works, the Leader explained that the Council had staunchly opposed HS2 from the outset, however had very limited powers under the Parliament Act so could only focus on ensuring HS2 stuck to assurances given in the Act and were abiding by the law.

In response to a question on the challenges faced by pubs and the hospitality sector due to the pandemic, the Leader advised that two schemes had been set up to help local businesses. One was the local restrictions grant scheme and the other was an additional restrictions grant which was open until 18 December for businesses to apply to if they had suffered a significant downturn in their year on year trading. The Leader encouraged pubs and other hospital venues to look at these schemes and apply where relevant. It was further hoped an additional scheme would be looked at in the new year.

Following a query which was raised on public access to Community Board meetings, the Leader advised that members of the public were permitted and had contributed to the meetings of his Community Board, at the discretion of the Chairman, alongside a number of various representatives from voluntary groups. The Leader could not comment on how each individual board operated but agreed to look at public access for each.

In response to media reports that Buckinghamshire might move into tier 3 covid restrictions, the Leader explained that the figures used in the press had used a different methodology to the official Government rate used by the Council. The Leader advised that it was a personal ambition to move into tier 1, although acknowledged this would be very challenging and reminded residents to abide by the guidance issued to avoid a move to more stringent restrictions.

In response to a question raised on the impact of local enterprise zones and preparedness for imminent changes to EU trading regulations, the leader explained that the introduction of local enterprise zones had been very successful in attracting a number of innovative businesses to Buckinghamshire, particularly at Silverstone and Westcott. The zones had immediately generated 450 new high quality jobs over the last couple of years. In terms of the financial benefits, due to the business rates exemption scheme, money was being reinvested back into the zones although the Council would ultimately benefit from business rates once the exemption period ends. At the time of this meeting, exact EU trading regulations remained to be confirmed, however the Council did have a senior management representative working with Buckinghamshire Business First and the Local Enterprise Partnership to prepare local businesses for changes.

#### **Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Angela Macpherson**

Cllr A Macpherson took questions on visiting residents in care homes over Christmas and respite services. Cllr Macpherson spoke of the very difficult situation with visiting arrangements in care homes during the pandemic. It was noted that care homes would be the priority for vaccinations and it was hoped that physical contact would be increased with the rollout of lateral flow testing. In relation to visiting arrangements over Christmas, the Director of Public Health had written to all care homes in Buckinghamshire explaining that the respective managers were responsible for setting the visiting policy which must take into account the individual needs of all residents in homes and include the carrying out of dynamic risk assessments. Mental health and wellbeing was recognised as an issue, with Oxford Health reporting a significant increase in referrals. Oxford Health had set up a 24/7 helpline and a local Reverend had offered to work with care homes to offer multi-faith support.

In response to a question on the lack of respite care, particularly in the Wycombe area, Cllr Macpherson recognised respite was even more essential in the current circumstances and advised that she would be open to attending the mental health sub-committee of the High Wycombe Community Board to discuss this further and see what opportunities there were.

#### **Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources, Katrina Wood**

In addition to the report appended to the agenda pack, Cllr K Wood highlighted the positive results from the third staff survey which had a 60% response rate and 80% of those who responded reported being happy to work for the Council.

#### **Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Mark Shaw**

Cllr M Shaw reported that he had nominated a number of councillors for awards at the National Local Government Awards. These included Cllrs Arif Hussain, P Irwin and A Waite and Cllrs N Hussain, W Raja and R Khan. Cllr Shaw was delighted to report that Cllrs N Hussain, W Raja and R Khan won an award. Thanks were also given to Cllrs Irwin and Waite who along with Cllr Shaw raised over £27,000 through the Children in Crisis Christmas campaign with many thousands of presents having been delivered to children. Cllr Shaw thanked the people of Buckinghamshire for their generosity.

Cllr Shaw also encouraged members to view and note the new Corporate Parenting Strategy which set out the Council's commitments and ambitions to being trustworthy parents to children in its care. Cllr Shaw emphasised that he wants Buckinghamshire to be the best place

for children to prosper, feel loved and cared for, happy and safe and officers were commended for this piece of work.

#### **Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, Gareth Williams**

Cllr G Williams advised that the winter food voucher scheme, entitled 'Helping Hand for Families', would launch this week. The scheme would use some of the Government funded covid-19 winter grant scheme to particularly support children entitled to free school meals.

In response to questions, Cllr Williams advised that the Council was addressing the five recommendations specific to the Council in the Annual report from the Director of Public Health with a number already addressed. Cllr Williams also advised that the Council had been active in lobbying for extra funding per head for public health. Funding had been allocated dependant on deprivation ratings which had meant Buckinghamshire did not get as much as other authorities.

#### **Cabinet Member for Culture, Patrick Hogan**

There were no further updates to the report or questions.

