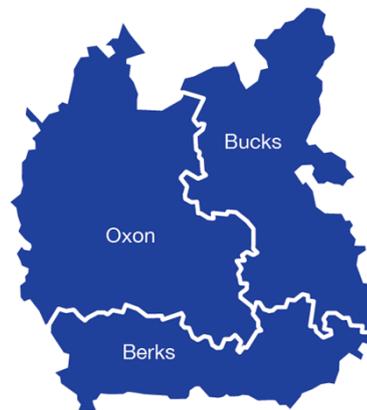


Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Dates and Venue (s) of Future Meetings of the Panel

Date: 1 February 2019

Author: Khalid Ahmed, Scrutiny Officer,
Thames Valley Police & Crime
Panel



Background

1. The Panel when it was first set up held meetings around the Thames Valley, based on a rota. However, most recently, previous to this Panel meeting being held at Reading Borough Council, a decision was made to hold meetings at Aylesbury Vale District Council Offices.
2. Thames Valley, covering Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire is a very large area, with public transport provision varied across the region. The venue at Aylesbury has been the preferred location for meetings because it is reasonably central in the region, served by a good motorway network and a railway station. The main advantage of Aylesbury is the free on site car parking which makes it accessible for attendees.
3. At the Panel meeting held in June 2018 a decision was made to webcast a future meeting and Reading Borough Council's Offices was chosen as a venue, based on the reasonable cost of hiring and broadcasting from the venue (£400).
4. For the ensuing year the following meetings of the Panel are scheduled to take place and a decision is required on the venue (s) of these and whether these meetings are to be webcast,
12 April 2019
21 June 2019
6 September 2019
22 November 2019
31 January 2020
5. The Panel is asked to discuss the options for venues of future meetings and whether these will be webcast.
6. As previously reported to the Panel, a survey has been previously carried out by the support officer to the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel who contacted the 40 Police and Crime Panels to ascertain the level of broadcasting of Police and Crime Panels. From the findings, 24 Panels (60%) do not publish any audio or video recordings of their Panel

meetings. 10 Panels regularly and 3 Panels occasionally (32.5%) in total video their meetings, and with the exception, simultaneously broadcast the video over the internet. The cost of this is can around £1,000, per Panel meeting, and that video broadcasting is only used where that facility is already available at the local authority premises. The cost is sometimes borne by the Authority and broadcasting is carried out by a professional company using multiple cameras. One Panel records its meetings on a single video camera operated by the Officer present. This is not broadcast live but is uploaded to the internet after the meeting. Of the 3 Panels which video broadcast occasionally, this is due to the Panel meeting in various locations, not all of which have video broadcasting facilities.

7. 3 Panels (7.5%) audio record their meetings and publish the recording on their website after the meeting. One of these Panels also broadcasts the audio during the meeting. Therefore, the use of audio or video recording appears to be determined exclusively by the facilities available to the Panel at the premises where the Panel meets.