

Social Inclusion and Community Safety Policy and Accountability Committee Agenda

Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 7.00 pm

145 King Street (Ground Floor), Hammersmith, W6 9XY

Watch the meeting live: [youtube.com/hammersmithandfulham](https://www.youtube.com/hammersmithandfulham)

MEMBERSHIP

Administration	Opposition
Councillor Nikos Souslous (Chair) Councillor Omid Miri Councillor Sally Taylor Councillor Lucy Richardson	Councillor Andrew Dinsmore

CONTACT OFFICER: Debbie Yau
Committee Coordinator
Governance and Scrutiny
E-mail: Debbie.Yau@lbhf.gov.uk
Web: www.lbhf.gov.uk/committees

This meeting is open to the public and press. The building has disabled access.

Members of the public are welcome to attend but spaces are limited. If you would like to attend, please contact: Debbie.Yau@lbhf.gov.uk

Date Issued: 27 January 2025
Date Updated: 28 January 2025 &
31 January 2025

Social Inclusion and Community Safety Policy and Accountability Committee Agenda

4 February 2025

<u>Item</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST <p>If a Councillor has a disclosable pecuniary interest in a particular item, whether or not it is entered in the Authority's register of interests, or any other significant interest which they consider should be declared in the public interest, they should declare the existence and, unless it is a sensitive interest as defined in the Member Code of Conduct, the nature of the interest at the commencement of the consideration of that item or as soon as it becomes apparent.</p> <p>At meetings where members of the public are allowed to be in attendance and speak, any Councillor with a disclosable pecuniary interest or other significant interest may also make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter. The Councillor must then withdraw immediately from the meeting before the matter is discussed and any vote taken.</p> <p>Where Members of the public are not allowed to be in attendance and speak, then the Councillor with a disclosable pecuniary interest should withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is under consideration. Councillors who have declared other significant interests should also withdraw from the meeting if they consider their continued participation in the matter would not be reasonable in the circumstances and may give rise to a perception of a conflict of interest.</p> <p>Councillors are not obliged to withdraw from the meeting where a dispensation to that effect has been obtained from the Standards Committee.</p>	
3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	4 - 12
To approve the minutes of the meeting on 20 November 2024 as an accurate record.	
4. SIX-MONTH PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAM	13 - 28
This report provides PAC with an update following the previous meeting focusing on work of the Law Enforcement Team for the six months between June and December 2024.	

5. 2025/26 REVENUE BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

29 - 51

This report provides an update on the overall preparation and proposals for the 2025/26 revenue budget, risks, financial resilience, and the impact of those proposals.

This report also sets out the budget proposals for the services covered by this Policy and Accountability Committee.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the following dates of future meetings:

- 30 April 2025
- 17 June 2025
- 18 Nov 2025
- 27 Jan 2026
- 27 April 2026
- 16 June 2026

Agenda Item 3

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Social Inclusion and Community Safety Policy and Accountability Committee Minutes



Wednesday 20 November 2024

PRESENT

Committee members: Councillors Nikos Souslous (Chair), Omid Miri, Lucy Richardson and Andrew Dinsmore

Other Councillors: Councillor Rebecca Harvey (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety)

Met Police:

Chief Superintendent Christina Jessah
Superintendent Craig Knight

Officers:

Neil Thurlow (Director of Public Protection)
Debbie Yau (Committee Coordinator)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sally Taylor.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. UPDATE REPORT ON POLICING IN HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

Chief Superintendent Christina Jessah gave an update report on policing in Hammersmith and Fulham (H&F), including an update further to the Baroness Casey Review on the work done in the last few months after she had taken up the position as the Chief Superintendent of the Central West Basic Command Unit (BCU) which also covered the Westminster City Council (WCC) and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC).

Chrissy highlighted the training initiatives in respect of enforcement and prevention had been undertaken and noted that all officers in H&F - from supervisory to PC levels - had attended a 3-day training workshop held across London.

Chief Superintendent Jessah also mentioned about adopting recommendations from the latest HMIC FRS report and enhancing the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) programme by training staff to be active bystanders.