#### **Cabinet Member for Education & Skills, Anita Cranmer**

Cllr A Cranmer advised that covid-19 numbers in schools and self-isolations had increased, with over 6,000 pupils' self-isolating and 168 positive cases being recorded. However, it was emphasised that over 85,000 children were educated in Bucks and the increased numbers were likely due to better vigilance in schools, bigger bubbles and good track and trace measures within schools who were doing an excellent job in this area.

A question was asked whether 11+ examinations negatively impacted economically vulnerable pupils. It was explained that whilst fewer children took the tests nationally this year, in Buckinghamshire there were actually 140 more children who took the test than in the previous year and that more children qualified for a grammar school place. Cllr Cranmer advised that constant studies were undertaken on attainment gaps with an active year long programme to address any gaps identified.

#### **Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, Bill Chapple**

Cllr B Chapple advised that the accelerated Buckinghamshire Climate Change Strategy would aim to replicate the Government target to reduce carbon use by 68% by 2030 and there remained an intention to bring a version of the strategy to Cabinet in February 2021.

#### **Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness, Isobel Darby**

Cllr I Darby reported that at the last rough sleepers count there were five rough sleepers, three of which were taken in the next day following the count. Since publication of the report the Council had been successful in its application for £90,000 from the cold weather fund.

In response to a question on rough sleeping and support measures in place, Cllr Darby reported that support would be tailored to individual needs and appropriate interventions from a number of partner agencies would provide support, including help with physical and mental health such as addressing substance misuse, money management and help with basic living skills such as cooking and cleaning. This partnership working was recognised as being key to helping individuals become self-sufficient and there was strong evidence that with the right support the

majority of people's lives would improve. Improving access to employment opportunities would be looked at further, with the initial focus being on supporting high needs individuals in receiving appropriate physical and mental health support.

**Cabinet Member for Logistics, David Martin**

There were no further updates to the report or questions.

**Cabinet Member for Planning & Enforcement, Warren Whyte**

Cllr W Whyte reported that in addition to the Stewkley Neighbourhood Plan being out for public consultation, Denham's Neighbourhood Plan was also out for public consultation and the increase in Neighbourhood Plan numbers was recognised as a positive for the Council and local communities.

In response to a question regarding the reporting to members of staff changes in the planning service, Cllr Whyte advised that there had been a one off instance where the Planning Committee Chairman had not been informed of a staffing change and an apology for the oversight had been given to the Chairman.

A further question was asked on whether officers would work closely with neighbourhood plan groups on issues affecting their areas. Cllr Whyte confirmed that the Council would be proactive in encouraging local communities to have in place, or update where necessary, their neighbourhood plan and communications with town and parish councils would continue to promote them.

**Cabinet Member for Property & Assets, John Chilver**

There were no further updates to the report or questions.

**Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, Fred Wilson**

In addition to the written report appended to the agenda pack, Cllr F Wilson congratulated officers on Bierton Crematorium being shortlisted for a Civic Trust Award.

**Cabinet Member for Sports and Leisure, Clive Harriss**

Cllr C Harriss advised that a high level of investment continued to be made in Buckinghamshire's leisure facilities and he also highlighted a concern that a large number of cyclists had been using country lanes with no appropriate lights.

A question was asked in respect of tenders having been received for a new skate park in Buckingham and whether a local facility for the loss of facilities through the development of the Winslow Centre would be considered. Cllr Harriss recognised skateboarding as an Olympic sport and agreed to take the member's comments into consideration and include consultation with local skateboarders.

**Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration, Steve Bowles**

Cllr S Bowles reported that he had visited High Wycombe Town centre with officers and Cllr Arif Hussain to discuss potential regeneration opportunities and also met and spoke with small business owners to discuss their aspirations for the Town. Cllr Bowles added that the 'Merry

Clickmas' campaign recognised the excellent local businesses in Buckinghamshire and encouraged members and residents to support these businesses.

### **Cabinet Member for Transport, Nick Naylor**

Cllr N Naylor recognised the impact on nature caused by HS2 works, and spoke of concerns residents had over work being carried out which was not in line with environmental regulations. The Council continued to oppose HS2 and was firmly on the side of residents impacted by the works. In relation to a recent complaint about a temporary bridge put up by HS2 Ltd. at Denham and its impact on water voles, the relevant organisations to enforce the Wildlife Act were Natural England and Thames Valley Police and it was for HS2 Ltd. to abide by regulations. The Council had taken a proactive approach to sharing campaigners concerns with Natural England and it was now for HS2 Ltd to consider the environmental impact of the works and apply for a water vole licence if appropriate. The Council had asked to be updated on this and advised campaigners. The Council planned to set up a joint HS2/East West Rail environmental officer group with colleagues joining from relevant organisations to discuss concerns and address issues through increased cooperation.

