

Brent Council Liberal Democrat Group

1. The Mayor's objectives and goals are outlined in part two of the draft Police and Crime Plan. What, if any, other objectives and goals would you add? (150 words maximum)

It would be good to see something included about access to police and police responsiveness.

2. The Mayor's plans for police performance and resources are outlined in part four of the draft Police and Crime Plan. What, if any, other things could be done to address police performance and resource issues? (150 words maximum)

Police performance and resources: this section is missing any reference to traffic policing and improving road safety in partnership with local authorities and other agencies.

Boosting confidence by 20%: The closure of Willesden Green and Harlesden police stations will not increase public confidence, especially as no substantive details of alternative provision are provided. The proposals in the draft Plan and Estate Strategy lack detail and do not clearly explain the impact of these changes. There is also an absence of information as to what savings each closure will generate, what form new contact points will take and no assurance that they will be open before any closures take place.

Cutting costs by 20%: reducing spending from £366 per head to £192 per head is unlikely to be possible solely through efficiencies and fails to take into account the unique challenges of policing the capital including the higher than average land and salary costs.

3. Do you think that confidence in the Metropolitan Police needs to be improved?

Yes

3a. How do you think this could be done? (150 words maximum)

Targeted engagement with groups which have least confidence in the police; working towards a police force whose members better reflect the community it serves, robust action to tackle discrimination and corruption where it exists.

4. The Mayor is committed to having an effective, efficient police force in London. In order to do this, the Mayor has prioritised keeping police officer numbers high rather than keeping underused buildings open. Do you think that the focus should be on maintaining either police number or police buildings

4a. How else could budget savings be made? (150 words maximum)

The above is not necessarily a binary option and is a false choice. In the absence of data it is not possible to put forward alternative savings options, although we note that freezing the GLA precept instead of reducing it by 7p per week would have generated £9.4 million that could have been used to support the emergency services in London. Safer communities team bases which are rarely used, duplicate other facilities nearby and present a defensive and shabby appearance to passers by (usually with metal shutters down) do nothing for the police's image and, if not used, are not a good use of the police's property budget. However there is a case for retaining SNT bases if they enable teams to be based in or near to the communities they work with and reduce time spent travelling across boroughs.

5. The Mayor's plans for effective crime prevention are outlined in part four of the draft Police and Crime Plan. What, if any, other things could be done to prevent crime? (150 words maximum)

This section is largely positive. Target hardening, planning and design are mentioned only in passing and this area could be strengthened. There is no mention of visible policing, especially in areas where intelligence or past experience indicates that problems may be experienced.

6. The Mayor's plans for justice and resettlement are outlined in part four of the draft Police and Crime Plan. What, if any, other things could be done to address justice and resettlement issues? (150 words maximum)

This section overlooks the importance of stable housing and access to housing for offenders when they leave prison; in particular assisting offenders not to return to circumstances which led to offending in the past and may lead to re-offending.

7. What, if any, other key crime and safety issues that are important to you would you include in the Police and Crime Plan ? (150 words maximum)

The reduction of the number of dedicated police in each ward from two PCs and three PCSOs in a ward safer neighbourhood team to just one dedicated officer and one dedicated PCSO is a backwards step and will lead to a loss of the local knowledge and relationships that can make

these teams when well managed, very effective.

The proposed changes are likely to make the safer neighbourhood teams less responsive and to reduce public confidence. At the very least the proposals should be piloted and the pilot evaluated before full implementation.

8. Are there any other issues affecting you that have not been covered in the draft Police and Crime Plan? No

8a. If yes, what are these? (150 words maximum)

n/a

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