Notwithstanding the above, Chief Superintendent Jessah was regretted to note there were ongoing issues with some officers' misconduct leading to criminal charges with a further news story released the week of PAC.

Superintendent Craig Knight - who was responsible for H&F neighbourhood teams – briefed the Committee on the operational priorities and challenges faced at a local level.

Craig advised that there was a 6% reduction (FYTD) in overall crime in H&F, with notable decreases in robbery (10%), residential burglary (9%) and theft from motor vehicles (47%). Besides, actions had been taken in conjunction with the British Transport Police to tackle theft of mobile phones. He further noted that it was positive to see more people were reporting anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents bringing the FYTD figure to 552 more, and collective actions had been taken alongside individual groups/ organisations to keep people free from ASB.

Chief Superintendent Jessah referred to the significant financial challenges with a projected £450 million budget gap for the Metropolitan Police. Superintendent Knight said the potential budget shortfall would have an impact on frontline service delivery.

Non-crime hate incidents

Councillor Andrew Dinsmore asked about non crime hate incidents, their recordings and impact. Chief Superintendent Jessah noted all non-crime hate incidents were recorded as they might be precursors for crime and contain vast amount of intelligence. There was a dedicated unit within the H&F neighbourhood to deal with these incidents and additional staff training had been provided to improve performance of handling disability or racial hate crimes. In reply to Councillor Dinsmore's further question, she said no team was completely ring-fenced under the current budget situation.

Councillor Omid Miri was concerned about the difference between non-crime hate incidents and hate crime. Chief Superintendent Jessah explained that during the process, the police officers recorded everything and the interpretation would depend on the officer's investigation, the voice of the victim and most importantly, the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service. She agreed with Councillor Miri that both should be taken as the same kind of phenomenon.

Councillor Dinsmore asked whether a repeated offender of non-crime hate incidents would be tipped over into criminal eventually. Chief Superintendent Jessah confirmed that once an incident was recorded, it would stay in the system. While an individual was definitely a cause of concern for having involved in hate incident reports repeatedly, people were however entitled to free speech and opinions.

Stop and Search

Members noted that Stop and Search experienced a decrease in use of 17% across London. In reply to Councillor Miri's question, Superintendent Knight reported that his neighbourhood teams had carried out 117 stop and searches in the past month (versus 22 in January 2024) which represented a 40% increase (FYTD) specific to H&F.

Craig advised that the increase was made possible because the officers using the tactics understood local issues and ward/borough priorities and tackled things that mattered to local people. Having been assured that police officers were properly trained, the local residents now understood the tactic's value of reducing/preventing/detecting crimes and had more confidence in its use. As regards the decreased use of stop and searches across London, Superintendent Knight considered that this might be led by the media's perception on the disproportionate use of the tactic as police officers might be worried about losing their jobs.

Chief Superintendent Jessah highlighted the precise delivery of Stop and Search in H&F, for example, the tactic was frequently used in some crime hotspots like Shepherd's Bush Green which saw a higher number of Stop and Search.

On the Chair's concern about the outcomes of stop and searches, Superintendent Knight noted that the overall outcome rates across London was about 30% (which was 20% or lower some 4 to 5 years ago) versus 31.2% for the H&F neighbourhood teams. Positive outcomes included anything leading to a community resolution to the problems detected. He remarked that there was no KPIs for stop and searches as it was individual officers' on-the-spot decision to use the tactic.

The Chair was concerned about ASB which was one of the top priorities in the H&F wards. Superintendent Knight noted that the power to stop and search was set out in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act which had outlined, among others, the types of stop and search powers which however did not cover ASB.

As regards the ethnicity of people being stopped and searched, Superintendent Knight said according to the overall statistics, it remained disproportionate in terms of the Black/ethnic minority young men being stopped and searched. he noted the figures for H&F varied depending on the types of crime under investigation and

confirmed the outcomes remained broadly similar irrespective of the ethnicity. He also assured the Committee that the Stop and Search Charter which set out what the public could expect during the use of the tactic was underway.

Chief Superintendent Jessah said she and her teams were very mindful in deploying the tactic and made sure it was done according to procedural justice and with some serious level of respect regardless of who was being stopped, including a briefing on why they had been stopped and how they could challenge it formally.