In response to a question on the use of fixed safety speed cameras, Cllr Naylor advised that fixed cameras were designed for a set location and that if speeding was considered to be a concern over a wider area or a length of road then mobile enforcement carried out by police would provide a more flexible option. Alternative traffic calming measures were detailed in the traffic calming booklet on the members' portal and partnership work continued with Thames Valley Police to identify suitable locations for mobile enforcement and the Council would do what it could to assist in tackling anti-social driving behaviour.

In response to a concern raised about the safety of e-scooters and the location of the scooter bays, Cllr Naylor asked the member to send him an email with the locations of the bays which were of concern so that any issue could be looked into.

A further question was asked on increased disruption in the north of the County caused by HS2 and East West Rail works and what assurances could be given to residents about mitigating disruption. Cllr Naylor advised that the Council would continue to take up concerns with East West Rail and HS2 at the highest board level it could and recognised the disruption caused in the north of the County as a result of the works.

### **Cabinet Member for Youth Provision, Tony Green**

Cllr T Green was asked what contact the Council had made with the volunteers and charitable organisations who were running youth clubs and services previously funded by the Council, to ascertain their financial situation to ensure that these services could continue. Cllr Green advised that officers were in constant communication with those organisations and no specific issues had been raised relating to funding and there were no plans to change current arrangements.

## **9 NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **Buckinghamshire Council becoming a Social Housing Provider**

The Chairman advised that the following Motion has been submitted and was consequently moved by Cllr R Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr R Raja:

"It is essential that good quality social housing is available at affordable rents; we are all

aware Buckinghamshire is an expensive place in which to live, leading to a serious hurdle in the recruitment of key workers such as teachers, nurses and GPs. This has the effect of depressing future growth and has a negative effect on the well-being of our residents. By providing good quality social housing at affordable rents we can ensure this trend is reversed; it is therefore economically prudent and socially necessary.

Council calls on Cabinet to instruct Officers to undertake a feasibility study to determine the business case for the development of additional local authority owned social housing.”

Cllr R Stuchbury introduced the motion highlighting that Buckinghamshire Council was not bound by the decisions of the predecessor authorities and emphasised that there were housing issues to address including the need for these to be accessible and affordable. In proposing the motion, Cllr Stuchbury noted that by adopting this motion, the next Council formed in May would have the task and responsibility of ensuring people had the opportunity to have their own homes and key workers such as teachers and care workers could live in Buckinghamshire comfortably creating a prosperous socially balanced society.

In seconding the amendment Cllr R Raja spoke of social housing providing a vital role in meeting the housing needs of the county and every effort should be made to create homes which are available to all and fit for purpose.

An amendment to this motion was proposed by Cllr I Darby and seconded by Cllr J Chilver, this amendment was as follows:

“It is essential that **a range of** good quality **affordable housing, including** social housing is available at affordable rents; we are all aware Buckinghamshire is an expensive place in which to live, leading to a serious hurdle in the recruitment of key workers such as teachers, nurses and GPs **and other key council staff**. This has **the potential** to ~~effect~~ of depressing future growth and ~~to have~~ has a negative effect on the **physical, mental and economic** well-being of our residents. **By maximising the provision of** ~~By providing~~ good quality **affordable housing, including** social housing at affordable rents, we can ensure this **risk is minimised**. ~~trend is reversed; it is therefore economically prudent and socially necessary.~~

Council calls on Cabinet to instruct Officers to ~~undertake a feasibility study to determine the business case for the development of additional~~ **commission a report detailing both current and future possible affordable housing delivery models, including local authority owned social housing, which will maximise the provision of the best range of good quality affordable housing appropriate to the needs of our residents.”**

In proposing the amendment, Cllr Darby advised that it was not appropriate at this time to look at a single delivery vehicle to find a solution to the housing needs of those in Buckinghamshire, such as the Council solely providing housing as a social housing provider and the motion would be better placed if it were to include the range of delivery vehicles the Council had at its disposal for improving the housing options for all residents.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr J Chilver who suggested the amendment better reflected the wider aspiration to support and encourage high quality and affordable housing through a range of delivery models, of which council owned social housing was one. Cllr Chilver spoke of schemes underway across Buckinghamshire including affordable apartments at the Tatling End development delivered through the Council’s solely owned subsidiary property company Consilio, sixty new affordable homes at Bellfield in High Wycombe offered at social rent through

a housing association and forty affordable park homes at Bassetsbury Triangle, a former brownfield site.

Cllr L Monger spoke of the importance of addressing the wider housing need adding that the amendment to the motion took away the direct issue of the Council acting as a social housing provider.

