Independent Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes

Buckinghamshire Local Command Unit

DATE **Wednesday 24th September 2025**

TIME: **5pm-7pm**

LOCATION: **Microsoft Teams**

Attendees	**Position and Area**
Emma Burroughs	LCU Commander
SA	TVP Admin Support Officer
MS	IAG Chair
Simon Lincoln	TVP Neighbourhood Chief Inspector
Karen Adamson	TVP CADO
Holly Stockwell	TVP D/ Chief Inspector
MD	TVP Inspector
JB	TVP Superintendent
A-M V	IAG member
PB	IAG member
JD	IAG member
PI	IAG member
HP	IAG member
RM	IAG member
AN	IAG member
SJ	IAG member
HA	IAG member
J	IAG member
PD	IAG member
MK	IAG member
MI	IAG member
Apologies	
MP	IAG member

G	IAG member
RA	IAG member

1. **Welcome, apologies and introductions** **Chair – MS**

2. **Approval of previous Minutes and Action** **Chair – MS**
   - PI bought up the fact that some of the embedded links didn't work for her. This will be looked at.
   - Other than this, taken as read and no concerns raised.

3. **Thames Valley Police's approach to Neighbourhood Engagement** **Supt JB & Insp MD**
   - Overview of Neighbourhood policing guarantee & Neighbourhood engagement documented in brief below:
   - Pillars 1-5: Police back on the beat, community led, a new neighbourhood policing career pathway, crackdown on anti- social behaviour, safer town centres
   - Discussion of Engagement Plans 25/26- enhance community reconciliation, particularly within Seldom Heard Communities, Engage with victims of, and those affected by ASB Engage with retail communities.
   - TVP Innovation- Neighbourhood Policing App
   - Neighbourhood Policing Health Check Guide
   - Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee- Performance Framework shown & discussed
   - Trust & Confidence Strategy Pillar- Engagement and Reconciliation- Delivery Plan-
   - PB asked about Community Boards and the Importance of them and the relationship between them and the police. Discussion about the boards, the differences between them. EB highlighted we are keen to hear from all members of the communities, not just the formal boards.
   - MD revisited the NH Policing app, the purpose of it and how it is used by officers. They can use this whilst out and about, and do not have to return to a station to use. They can update attendance at community events, results from said events, patrol activities, and so this can be monitored and used to support.

- Engagement Data looked at and explained how this can be filtered and broken down. Data is fed back across many levels strategically, tactically, operationally and locally.
- Neighbourhood Patrol data is also collected and presented in the same way.
- Abstraction data is also available on this app.
- All the toolkits work in the same way and provide teams, supervisors and management teams with some rich information and data.
- Confirmation we have been rolling out the app over the last year, and we are only asking officers to input data we need for providing to the home office and different management teams.
- The toolkits can also be set up to collect data around specific issues such as riots to collect date from engagement to assist with community tensions.
- In terms of time taken to input, there are aspirations for the future for technology to automatically assist- radio pings when you get to a certain location, for example.
- TVP were the first force in the county to use this, and others are now doing the same.
- Reassurance that officers often update at the end of the shift, rather than doing it when they should be visible and talking to people. Discussion around the feedback of the using of the App and the benefits.

4. Criticality Updates: C/Supt Emma Burroughs

- **New or emerging issues**
- No recorded critical incidents since June, although 2 are potential critical incidents, which are still being investigated. EB explained these 2 potential critical incidents in more details.
- No emerging trends in complaints, although we are seeing a quite high number of complaints where victims have not had timely updates. We are aiming for officers to be providing an update within 28 days, although there can be a challenge with resourcing and capacity at times.
- Discussion about Oxfordshire officers being transferred to the local area and balancing out resources.
- **Crime Updates**
- Call Handling: Set a target of 90% of 999s being answered within 10 seconds- this is currently at 94.7%. In regards to 101, we said we would reduce the answer time to within 4 minutes and on average we are around 2 minutes 10 seconds.