Given the tactic of Stop and Search carried the important function of uncovering crime evidence, Councillor Miri considered police officers should conduct them without fearing vilification/losing their jobs. However, if this powerful tactic was carried out in a wrong approach and made the individuals uncomfortable/inconvenienced, he asked about the recourse available to them.

Chief Superintendent Jessah assured members that an independent supervisor would review the footage recorded on the officer's body worn camera to make sure relevant information was provided to the individual before the search. If necessary, training and support would be provided to the officers who displayed deviation from the normal procedures. While the individuals could lodge direct complaints, any third party who felt impacted after watching the videos on social media might also raise complaints. She added there was a team within the Met that scanned social media for such videos and took follow-up actions proactively.

Superintendent Knight said the number of complaints related to stop and searches in H&F was few. He referred to a Black man who had previously been stopped a number of times had changed his mindset after viewing the body worn videos as a member of the community monitoring group and become supportive of the tactic.

Councillor Lucy Richardson asked whether the mental health training received by the police officers included autism awareness and its correlation with the operational side of police approach. Superintendent Knight referred to the close collaboration with the National Autistic Society of which the specialist trainers had co-produced a training package with the Met Police for delivery during the initial recruitment programmes as well as the yearly supplementary training. The police officers shall learn how to do a stop and search slightly differently for people with autism. In addition, the Met Police had recently launched the autism alert card, which was not currently linked to any database, should be completed, printed off and showed by individuals with autism when they were being stopped. The card explained the cardholder's autism and how best the officer could respond. Responding to Councillor Dinsmore's concern about possible abuse by people claiming having self-diagnosed autism, Superintendent Knight said he had never come across abuse despite it was possible.

Councillor Richardson was concerned about the protection of vulnerable adults such as autistic residents with learning difficulty or social communication disorder as they might fail to carry the autistic alert card and be made to go through the criminal justice system unfairly. She urged that information of vulnerable adults in the borough should form part of the database linked to the emergency service like the Pegasus system used by Nottingham police and a number of other forces. The

autism alert cards should be issued by the system with a pin to deter abuse. Separately, consideration should also be given to extending the opening hours of the safe space for vulnerable adults until the small hours.

While giving his support and undertaking to reflect the need for a shared database like the Pegasus,' Superintendent Knight pointed out that it would be a major procurement across London for use also among other forces/agencies. As regards safe space for vulnerable adults, Superintendent Knight referred to the Police's 24/7 front counter in every borough where staff had been trained to respond and call out the relevant agencies and service accordingly. Councillor Richardson said she was pleased to note there were more joined up services in the borough.

ASB and related crimes

Councillor Dinsmore was concerned about the specific groups involved in ASB. Superintendent Knight referred to the hotspots for ASB which were the same spaces/ cuckooed addresses where violence and street-based drug trafficking were happening. The specificity was geographical in nature.

Councillor Rebecca Harvey (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety) referred to the recent joined-up working between the ASB team of the Law Enforcement Team (LET) and the Police which had done a lot of work together to focus on a specific area the result of which was a significant reduction in drug-related ASB around that part of Shepherds Bush. Local residents - who had been very concerned about the situation previously - showed positive feedback.

Regarding the Chair's concern about the strategy adopted to tackle drug-related activities, Neil Thurlow (Director of Public Protection) remarked that the Council's approach was to be driven by a new Drugs Strategy. The strategy was being developed after reviewing a lot of data including formal complaints, reporting of increased visibility of drug dealings in the borough, complaints received in surgeries and police data and taking into account the current drug intervention offers and the Police's 4E model. The Strategy and its plans for the next few years would be considered by the Cabinet in the coming months.

The Strategy would encourage reporting on drug dealings (reporting might remain anonymous if so wished) and delineate the responsibilities and interventions of the local authority and the police.

Neil noted that drug dealing was a complex supply-and-demand situation across London. He outlined how the victims, including some young people, were targeted and exploited by the dealers which needed to be factored in to the approach. Neil also advised that the Council's Public Health team had been commissioning very good drugs and alcohol services which had some of the highest success rates of recovery in the country.