**This amendment passed and became the substantive motion.**

The motion was therefore:

“It is essential that a range of good quality affordable housing, including social housing is available at affordable rents; we are all aware Buckinghamshire is an expensive place in which to live, leading to a serious hurdle in the recruitment of key workers such as teachers, nurses and GPs and other key council staff. This has the potential to depress future growth and to have a negative effect on the physical, mental and economic well-being of our residents. By maximising the provision of good quality affordable housing, including social housing at affordable rents, we can ensure this risk is minimised.

Council calls on Cabinet to instruct Officers to commission a report detailing both current and future possible affordable housing delivery models, including local authority owned social housing, which will maximise the provision of the best range of good quality affordable housing appropriate to the needs of our residents.”

Cllr M Winn supported the motion and highlighted the importance of ensuring residents could afford to live in Buckinghamshire. Previously Aylesbury Vale District Council had built homes in partnership with housing associations through section 106 funding receipts and sales of council homes and the importance of partnership working remained key. Cllr Winn acknowledged that locally owned social housing was important, and added that a report should look at all affordable housing models to provide the affordable housing which the residents of Buckinghamshire needed.

Cllr I Darby emphasised that there were a number of ways of securing housing at social rent and a number of different schemes available to meet individual needs, such as shared ownership, and these remained important to people.

Cllr R Raja was pleased to note that all members recognised that housing in Buckinghamshire was an important issue which needed to be addressed, stating that it would have been positive for the motion to include a deadline for when the report would be available.

**Resolved:** That the substantive motion be carried.

**To Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill**

The Chairman advised that the following Motion had been submitted and was consequently moved by Cllr D Lyons and seconded by Cllr R Stuchbury:

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm) and continue to rise. This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

Without more significant and sustained action, the world is set to exceed the Paris

Agreement's 1.5°C limit between 2030 and 2040. Therefore the current UK target of net zero by 2050 is not satisfactory. It is too little too late. The likelihood of a pandemic like Covid19 was predicted by scientists: mainstream scientist say there is an overwhelming likelihood of catastrophic climate change without urgent ambitious action. The current Covid pandemic will seem trivial if we fail to limit climate change to 1.5 degrees.

**Council notes that**

- (i) The Council noted in July 2020 that climate change is a global emergency;
- (ii) Many local authorities have established Citizens' Assemblies that are playing an important role in assisting them in their plans to achieve net zero by 2030 or before; and that
- (iii) There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”)—according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy that:
  - (a) requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial temperatures;
  - (b) ensures that all the UK's consumption emissions are accounted for;
  - (c) includes emissions from aviation and shipping;
  - (d) protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;
  - (e) restores and regenerates the UK's depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states, maximising their capacity to absorb CO2 and their resistance to climate heating;
  - (f) sets up an independent Citizens' Assembly, representative of the UK's population, to engage with Parliament and Government and help develop the emergency strategy.

**Council therefore resolves to:**

- (1) Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.
- (2) Inform the local media of this decision.
- (3) Write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill; and
- (4) Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support ([campaign@ceebill.uk](mailto:campaign@ceebill.uk)).

Cllr D Lyons introduced the motion and spoke of the importance of taking responsibility for carbon that has been outsourced to or procured from other countries. Cllr Lyons advised that Citizen assemblies made well thought through recommendations and connected Government to ordinary people. Cllr Lyons stressed the need to take urgent action to tackle the climate emergency. He highlighted the annual report from the Director of Public Health for Buckinghamshire which emphasised the significant scale of the challenge of climate change. Cllr Lyons explained that through working together to make changes and by approving this motion, the Council could make it clear to the Government and electors that the UK could lead on this issue.

Cllr R Stuchbury, when seconding the proposal, deferred his speech until the end of the debate

and debate on the motion then ensued.

Cllr W Whyte spoke of the issues raised being superfluous and not having taken account of the positive work the Council had done to date. Cllr Whyte spoke of there being no requirement for a citizens assembly as residents elected their own local representatives to this Council which they would again do in May 2021. Concern was raised that the motion was political and a way to distract from the progress being made locally and nationally.

Cllr B Chapple advised that he could not support the motion stating that he did support the national target to become net zero by 2050 and the recent Government commitment to cut carbon use by 68% by 2030. Cllr Chapple said that the UK should not take on responsibility for other nations carbon emissions and instead needed to encourage those countries to show the same ambition as the UK. Cllr Chapple explained that international aviation and shipping were covered by alternative emerging agreements through the international civil aviation organisation and international maritime organisation. Cllr Chapple highlighted environmental work going on in the Council at present and agreed with Cllr Whyte that the Council was effectively a citizens assembly.

Cllr M Tett stated that he did not doubt the significance of global warming and spoke of the strong motion passed by the Council in July 2020. Cllr Tett described the motion being proposed as undeliverable, disrespectful to the Council, un-costed and undemocratic. He explained that the UK was accountable for 1% of global carbon use and therefore could not be held accountable for other countries carbon use. Cllr Tett added that a large number of residents in Buckinghamshire relied on the aviation industry for employment and their right to a job should be supported with focus being placed on decarbonising the industry.