- We are now answering calls in a timelier manner and we have the online reporting mechanism, so request for all members if hearing people hesitant to report because of concerns about the time taken to answer, to please report back this positive news story.
- Knife crime- we are currently seeing a reduction year to date. 15 less crimes, which equates to 17%
- Domestic Abuse: 25 extra successful outcomes for victims of domestic abuse.
- Neighbourhood Outcomes- burglaries, robbery theft of, theft from and theft from person. 411 reduction in those numbers
- Rural Crime: From April to the end of August 25, in comparison to the year before, there has been a 31% reduction, from 94 to 65.
- Impact of Op Liberty- recognition that business as usual did suffer last week but we are back on track now. Resources have had their rest and recuperation and are now back on track to deliver the services expected for Buckinghamshire. Acknowledgement to those officers providing mutual aid.
- Discussion around Claire's Law, domestic violence disclosure scheme.
- Request for data around this to be discussed in the next IAG to understand TVP approach to Domestic Violence.
- **MARU- How do we improve the trust and confidence in policing by 55+ year age range?**
- Trust and Confidence survey displayed in meeting & documentation previously sent to IAG members.
- No concerns raised as to these figures, and no suggestions made about how we can improve the trust and confidence specifically in the 55+ years age range.

5. Safer Streets initiatives **C/Insp Simon Lincoln**

- Objectives and Results to Date.
- Overview of the Safer Streets Initiative- covers the period between June- end of September.
- Expectation is that officers will be more visible in the town centres with a view to preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour.
- Established a plan of almost daily activity where we would be working in partnership with elements of the council, be that the street wardens, be that litter enforcement, parking enforcement, some of our licensing officers where we would work hand in hand with them, often visibly patrolling with them in our town centres in order to make the public feel safe
- Discussion around a couple of examples of the successes in regards to this and the outcomes

- Delivered over 55,000 minutes of patrol in town centres, seized 19 e-scooters, 80 arrests in town centres.
- Part of the government's neighborhood guarantee is that they are providing an uplift of police officers and we in bucks are seeing an extra establishment of neighborhood policing officers. We're getting 2 sergeants and we're getting eight officers and some of those officers are going to be dedicated to tackling retail crime, the majority of which takes place in our town centres.
- The Chief Constable came to Aylesbury & remarked that it was quite nice to see that everyone in the town centre knew the local officer's name. We also had the Deputy Chief Constable come out in High Wycombe. Again, a very similar feel. We had Assistant Chief Constable come out and join our neighborhood team for a joint operation with immigration officers where we were targeting delivery drivers.
- Good feedback about the new cameras available, and acknowledged officer's response time and the relationship officers have had with the public and other support services in the community.

6. Community Scrutiny Panel Insights C/Insp Simon Lincoln

- **Themes and risk areas requiring IAG consideration**
- Before 2020, Bucks LCU, didn't have a scrutiny process in terms of our use of stop and search powers and we started a panel which was initially made-up of four community members and then has steadily grown larger and larger. And the purpose of that panel is to review body warm video of stop and search and give us feedback. It's about building trust and confidence and really understanding the feedback from our community and making that making sure that feedback is used really well to deliver better policing. And as part of that process, essentially what SL would then do is speak with those officers personally and give them the feedback.
- Supervisors also dip check body worn video of those officers they supervise and check the body worn video to make sure it's all been delivered properly and if they find any learning, then deliver that learning and then we have a scrutiny panel that oversees that kind of work locally.
- Discussion around the Section 60s that were used in High Wycombe and the scrutiny around them, as well as drug searches. 68 dip checks of the searches and the majority were of good quality with professional and effective communication. We've had some feedback where we've used handcuffs correctly and we've documented their use properly. We've given people good

reasoning for our stop and search. However, on occasion we have delivered that in a manner that actually has been a little bit too quick.

- With the feedback from those themes is we feed it into a process called the review, reflect, reform process, where we invite members of our training departments made of members of our leadership training into that meeting to understand what things we're seeing locally around the force. And if we're seeing themes across lots of different areas, do we need to change some of our training and do we need to improve some of our practices to help improve the quality of the stop and search that we deliver.

