



## Corporate Services, Commerce & Communities Policy Overview Committee Review Scoping Report

**Working title: Reviewing the new local policing arrangements in support of the Council's community safety efforts and funded Tasking Teams**

### **1. REVIEW OBJECTIVES**

#### **Aim and background to review**

In February 2018, the Metropolitan Police announced major changes to the way that local policing was delivered in London through the introduction of Basic Command Units (BCUs).

BCUs replaced the Metropolitan Police's old 32-borough model by merging local policing in boroughs to form 12 BCUs. Each BCU is led by a chief superintendent who will be the BCU Commander, and buildings, staff and resources will be shared across borough boundaries. In Ealing, Hounslow and Hillingdon, the BCU Commander is Chief Superintendent Paul Martin.

Hillingdon combined with Ealing and Hounslow to form a BCU.

The BCU model was tested in two boroughs from January 2017, with Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering combined, as well as Camden and Islington boroughs. Hillingdon became a part of one of the next two BCUs to become operational across London.

At the Committee meeting on 20 July 2018, it was unanimously agreed to further explore Community Safety and Policing in Hillingdon as a potential review topic, and officers were requested to provide a scoping report that set out the guidelines to investigate the new policing structure and the impact that it will have upon community safety.

### **Proposed Terms of Reference (DRAFT)**

- 1. To understand the role played by, and, if required, what changes are necessary for the Community Safety team to work alongside the new emerging West Borough Command Unit for the Metropolitan Police;*
- 2. Considering how interface works on a daily basis, how contact takes place at a strategic level, and what synergy comes from the Council's investment in upgraded CCTV, in particular, the use of town centre ANPR cameras by the Police;*
- 3. Reviewing links to the Anti-Social Behaviour and Housing Teams, and defining / ensuring clear lines of responsibility for the Police, Registered Social Landlords, and other external bodies from issues arising.*
- 4. Reviewing the Council-funded Tasking Teams, both north and south of the A40, and how they will be managed going forward, and what good news results can be expected to reassure residents that Hillingdon is safe; and,*
- 5. Confirming that the Council is receiving value for money for its contributions to the West Borough Command Unit, and ensuring that money is not redirected away from Hillingdon to the other neighbouring Boroughs.*

## **2. INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS** (Where we are now?)

### **Current context**

The Community Safety Team at the London Borough of Hillingdon has a key role in supporting and coordinating the work of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership (SHP). The team monitors the priorities set annually by the SHP and works closely with key partners such as the police, fire service and health to develop and implement initiatives that keep these priorities on track. In working towards the aim of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, it helps to ensure that all our residents who study, work and live in the Borough are safe. The Community Safety Team also takes a leading role on behalf of the Council in all Community Safety related issues and provides advice and support to residents, non-government organisations, other Council departments and Elected Members.

### **Key Information**

Prior to the merger of the three boroughs (Hillingdon, Hounslow and Ealing) on 6 June 2018 to become West London Basic Command Unit (BCU), Partnership Teams were known as the Partnership Tasking Teams. There are two teams, one for the North of Hillingdon and the other

for the South. Under the new BCU model, the officers who staff these teams will, other than in exceptional circumstances such as Grenfell, be 'ring-fenced' to Hillingdon and not be tasked for other duties such as 'resourcing up response teams'. The teams consist in total of two (2) sergeants and eleven constables. The purpose of the Partnership Teams is to reduce anti-social behaviour and the number of repeat victims of anti-social behaviour across the Borough. The officers deploy a number of different activities in order to achieve this aim such as high visibility and plain clothes patrols, together with problem solving and targeting areas where there has been an increase in crime such as motor vehicle theft, burglary and knife crime. The team is co-funded by the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Taskings for the teams are currently generated through the BCU Command and the Local Authority (Community Safety Team, ASBIT and Housing). Regular meetings are held with both Partnership Sergeants, and the Service Manager for the Community Safety Team attends the fortnightly Borough Tasking Meetings. The Service Manager is able to directly task both teams should any issue of concern arise. A work return for each team is received at the end of each month which is cascaded to senior officers within the Council.

Following the merger of the BCU, the Service Manager for Community Safety has met with both Lisa Cronin, the Partnership Inspector, and Chief Inspector Andrew Deane - Neighbourhoods and Partnership. Further meetings are scheduled to take place to review and refresh the way that the Council currently works with its Partnership Teams.

The Service Manager for Community Safety has a good working relationship with the police and is able to contact other police teams such as the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Criminal Investigation Department and Safeguarding Teams to alert them to issues raised intelligence gathered during Partnership Tasking Events, and concerns raised by residents and Elected Members.

## **Responsibilities**

The portfolio Cabinet Member responsible is Councillor Douglas Mills, as Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration.

## **Connected activity**

The External Services Select Committee has a statutory responsibility to scrutinise the performance of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership. At its meeting in September, members of this Committee will be questioning the Metropolitan Police Service on the changes that have been recently implemented, as well as performance on a number of issues.

## **Further information**

Metropolitan Police (12 February 2018), *Met Announced Changes to Local Policing* (online). Available from: <http://news.met.police.uk/news/met-announces-changes-to-local-policing-294044>

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC); (Information available online at MOPAC website): <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac>

### **3. EVIDENCE & ENQUIRY**

#### **Lines of Enquiry & Witness testimony**

Lines of enquiry will need to be worked up in due course.

Potential witnesses could include:

- Testimony from LBH Officers;
- Testimony from the Metropolitan Police Service;
- Testimony from representatives of Local Residents Associations;
- Testimony from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC);
- Testimony from the Cabinet Member.

Members may wish to suggest alternative witnesses.

#### **Emerging conclusions or themes for development**

These will emerge and become apparent as the review progresses.

### **4. REVIEW PLANNING & ASSESSMENT**

As Policy Overview Committees now operate under a multi-year work programme, the Committee has scope to undertake a more detailed review.

It is advised that witnesses attend in themed sessions. Draft timeframe & milestones are set out below and can be extended or reduced as the Committee sees fit:

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Purpose / Outcome</b>
24 July 2018	Agree Scoping Report	Information and analysis
20 September 2018	Witness Session 1	Evidence & enquiry
11 October 2018	Witness Session 2	Evidence & enquiry
6 November 2018	Witness Session 3	Evidence & enquiry

8 January 2019	Draft Final Report	Proposals – agree recommendations and final draft report
March 2019	Cabinet - Consider Final Report	Agree recommendations and final report
October 2019	Monitoring of implementation of recommendations	

*\* Specific meetings can be shortened or extended to suit the review topic and needs of the Committee*

**Resource requirements**

None.

**Equalities impact**

To be confirmed.