Cllr L Monger spoke of the seriousness of the issue and how Government and local authorities must act now to reduce carbon emissions and urged members to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.

Cllr C Clare affirmed the message that the Council was already taking action through its own emerging Climate Change Strategy as were the Government through its recent announcements on setting challenging, but achievable targets and these were signs of how serious all were taking the issue.

Cllr R Stuchbury and Cllr D Lyons were in agreement that the motion should not have been made a political issue and was more focused on urgent action being taken for the future of Buckinghamshire and the UK as a whole.

**Resolved:** That the motion was not carried and therefore fell.

## **10 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

The written responses to questions from members were published as a supplement to the main full Council agenda and could be viewed on the Council's website.

## **11 REPORT FOR INFORMATION - KEY DECISIONS REPORT**

Full Council received for information a list of decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last Council meeting.

## **12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 4pm.

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# Chief Constable John Campbell QPM



9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

THAMES VALLEY POLICE  
**STRATEGIC  
PLAN**

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20/  
21



## Since we last met... 2019/20

Benefitted from an increase in  
precept...8.4M...

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Key areas of investment

Local Policing and Investigations

Contact Management

# Local Policing

- Restructured LPA Model

## Increased Patrol numbers

- Arrests increased by 13%
- Stop and Search increased by 58%

# Force Crime

- **New Investigative Structure** – DCI Crime Managers, CID and Priority Crime Teams for each LPA
- **Virtual Crime Academy** with a focus on the retention, training, accreditation, wellbeing and reward/recognition for our staff.
- **Additional Investigative Training** for staff and supervisors to improve their knowledge and skills.
- **Recruitment of Digital Technicians** to increase efficiency in accessing digital evidence
- **Technology** is being improved to make it easier and more efficient to both gather and examine evidence and share it.
- **Force wide outcomes are currently up 24% compared to last year.**

## Average time to answer calls

Our 2020 year to date average time to answer 101 calls is 141 seconds which is 40 seconds faster than 2019.

Our 2020 year to date average time to answer 999 calls is 7.6 seconds.



# Time to Answer (seconds)

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1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020

# Call volumes



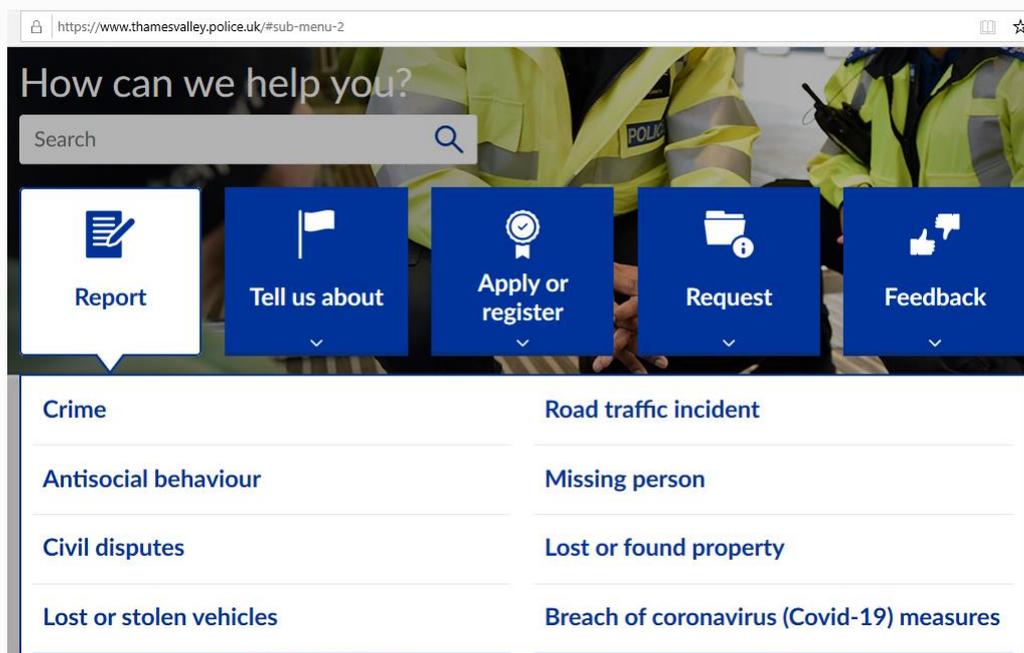
1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020

# Online Reporting

Between 8 April and 27th October 2019 we received 21,327 on-line reports

Between 6 April and 25th October 2020 we received 66,340 on-line reports.

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**PC Andrew Harper**

Court of Appeal will be considering leniency of the sentences in due course.