7. Community Cohesion C/Supt Emma Burroughs & Karen Adamson

- **Hate Crime performance and community tensions**
- Recently we had some significant protests in London. We didn't see them take place in anywhere within Thames Valley Police. There has been gatherings in Oxfordshire, but nothing in Buckinghamshire and definitely not on the scale that we've seen in London.
- In Buckinghamshire we do not have any accommodation that is temporarily housing any asylum seekers. There was an incident in Marlow, where there was a belief that there were asylum seekers staying in that hotel, that's not the case. There was a St. George's Cross painted on the hotel and reported by the hotel and then caused some concerns.
- Confirmed with Buckinghamshire Council that there are no asylum seekers living there, nor has there been anyone placed there for any other reason. It does just show that how misinformation can create concerns.
- We have some families who have been permanently placed into the community and but we are not seeing any related incidents or crimes.
- Our main concern is how much artificial intelligence is out there at the moment, which is inflaming these community tensions
- From a Thames Valley police perspective, we are always trying to be putting something out to counteract the narrative that's out there. But EB would always advise unless it's from a secure source or an official source, the local authority or the police to not take it as fact.
- Update from KA- TVP CADO as to what we have been doing in regards to community tensions and what the next steps are
- HP confirmed there are no concerns from the Sikh community about anything going on currently.

- KA confirmed the importance of building the relationships within the communities and she is building on these, and the importance of police staff or officer representation attending events to engage.
- PD confirmed that it is reassuring that we have good engagement due to the busy month for the Hindu community and the concerns of hate crime during this time. Police attendance confirmed for the events this weekend for reassurance.
- RM acknowledged the good support from police and the police presence at a recent event was good, and confirmed numbers of around 450-500 people this weekend at another event.
- Thanks for all CADO support and the work the police are doing within the communities.
- KA confirmed monthly meetings to look at resourcing into big events.
- Importance of KINS (Key Individual Networks)

8. AOB **All**

- **Increase in St George's Flags going up on lampposts along many roads in the local area. Has this resulted in any issues or directives from TVP? A-MV**
- Guidance provided by EB on the increase of the presence of these flags. Many reasons recently for this- football, rugby, VJ etc.
- Tensions running high and some are maybe put up for provocation reasons.
- The force guidance is that flying the national flag is not an offence and it is not the police's responsibility to remove any flags reported.
- While there may be potential offences of fixing items to lampposts or other structures on the highway without permission, the local authority has the primary responsibility for enforcing this as the highways authority. Any enquiries or requests should be referred to them.
- If a report relates to a flag that is causing a danger to the public (for example obstructing viability for drivers), has caused criminal damage or one that has been defaced in such a way to overly incite racial hatred then criminal offences would be considered.
- Request for Comms to be sent in regards to members of the public not getting involved and removing flags themselves, and to advise the public to report to the correct channels.

- **Update on Neighbourhood Policing in Chesham- RA**

- Information about where Chesham Patrol sits amongst all our other areas in bucks.
- We have 26 wards in Buckinghamshire LCU neighbourhood team. We cover 26 different areas. However, Chesham is 6th on that list in terms of patrol numbers, and that works at about 193 patrols since June.
- the three areas that the community picked as their top priorities for Chesham- burglary, ASB and speeding- we've been heavily involved with over the last couple of months.
- Discussion about some results seen from the action in Chesham. We have utilised council mobile CCTV in relation to antisocial behaviour. Operation planned for November for Bucks LCU for fireworks night to deliver visible policing. Officers & PCSOs out doing speed enforcement.
- Encouragement for those living in Chesham area to subscribe out our TVP Facebook page, and sign up to TV Alerts as there are regular updates published there.
- MS advised that a number of people have recently said to him how impressed they've been to see more officers on the beat in the town centre. This will be passed on to the teams.

9. Time and Date of Next Meeting Next meeting Chair – MS

- A couple of dates will be sent out in due course and if people could please respond with their availability in a timely manner, we will then get a date booked in.