Superintendent Knight appreciated the work of Public Health which, in his opinion, had a better value for money than enforcement. He noted the proliferation of street-based drug dealing had led to increased retail crime such as shoplifting. While no efforts had been spared to target at individuals supplying Class A drugs in H&F

communities, the approach, for young people, linked to the victim/offender approach and consideration to trafficking so Police, Council and others all work to ensure the young people were supported through conversations and education instead of being focused solely on criminalising. The Police was now gathering meaningful intelligence reviewing the socio-economic nature of those hotspots for street-based drug supply with a view to putting a more proportionate and effective response over a longer-term.

Noting addicts would shoplift repeatedly to fund their drug habits, the Chair asked about the control measures and specific steps in place to deal with shoplifting which had become a matter of grave concern. Superintendent Knight referred to the proactive operations carried out against retail crime, in particular shoplifting. The visible operation held together with the retailers two weeks ago had led to a number of arrests which would help encourage more retailers to take part in joint operations. He noted that similar retail operations had been planned for in the next 5 to 6 weeks.

The Chair highlighted that unlike some offences which had experienced FYTD reduction, sexual offences including domestic abuse had increased 13%. He asked about the causes and measures taken by the Police to address them in addition to the Council's implementation of a Street Harassment Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to improve residents' safety on streets.

Chief Superintendent Jessah considered more cases of sexual offence indicated an increase in people's confidence to report them and their trust in police's further action. She elaborated that the team assigned to deal with sexual assault was now in full strength comprising detective constables who had possessed the required skill set. The BCU had also changed to focus investigations on the offenders rather than resting the burden of proof on the victims. She added that the increased reporting also helped drive up this BCU's positive outcome rates as the number of people being charged or referred to support agencies had also increased considerably. Superintendent Knight noted that the 13% increase was equivalent to 37 more victims. He considered the PSPO introduced by the local authority to curb microaggression on the streets was a groundbreaking initiative which had attracted significant media interest. As ending VAWG remained an important priority of the Police and the borough, he expected to receive more reporting so that the Police could respond and deal with people committing sexual offences.

Neil Thurlow said he was proud to present the Street Harassment PSPO which was the first borough-wide PSPO of its kind and it was believed to be the first to have been enforced by a local authority officer. The powers for the PSPO were also enforceable by police officers too.

Neil highlighted the campaign which encouraged people to report incidents of street harassment and victims might report to the local authority should they prefer to do so. The first fixed penalty notice (PFN) was issued by the LET after the victim reported the case to them and explained what had happened. Neil further outlined the promotion under the 16-Day of Actions commencing 25 November to end VAWG, relevant information and QR code on website, joint engagement session at football clubs, the work of the commissioned special domestic abuse court, experience sharing via walk-and-talk, training received by LET offices on helpful and

sensitive conversations, and bystanders training for residents to undertake meaningful interventions.

On activities to be held for the 16-Day of Actions, Superintendent Knight remarked that a blog by young people about VAWG would be launched at the West Youth Zone. Proactive operations would take place alongside partner agencies to ensure the safe use of public spaces and licensed premises by women and girls.

Recruitment and retention

The Chair asked about the recruitment of PCs and PCSOs newly allocated to H&F about a year ago. Superintendent Knight said as an organisation, the Met was struggling to recruit and was in short of 1,500 officers at the moment (or 2,000 by the end of 2025) which did not match up with the need. However, H&F was doing better than RBKC and WCC in terms of neighbourhood policing staffing position, with promises to fill 2 PCSOs and 1 DWO vacancies shortly. He undertook to provide information on the numbers of PCs and PCSOs in H&F.

ACTION: Superintendent Craig Knight

Chief Superintendent Jessah reassured that in addition to H&F neighbourhood teams, officers from other parts of the Met would support operations in H&F, e.g. those associated with the use of live facial recognition in Westfield and other parts of the borough.

On the Chair's further question about the retention rates, Chief Superintendent Jessah noted that while the attrition rate had slowed down, retention remained a challenge because of the London pay and its cost of living.