# Black Lives Matter and Protest

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Thames Valley Police is committed to tackling racism through our ongoing role in policing, working closely with our communities by building trust and confidence to help keep people safe.



**Between 1/6/2020 – 20/11/2020 – TVP dealt with 139 Protests and Demonstrations**

**49 of these related to Black Lives Matter and similar causes**

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# HS2 / Extinction Rebellion

The **High speed 2** rail project will link London to Birmingham and will travel through the Thames Valley Policing area via Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

Thames Valley Police are committed to facilitating peaceful protest in relation to this project which is currently within its first phase of construction.

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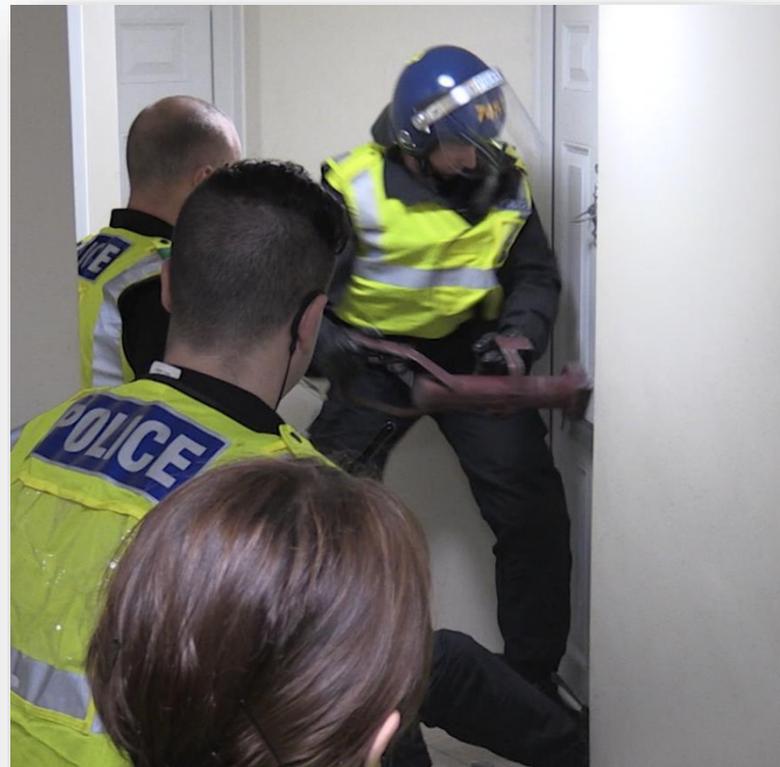
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# Operation Venetic

**Operation Venetic** targeted serious and organised crime across Thames Valley and the South East with £1.8m in cash seized, multiple kilos of Class A and Class B drugs being taken off the streets.

Page 29 Imitation firearms were also recovered. This resulted in 20 arrests, four of whom have been charged, with a number of organised crime groups being successfully disrupted.

This is an example of Thames Valley Police working successfully in partnership with the National Crime Agency.



# Forbury Gardens, Reading



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On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020, three people died after being stabbed in Forbury Gardens, Reading.

Within five minutes of the first call, officers had apprehended a man and made an arrest. On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the defendant pleaded guilty to three counts of murder and three counts of attempted murder.

# Operation RESTORE – Covid Response

**31/01/2020**

Plane lands at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire carrying 83 Britons & 27 Foreign nationals from Wuhan in China

**April 2020**

Op Restore officers responding to lockdown breaches under government restrictions amid the pandemic

**19/04/2020**

Pilot COVID-19 Drive through test centre opens in Central Milton Keynes

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## Policing COVID-19

- 1 Engage
- 2 Explain
- 3 Encourage
- 4 Enforce

**#StayHomeSaveLives**

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## Covid-19 Offences

- **Covid Related Crimes** – Thames Valley recorded 1855 Covid related crimes, 285 were in Buckinghamshire
- **Covid Related Incidents** – Since the beginning of the pandemic, Thames Valley received 37,818 reports of Covid Related Incidents and attended 11,887 of these. 3,055 of these were in Buckinghamshire
- **Fixed Penalty Notices** – 870 issued in Thames Valley, 250 in Buckinghamshire

## Assaults on Officers

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 781 officers were assaulted in Thames Valley which represents a **22%** increase on the previous year

- 135 of these assaults were in Buckinghamshire
- 30 Officers in Buckinghamshire were spat at
- 6 Officers were exposed to a Blood Borne Virus risk
- 30 Assaults in Buckinghamshire were Covid-19 related

