



Independent Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Oxfordshire Local Command Unit

DATE

3 December 2025

Attendees	Initials	Position and Area
Ben Clark	BC	Chief Superintendent - LCU Commander
Wendy Percival	WP	Neighbourhood Chief Inspector
Roni Koshi	NT	Oxfordshire Support Inspector
Dave Hession	DH	Community and Diversity Officer - Oxfordshire
	DO	IAG Chair
	SW	IAG member
	MTa	IAG member
	MTh	IAG member
	DC	IAG member
	SK	IAG member
	SM	IAG member

Purpose and Opening Remarks

The chair opened the meeting with introductions from the members explaining that the aim of the IAG meeting was to focus on community engagement.

DO thanked MTa for inviting him to the Black History Month event and also talked about the good police support given to a South African individual who had recently converted to Islam.

Key Topics Discussed

- Officer re-allocation from Oxfordshire to Buckinghamshire - BC explained the staffing position on the LCU and explained the reasons why 32 officers from Oxfordshire were redeployed to Buckinghamshire to rectify the imbalance of officer numbers in Buckinghamshire.

Independent Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes



- Social media - BC also clarified the reasons why TVP needed to have better presence on social media to keep up with society's needs and behaviours. It was also required in order to promote a lot of the positive police work being done on a daily basis
- Kidlington fly-tipping – BC provided an update on what actions were being taken to address the massive fly-tipping incident in Kidlington. He explained that the Environment Agency is leading a partnership arrangement with the required support from TVP and other partners.
- SK provided an update from the Hindu community citing good engagement with the Police over recent weeks/months. He raised a concern that some elderly members of the community were falling victims to e-crime such as phone spoofing and SIM takeovers, via WhatsApp groups. BC said that he was not aware of a spike in the reporting of such incidents and requested that the public needs to report such crimes. There are reporting options available in different languages on the TVP web pages, should people need them.
- MTa provided an update and thanked WP and DH for some good engagement with the Black community. There were encouraging examples of 2 women who expressed their intention to become police officers. He also expressed concern over recent media reports about far-right incidents elsewhere in the country, which had resulted in them needing to cancel a church event. There were however no issues locally. He was encouraged to report such concerns so that appropriate safety measures or advice can be considered by TVP.
- SW raised the concern of there being a lot of grey area in the monitoring of inappropriate behaviour and crimes in the online space, particularly social media. There is a lack of clarity in schools. BC explained the challenges of interpreting the law to prove a criminal offence in the online space, and being able to distinguish for instance, free speech from hate speech causing harassment, alarm or distress. WP added that we have Schools officers assigned to all secondary schools who were trying to educate and engage with the community there.
- Mth expressed that the autistic community may still not be fully understood by police due to a lack of understanding to differentiate between guilty behaviour and autistic behaviour. She also asked for clarification of the law relating to searching of transgender persons in Custody. WP clarified the current legislation relating to this issue.

Independent Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes



- DC provided an update from the farming community. Good engagement with the local NH teams and the Rural Crime Task Force. There were recent instances of incursions on fields, hare coursing or deer poaching. There is good WhatsApp comms ongoing within the community, and everyone is encouraged to report all incidents to the Police.

LCU Update

- BC provided an update on the rise of retail crime and what was being done to tackle it. It has become more and more organized and often stolen items find their way into websites like FB Market place or Vinted. The recently formed Retail Crime was working well and had secured a number of charges since its inception.
- BC also talked about other major investigations that were ongoing.
- BC gave an update on how TVP were dealing with recent protests in Oxford from groups and individuals that expressed support for Palestine Action.
- He also clarified the law around the issue of St George's flags being flown at roundabouts or light poles. In most cases, while it may be perceived as intimidating, it would be extremely difficult to prove it as a criminal matter.

Use of Powers and Stop and Search Scrutiny

- BC gave an update around stop and search within Oxfordshire, acknowledging the disproportionality, particularly for the Black community. There is work ongoing to explore the reasons for this. BC explained the governance and process of how an operational S&S is being subjected to scrutiny internally and externally and then feeding into Force level strategic oversight.
- MTh asked about disproportionality around those with neuro-diverse needs. She highlighted positive recent training and video resources shared for autism awareness.

One year of Oxfordshire LCU

- BC said that it had been a year since the LCU was formed and highlighted some good news stories to acknowledge the hard work that everyone had put in over the last year. Some examples included the high-profile case of modern slavery involving

Independent Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes



a Ugandan judge, the response to the tragic Bicester Motion fire, the response to the break-in at RAF Brize Norton etc amongst several others.

Actions

- BC to present an update/presentation on VAWG and Op Vigilant at the next meeting.

Closing Remarks

DO closed the meeting thanking everyone and wished everyone a happy festive season.

Date and time of next meeting

04/03/2026