Casey Review and New Met for London

Councillor Miri referred to the recent case where two officers from Central West BCU had been charged with alleged sexual assault while off duty. The assault took place last April which was three years after the murder of Sarah Everard. During this period, the New Met for London (NMFL) plan had been implemented with necessary training conducted for all staff. Councillor Miri said he was shocked to learn about the case happened to Central West BCU and asked whether it reflected a success or otherwise of the schemes and proposals being put in place.

Superintendent Knight remarked there were bad people in every organisation and industry. He considered the Met system was good in rooting bad people and removing those found guilty while at the same time ensuring procedural justice. Chief Superintendent Jessah also considered the case was a success as people now were more willing to report and had confidence in the Police's support for the victims. The Met had made it absolutely clear to the workforce that this kind of behaviour would not be tolerated, and it needed time and effort to rebuild public's trust and confidence.

The Chair asked about the recommendation of restoring visible neighbourhood policing in the Casey Review report. Superintendent Knight noted the increase of

about 10% of PCSOs had been directed into more foot patrol based on ward priorities. The recent success in bidding for additional resources would be used to bring more visibility patrolling, including walk-and-talk operations for ending VAWG. Superintendent Knight said he was supportive of high visibility patrol but some operations were covert in nature or needed to be done at the desk. Chief Superintendent Jessah referred to the murder in the borough at the beginning of the summer. She said the visible presence of uniformed officers in the area had helped to restore confidence and trust in the local community.

On the outcomes of the quarterly NMFL meetings held with local residents, Superintendent Knight outlined the attendance of these meetings which had dropped due to capacity constraint of the venue as a result of funding cuts. His team were looking at potential free venues to hold the next NMFL meeting around February/March 2025. Chief Superintendent Jessah expected the Met to do better in strengthening the representation to these meetings, particularly the youth voice.

As regards the partnership between the LET and police officers, Neil Thurlow said the LET's areas of priorities generally aligned with police's ward priorities and the two sides shared information and latest position on certain crimes. This had enabled good community engagement as the LET could provide information readily when being asked.

In addition to formal crime fighting meetings between the LET community safety officers and the ward officers, Neil said he and the two attending officers exchanged information regularly to keep each other and Councillor Rebecca Harvey abreast of all key developments. Neil undertook to provide more details of the proposed crime summit mentioned by Superintendent Knight earlier at a future meeting.

ACTION: Neil Thurlow

Superintendent Knight briefed members on the Live Facial Recognition (LFR) technology which had been used for three occasions in the borough and led to positive arrests. Responding to Councillor Miri's enquiries, he confirmed that the Police-owned technology would scan faces against a watchlist which only included the photos of 12,500 people who were wanted throughout London.

Craig explained how the system worked and advised that, when the LFR was "triggered" it went to an officer(s) on the ground, they then engaged with the person identified and undertook further checks to verify their identities there and then which might lead to further action, or not.

While agreeing to provide information on the frequency of false positives, if any, identified by the LFR technology, Chief Superintendent Jessah said councillors were welcomed to observe its deployment.

ACTION: Chief Superintendent Christina Jessah

On the feasibility of combining the LFR technology with other systems, Superintendent Knight said he understood that the LFR technology could match images fed by CCTV footages. Councillor Dinsmore considered there was no

fundamental difference on the consent given to the use of CCTV camera with or without built-in LFR technology. Chief Superintendent Jessah was concerned about the community's response on privacy. Councillor Miri cautioned about the use of automatic AI systems like the LFR which was immensely powerful and needed to be used in moderation.

Summing up, the Chair thanked the attendance of the Met Police and appreciated their good performance as reflected in the statistics. He looked forward to the next updates on operational achievements in respect of drugs, VAWG, shoplifting and so on.

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

5. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee noted the following dates of future meetings:

- 4 Feb 2025
- 30 Apr 2025

Work Programmes:

- 2025 Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Third Sector Investment Fund

Meeting started: 7.01 pm
Meeting ended: 8.50 pm

Chair

Contact officer: Debbie Yau
Committee Co-ordinator
Governance and Scrutiny
E-mail: debbie.yau@lbhf.gov.uk

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Social Inclusion and Community Safety Policy and Accountability Committee

Date: 04/02/2025

Subject: Six-month Performance Report for the Law Enforcement Team

Report author: Mohammed Basith, Law Enforcement Manager

Responsible Director: Neil Thurlow Director of Public Protection

SUMMARY

This report provides PAC with an update following the previous meeting focusing on work of the Law Enforcement Team for the six months between June and December 2024.

