Independent Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes

Berkshire East Local Command Unit

DATE **18th November 2026**

TIME: **18:30**

LOCATION: **Bracknell Police Station**

Attendees	Initials	Position and Area
	SB	C/Superintendent Berks East LCU
	AJ	IAG Chair
	SB	ASO/Minute Taker
	NG	Windsor and Maidenhead NH Inspector
	RW	Staff Officer TVP
	JS	IAG Member
	JJ	IAG Member
	HH	IAG Member
	JH	IAG Member
	AA	IAG Member
	RB	IAG Member
	RH	IAG Member
	NMP	CNEO TVP
	PD	IAG Member
	DL	IAG Member
	SA	IAG Member
	MS	IAG Member
	PD	IAG Member
	SC	Neighbourhood Policing Chief Inspector
	MK	IAG Member
Apologies		
	MK	IAG Member
	MD	TVP Inspector
	AN	IAG Member

	FM	IAG Member
	CF	IAG Member

Strategic and Operational Updates
The group received an overview of current planning activity across policing, including preparations for future financial and operational demands. Work continues to assess the implications of wider public sector and governance reforms, while planning is underway for upcoming periods of increased demand, major events and national policing requirements. The meeting also discussed emerging national issues relating to safeguarding, community safety and public order, with ongoing work to ensure policing remains prepared to respond effectively.

Local Community and Partnership Updates
Members were updated on a range of local issues affecting communities across the area. Police and partners continue to work closely together to manage community concerns, support vulnerable individuals and maintain public confidence. Recent partnership activity has focused on proactive engagement, early intervention and problem-solving approaches to address emerging issues. The meeting also welcomed the establishment of a dedicated rural crime team to strengthen the response to offences affecting rural communities.

Recent Operational Activity
Police provided an overview of recent enforcement and prevention activity, including operations targeting domestic abuse, serious violence, drug-related crime, retail crime and anti-social behaviour. Significant work has also taken place to tackle the criminal misuse of vehicles and electric bikes. Neighbourhood policing teams continue to work with businesses, residents and partner organisations to reduce crime and improve community safety.

Use of Special Policing Powers
An update was provided on the use of enhanced stop and search powers in response to serious incidents involving violence. Members were advised that these powers are only used when necessary to protect the public and prevent further harm. Police continue to monitor the use of these powers carefully to ensure they are proportionate, appropriate and subject to independent scrutiny.

Independent Advisory Group (IAG) Matters
The meeting highlighted the important role that Independent Advisory Groups play in supporting communication between police and communities. Discussion focused on strengthening community engagement, improving information sharing and ensuring communities remain supported during significant incidents or periods of concern.
Members also discussed community tensions and the importance of reporting hate-related incidents. Positive partnership working between police, local authorities and community groups was recognised as an effective way of addressing concerns and promoting community cohesion.

The group also considered recent discussions within policing regarding professional standards, ethics and organisational culture. Members were reassured that work continues nationally and locally to uphold high standards of conduct and accountability.

Neighbourhood Policing Update
Neighbourhood policing teams provided an update on work undertaken to address local priorities. Activity has focused on road safety, anti-social behaviour, organised criminal activity and protection of vulnerable people.
Positive results have been achieved through targeted enforcement activity, partnership operations and problem-solving initiatives. Work continues to tackle acquisitive crime, support local businesses and improve public confidence through visible policing and regular community engagement.
Additional activity has been undertaken to support major events, protect residents from crime and deliver preventative initiatives aimed at improving safety within public spaces and local communities.

Emergency Planning and Community Resilience
Partners presented information on community resilience and emergency preparedness. Discussions highlighted the importance of planning for disruptions to essential services and ensuring vulnerable residents can access support when needed.
Members were encouraged to promote available resilience resources within their communities and to support awareness campaigns that help residents prepare for emergencies and unexpected disruptions.

Hate Crime Awareness and Community Engagement
An update was provided on ongoing work to support the reporting of hate crime and improve engagement with diverse communities. The discussion emphasised the importance of building trust, increasing awareness of reporting mechanisms and encouraging individuals to report incidents when they occur.
Members noted that barriers to reporting remain a challenge for some groups and welcomed ongoing partnership work designed to improve access to support and strengthen community confidence.

Community Scrutiny and Accountability
The group received feedback from independent scrutiny panels which review policing activity and decision-making. Recent reviews identified positive examples of professionalism, respectful engagement and effective communication with members of the public.
The importance of clear explanations during police interactions was highlighted as a key factor in maintaining trust and confidence within communities.

Other Business

Members discussed the importance of maintaining high-quality public contact services and ensuring that members of the public receive appropriate guidance when reporting concerns. Opportunities to improve accessibility and participation in future meetings were also considered. The group formally recognised the contribution of individuals who have provided long-standing support to community engagement and policing partnerships.

Key Messages

- Continued partnership working between police, local authorities, community groups and other agencies remains essential in addressing local concerns and improving community safety.
- Recent operational activity has demonstrated a strong focus on preventing crime, protecting vulnerable people and responding to community priorities.
- Members are encouraged to support resilience and community safety campaigns by sharing relevant information within their local networks.
- Independent scrutiny, community engagement and open dialogue continue to play an important role in building trust and confidence between policing and the communities it serves.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in January, with venue details to be confirmed.