# Officer Uplift

**TVP opened for recruitment between the 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 for Police Officers.**

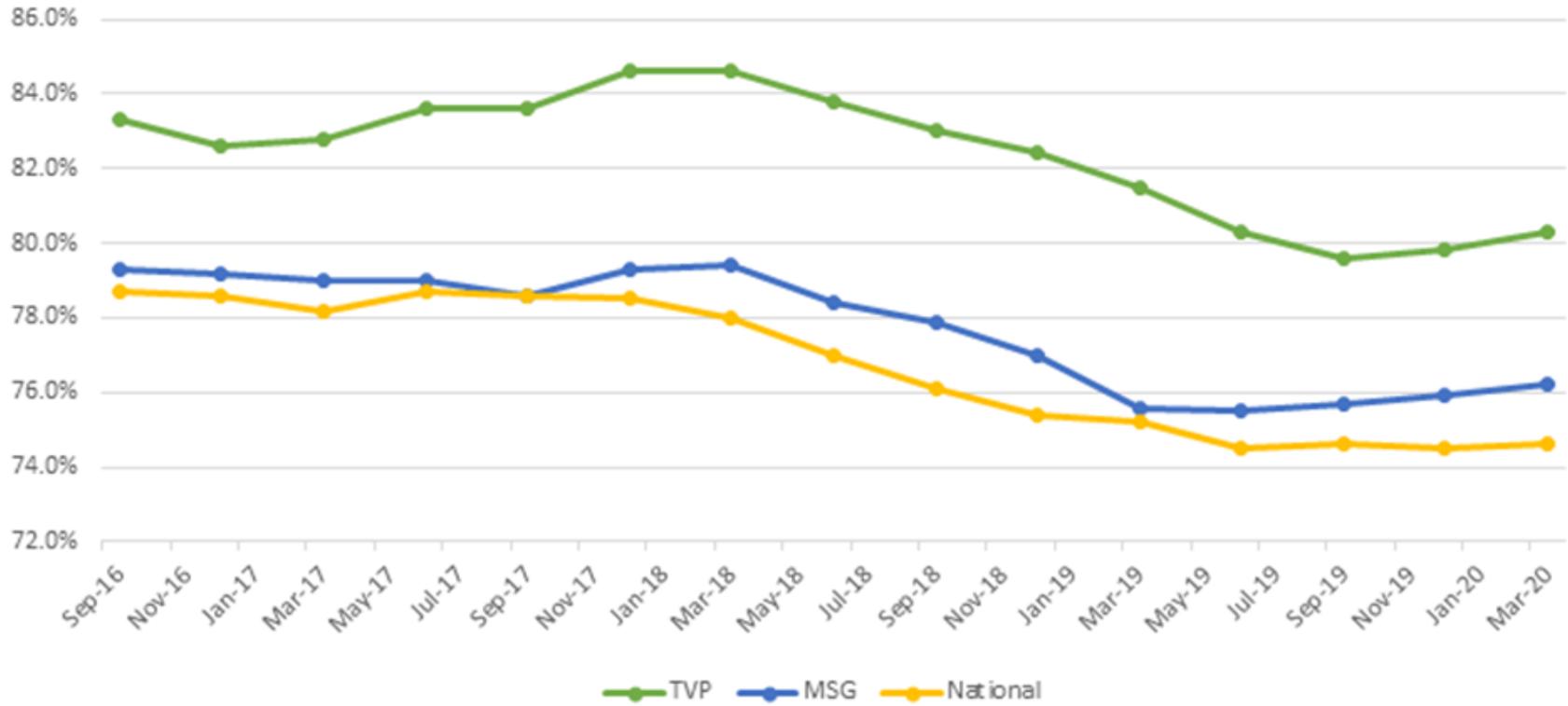
- 345 Police Officer applications were received**
- 81 (23.5%) were BAME applicants**

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	Police Officers
March 2019	3824
March 2020	3973
July 2020	4071
March 2021	4103 (predicted)

### Crime Survey England & Wales (Thames Valley) - Taking everything into account I have confidence in the Police in this Area - as at March 20



# Aylesbury Vale

In the last year we have secured 1,422 positive outcomes for victims of crime, making 1,266 arrests.

- **Complex and Serious crime:** 16 serious assault charges. 4 rape charges.
- **Domestic Abuse:** 57% arrest rate. 30 DVPOs. 7 breaches successfully prosecuted.
- **Burglary:** 46 % reduction. Public press appeal and officer BWV footage used to prosecute 'creeper' burglar.
- **Robbery:** 48% detection rate for personal robberies. Six-year sentence for each perpetrator of attack on 87 year old. LPA priority nominal convicted and civil injunction obtained prohibiting him from entering Aylesbury.
- **Drugs:** Focus on 'County Drug Lines'  
e.g. CDL from Birmingham dismantled. 16 charged, inc. 11 with conspiracy to supply Class A. £30,000 drugs seized. £12,000 assets seized.  
Dedicated Stronghold Team: 120+ arrests, 4.5 kg drugs and £90,000 cash seized.
- **Knife Crime:** 47% reduction in knife crime. 63% increase in use of stop and search.
- **Neighborhood Teams:** 2 CPNs. 11 Civil orders. 6 CBOs. 22 closure orders.
- **Prison Team:** 14 violence against the person charges.