There are no decisions required from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Committee to note and comment on the report

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	A cleaner, greener, safer borough increases opportunities for all
Creating a compassionate council	Working with our communities the LET is the front face of the council for many and the service offers help, support, and advice for all ensuring that everyone's problems are addressed
Doing things with residents, not to them	Residents are concerned around environmental crime, ASB and this affects how they feel and perceive the boroughs safety. Residents' safety and perceptions of safety are key attributes that the LET work towards addressing
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	We have brought together several services to create one larger, singular service with a wider parameter of powers
Taking pride in H&F	The LET service work hard to improve the environment of H&F creating a cleaner, greener borough
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	The service uses only electric vehicles and the default for staff is to walk with

	vehicles being used for specific matters only
--	-----------------------------------------------

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None

Background

1. In July 2024, the Law Enforcement Team (LET) presented their last performance report for the period between December 2023 and May 2024.
2. This report provides service information between 01 June to 31 December 2024.
3. Over the report period the LET has continued to deliver a highly visible front-line service 24/7, and this report provides further details of the work LET officers have undertaken.

Headlines of the LET work for this period:

Performance data:

4. Over this period a total of 57,723 patrols –averaging 209 patrols per day – have been delivered with officers working to investigate and resolve service requests, monitor sites following incidents or to inspect locations following referrals for a range of issues from both internal or external partners and teams.
5. For the period of this report the LET team have received 4,239 service requests from residents and businesses, which have been investigated and resolved.
6. LET officers have issued fixed penalty notices for issues such as breach(es) of PSPO, fly-tipping, littering and highway obstruction.
7. The LETs work and focus on the borough-wide Street Harassment PSPO has seen two FPNs issued for breaches of conditions. The PSPO has also been a feature article in My London.
8. Our first FPN was issued following contact to LET by the victim. On hearing that the fine had been issued the victim said:

"It feels really good that people actually care and are doing something about it. Obviously, catcalling is bad, but I just don't think it's [seen as] that bad because you're brought up to just deal with it, it's just something that happens. And so, it's good to see that they are doing something about it."

9. The article for this matter can be found here - [Woman, 26, catcalled in West London for 20 seconds by man in van gets £100 fine sent to culprit - MyLondon](#)
10. The Team continues to show a high visibility presence in all the housing estates and parks with 11,093 patrols in housing land, and 8,650 patrols in parks. These patrols equate to 3,517 and 1,122 patrol hours respectively.
11. In addition, 9,554 hours of patrols have taken place in all highways and district centres across the borough. **Appendix 1** captures our key statistics.
12. Keeping our resident's safe remains a high priority for the Team, and as such, the LET officers continue to undertake weapons sweeps during their patrols resulting in the removal of four knives from the streets. In addition to this, the LET have also made 15 drug seizures of various sizes and types over the last few months. When officers find these items, they are removed from site and handed to the police.
13. **Appendix 2** captures images of some of the knives and drugs recovered items.
14. During this period, there was a 10% increase in service requests received by the LET totalling 4,239 compared to the same period in the previous year of 3,850.
15. The ASB data indicates a noticeable increase in ASB service requests being logged to the LET. The service has experienced a 29% increase which further suggests a growing awareness and willingness among residents to report incidents of anti-social behaviour to the LET as we continue to ensure that we continue to improve awareness of reporting mechanisms including the availability and ability to contact the service directly 24/7.
16. Variations in ASB service requests by area are also evident for example the Central area experienced a significant rise from 240 in 2023 to 400 in 2024, indicating a 67% increase in reported incidents. In contrast, the South area saw a decrease from 197 in 2023 to 165 in 2024, representing a 16% decrease.
17. These variations highlight the need for tailored strategies to address ASB in different areas and these include the deployment of staff from one area to another to assist with the upsurge as well as closer collaboration with outreach teams to provide onsite help such as drug and alcohol support to individuals with needs who have been identified as the offenders.
18. The work of the LET, to use intelligence and evidence lead taskings, allows us to deliver targeted patrols. These targeted patrols are a crucial component of the LET teams' effort to combat ASB providing consistency of approach and ensuring that officers are tasked to be in the right areas, at the right times, based on need.

