Independent Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes

Berkshire West Local Command Unit

DATE 11 February 2026

TIME: 6:30pm

LOCATION: Teams

Attendees	**Initials**	**Position and Area**
Chief Superintendent Felicity Parker	FP	LCU Commander
SM	SM	IAG Chair
Insp. Matt Gow	MG	
AH	AH	IAG member
JG	JG	IAG member
PA	PA	IAG member
MM	MM	IAG member
JGe	JGe	IAG member
MC	MC	IAG member
MP	MP	IAG member
HKL	HKL	IAG member
Apologies		
Trip Pannu	TP	CaDO
SG		IAG member
AK		IAG member
AB		IAG member
BZ		IAG member
AP		IAG member
EM		IAG member
KP		IAG member
MJ		IAG member
AKC		IAG member

PMc		IAG member
MCl		IAG member
JM		IAG member
KR		IAG member

Item 1
Welcome and Introductions

SM, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Notes from our November 2025 meeting reviewed.

Item 2
LCU Commander Update

Supt. FP provided update:

- Separate slides shown
- Winter Street Campaign held
- Operation Potentiate and Neighbourhood Policing
- Facial Recognition
- Business Improvement District – works with TVP
- Shoplifting in Twyford – 17 arrests
- Moat House Hotel Update
- Thatcham – drugs and ASB focus and working with West Berks Council
- £8m recovered in Rural Crime
- Knife enabled crime – reviewed (Sept 25 – Jan 2026)
- Burglary outcomes ("solving") – successes in Reading and Wokingham progressing
- Shoplifting outcomes – reviewed and neighbourhood officers having positive impact
- Hate Crime – reviewed
    - There has been an increase
    - Ch/Insp. GS is going to work on this area (he is our new Chief Inspector) and as well as doing work on Trust and Confidence
- Community Policing Awards 2025 – reviewed
    - We are always interested in hearing about individuals and work that is done to support our local community
- Discussion held regarding Hate crime reporting
    - National Police Chiefs' Council – recommended 'scrapping' non crime hate crime incidents. Hate crime will still be investigated that reach crime threshold.
    - It is important to keep reporting hate crime, all crime, confirmed Ch/Supt. FP

- Online abusive comments – raised by Mustafa. **Action 1: Ch/Supt. FP will provide detail to members regarding the issue of reporting online abuse.**
- We do review all hate crime (through a scrutiny panel) advised Insp. MC
- In March we will have an inspection from HMIC – including effectiveness and legitimacy advised Ch/Supt. FP.

Facial Recognition – discussion regarding public feedback

- It was used in Oxford, Reading and Milton Keynes.
  - Officers are in uniform to engage with people to understand what is happening. It is not targeted. It is about safeguarding. People that are wanted for crimes – can be identified through it.
  - Static cameras, CCTV cameras – are owned by the Council (Reading and West Berks) confirmed Ch/Supt. FP.
  - **MC advised we are on the IAG as independent members, and would like to it to be clearly recorded that we are not endorsing facial recognition.**
  - It would be beneficial to have someone from the community, who understands the technology, to attend a meeting wherein we are presented with information on facial recognition advised MC. There is a concern that there are risks associated with the roll out of facial recognition and there is community anxiety about this issue. For example, what happens with the images and are they stored? **Action 2: Ch/Supt. FP to provide information regarding facial recognition – more detail including what happens with images and what is the governance framework? Storage of images, sharing with other organisations – areas of concern.**

Performance Trends – reviewed consistently advised Ch/Supt. FP.

- We are working on getting our consistently up on our targets to get to incidents 'on time' – **Action 3: Response times – detail to be sent to members by Ch/Supt. FP.**
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Item 3
Illegal Money Lending Team (Stop Loan Sharks) – PA

Points included:

- Separate document presented (and will be sent with notes from meeting today)
- 24 March is the next session for anyone interested

Item 7
Information from IAG members about their Communities

West Berks: Dementia Hub we have now. Could someone come to Centre, Camelia Club, and give them tips/ideas/reassurance if their family member goes missing advised MP. Insp. MG advised he will ensure this is actioned.

JG: is there a programme to have a pop up in Woodley Centre, etc – on a regular basis? Accessibility is key. Some people feel they don't want to 'bother' the police and would be more apt to raise issues if there is a local pop up.

Action 4: Share schedule of Have Your Say Meetings and see if IAG members are happy with the location, time, frequency. Ch/Supt. FP to action. This will be an agenda item for discussion at our next meeting.

PA: recently (today) attended Have Your Say in Bracknell and found it really helpful for community relations. Bracknell and Wokingham advertise them on social media. Some of the safety training with HKL and University of Reading – to be done soon.

HKL advised 12 March – joining PSCOs, Street Pastors – to do a two hour safety session. Any members who would like to join – please feel free to or to include any other ideas to address.

SM: Ramadan starts soon and would like to invite members to community Iftars.

Item 8
AOB

Hate Crime scrutiny in each if our three areas within the LCU- Newbury, Wokingham and Reading: TP requested this issue to be raised under AOB. If anyone is interested, please contact TR.

Next Meetings – agreed as follows:

- 2026 Meetings: 11th February, 13 May, (add July), 2 September and 11 November.

Action Summary

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Meeting Held 26 November 2025

No actions set.

Meeting Held 3 September 2025

Action 1: Next IAG Body Worn Video of Section 60 for incident in Reading over the summer for members to review. TP/Insp. MG to action.
Status: will be shown at Scrutiny Panel Meeting before the end of the year.

Action 2: Insp. MG to contact JGe to obtain intel regarding four by four activity.
Status: complete.

Action 3: Ch/Supt. FP to contact counterparts in West Berks Council and Wokingham Borough Council and Reading BC to see if they will action removing painted crosses on roundabouts and take action to remove flags due to community concern in Berkshire West LCU.
Update: some are more forthcoming than others. Reading has been proactive. Any further concerns please ensure you let your local council know.
Status: complete.

Action 4: Insp. MG and TP to meet with NH regarding concerns within the refugee community. Reporting process – to be addressed as well as safety should any incidents arise.
Status: complete.

Action 5: Insp. MG and SG to meet and discuss re-invigorating the Youth IAG.
Update: to be discussed at our next meeting.
Status: ongoing.

Action 6: Newsletter to be sent by PS VB to members of the IAG (last issue and current).
Status: complete.

Action 7: Berks West LCU IAG What's App Group will be created by SM
Status: complete.