

<b>Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup> December 2018</b> <b>Item 6 - Evidence gathering for review - police resources to tackle serious violence</b>	Item No <b>6</b>
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### **Outline**

The Commission's review comes at a timely point to look at aspects around policing. Items in a future meeting will cover the use of Stop and Search and the police's work to ensure effective relationships with the community.

This item is focused on changes to operational structures and reductions in police numbers, and any implications on work to tackle serious violent crime and provide assurance to residents, businesses and visitors to the borough.

Local policing is undergoing significant change.

This is in relation to the establishment of 12 Basic Command Units to replace the 32 borough model, with local boroughs merging with others.

The announcement was made alongside an acknowledgement of significant financial challenge, with the Met required to make savings of £325m by 2021/22, and expected continued reductions in officer numbers.

This builds on significant reductions in funding already imposed. The Council's own [Foot the Bill](#) lobbying campaign has highlighted the impact of £600 million in Met Police funding reductions since 2010, with Hackney having seen a reduction from 770 Officers to 584 in the 7 years to October 2017, the most severe cut in London.

Within the new Basic Command Unit structure, Hackney has joined with Tower Hamlets to form a Central East Command Unit. While the start date for this was 1 October 2018, it was effectively being implemented earlier within a phased approach. The Chief Superintendent who will be the BCU Commander is already installed as joint borough commander for Hackney and Tower Hamlets. We understand from Officers that 3 cross-borough superintendents are also in place.

This item is intended to aid the Commission in answering the core questions below:

**What are the opportunities and risks of changes to local policing in relation to tackling serious violence?**

- What effect if any have reductions in Police Officer numbers had on the capacity to tackle violent crime and reassure the community?
- What implications do the move to a Basic Command Unit structure have on police work to tackle violent crime in Hackney?

The paper enclosed has been provided in support of the item.

**Guest Expected:**

- Sue Williams, Central East Commander, Metropolitan Police Service

**Action**

The Commission is asked to receive a review the paper enclosed in advance of the meeting. They are asked to hear any opening comments from the Central East Commander, Metropolitan Police Service and to ask questions.