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## Chiltern & South Buckinghamshire

- Increase in positive outcomes for the LPA (+64% for offences of violence, 42% for knife crime)
- Reduction in many crime types, including robbery (-58%), burglary (-30%) and knife crime (-30%)
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour: closure of Dorney Lake & other locations
- Disruption of organised criminal groups: safer communities

# Wycombe LPA

- **Summer and Winter Burglary operations** supporting the 41% (113) reduction in Burglary offences.
- **Knife crime** remains a priority for the LPA and over the year there has been a reduction as a result of OP Sceptre, a dedicated operation focusing on both prevention and enforcement.
- **Stronghold team-** the LPA's dedicated proactive team to help combat the risk posed by both local and county drugs lines. They have been instrumental in recent operations – Op Goodnight and OP Goodbye.
- **Op Guardian** – a bespoke approach to support victims of Domestic Abuse, a member of staff from Women's Aid working alongside a Police Officer to improve victim engagement.

# Significant operations

- **Op Gate-** operation conducted in partnership to help reduce begging and homelessness in Wycombe town centre
- **Op Riddler** – following a 12 month operation the police had sufficient evidence to arrest 20 people for Supplying Controlled Drugs and Money Laundering.
- **Op Garnish** – 6 warrants executed in connection with an investigation into Child Sexual Exploitation.
- **Intensive Engagement Project** - to build resilience cohesion in Castlefield.



## Crime Reductions

- 3% reduction in All Crime (21,148 v 20,531)
- 37% reduction in Residential Burglaries (846 v 529)
- 20% reduction in Knife Crime (177 v 140)
- 38% reduction in Shoplifting (1429 v 888)
- 37% reduction in Theft from a Motor Vehicle (1829 v 1147)
- 38% reduction in Personal Robbery (161 v 100)

## Crime Concerns

- 19% increase in Domestic Incidents (2964 v 3539), however a 58% increase in offenders brought to justice (297 v 469)

## Outcomes

- 51% increase in positive outcomes (2059 v 3111)
- 56% increase in positive outcomes for Violence with Injury (270 v 422)

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## Challenges to Come

Savings of 13.4 million over next 3 years

- Unknown impact on Covid budgets

Recruitment v Experience

- Uplift

Covid surge or otherwise

# Thames Valley will deliver an excellent service and be regarded as an outstanding force

- We will focus on crime reduction and the disruption of criminal activity, creating a hostile environment for those that would do harm
- When people call us for help we will provide a caring, effective and swift response to those in need
- Where crimes are committed, we will investigate appropriately and relentlessly seek justice for victims
- Our response to major and serious incidents and our policing operations will be first class

The public will know that when things are at their very worst for them we will be at our very best.

Through these endeavours our communities will have high levels of trust and confidence in Thames Valley Police.

## Reduce crime and incidents through problem solving

### The force will focus on:

- Knife Crime and Serious Violence
- Robbery
- Residential Burglary
- Organised Crime Groups and Drugs Lines
- Rural Crime
- The reduction and better management of overall demand.

## Bring more offenders to justice

### The force will focus on:

- Knife Crime
- Residential Burglary
- Robbery
- Violence with Injury
- Rape and Serious Sexual Offences
- Ensuring thorough and effective investigation of crime allocated for investigation
- Crime Data Integrity.

## Protect the vulnerable

### The force will focus on:

- Domestic Abuse
- Stalking and Harassment
- Exploitation
- Vulnerable victims of Fraud.

## Increase satisfaction of victims

### The force will focus on:

- Improving non-emergency call answering times
- The timeliness of our initial response
- Understanding caller and victim expectations
- Improving the updates provided to victims
- Our response to major and serious incidents and policing operations.

## Value our workforce

### The force will focus on:

- Retention, recruitment, development and wellbeing of all officers and staff
- Improving the quality of supervision
- Delivering training in priority areas to address knowledge, skill and capability gaps
- Professional standards, ethics and integrity.

## Spend our resources wisely

### The force will focus on:

- Investing in priority areas to maintain or increase capabilities
- Developing our understanding of current and future demand, challenges and risks to the organisation
- Developing a clear governance framework for the effective management of strategic planning processes
- Ensuring value for money.

## Implement effective digital developments

### The force will focus on:

- Delivering an effective digital policing response to minimise harm and protect the vulnerable
- Investing to create a digital culture amongst our workforce to capitalise on the opportunities available
- Ensuring high standards of data management and exploitation to enable process automation and sound decision-making
- Enabling efficient ways of working to maximise productivity.

Operational ●

Organisational ●