The LETS evolving work in regard drugs and alcohol:

19. Working with the Councils Public Health team and commissioned drugs and alcohol treatment providers, the LET is now supporting service users in ever increasing ways.
20. Since the last PAC meeting the LET team have undertaken extensive targeted joint work with our partners at Turning Point, a collaboration that has proven to be effective in addressing reports of drug and alcohol abuse at locations across the borough.
21. In order to support the Councils work to address drug overdoses all LET officers undertook training, delivered by Turning Point, on how to carry and administer Naloxone.
22. Naloxone is a medication that can quickly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. It works by binding to opioid receptors in the brain, blocking and reversing the effects of opioids like heroin, fentanyl, and prescription pain killers. It can restore normal breathing within three minutes in someone who has overdosed.
23. Naloxone comes in two forms, either a nasal spray or an injection. The LET has been trained to use the nasal spray and in the event of an overdose in the borough, LET officers can either be summoned to supply Naloxone or administer this to the victim directly.
24. Further to the above being implemented following a service request from a resident to the Director of Public Health - to address suspected drug use in a park - the team worked with the Public Health team to problem solve the issue.
25. The LET team took a proactive approach, conducting extensive monitoring, dispersals, and joint patrols to identify individuals using drugs. The team also worked with the Police to monitor the location, gathering information on both drug users and potential suppliers.
26. Following six weeks of extensive monitoring and engagement with those frequenting the park, the team ensured support was provided where needed and were able to deter them from returning to the park. As our work was being delivered a resident contacted the Director of Public Protection stating the following:

*"Hi Niki, Rory,
Just a note to thank you for the speed and efficacy of your response.
There has been a marked difference, like night and day! We have not had a single incidence that we have noticed since the solution was actioned, and we have noted the additional visits by council / LET staff.
There has also been a marked decrease in litter in the area. All the best,
RESIDENT"*

Intelligence sharing and collaboration:

27. Each month the LET meet with Police and Community Safety colleagues to look at crime and ASB. These are the North and South operation forums.
28. These meetings, where intelligence and information is shared, foster a coordinated approach between teams to address shared areas of concern. The forums focus on local resource coordination and the establishment of priorities for the North and South teams at a tactical level. The strategic tasking meeting process was described by Superintendent Knight in the previous SICSPAC.
29. This geographical approach allows us to work collaboratively to address local concerns and, where needed, leads to the creation of an action plan aimed at addressing the key priorities in each ward.

Knife crime prevention work:

30. In addition to the weapon sweeps mentioned above, the LET supported to the national Operation Sceptre week in November.
31. Operation Sceptre is an initiative aimed at combating knife crime and knife-enabled violence. Each year, two weeks of intensified efforts are conducted involving all police forces in England and Wales in response to an increase in knife-enabled robberies across the country.
32. During this operational week, the LET, colleagues in trading standards and police teams employed a variety of enhanced enforcement tactics alongside educational initiatives, focusing particularly on knife-enabled robbery.
33. Throughout the week of action, police teams focused their efforts on areas such as knife sales, hotspots for knife-enabled robbery, wanted offenders, and community engagement. The LET was requested to assist with weapons sweeps in parks, housing estates, and other identified hotspots throughout the borough.

Supporting others across the borough:

34. The LET officers have continued to work alongside Council teams such as housing, emergency planning and events and have assisted with several incidents and events in recent months.
35. The LET undertake a range of roles to support our colleagues whether in an emergency or pre-planned event situation but, of note over this period the LET have worked on:
 - Bute Gardens: A fire at a residential that required a full-service deployment due to the number of evacuees, leading to the opening of two rest centres.
 - Flat fire in Clem Attlee Estate, SW6: Required the evacuation of residents from the property.

- Several road traffic accidents across the borough most notably involving a vehicle and a pedestrian or cyclist on Talgarth Road, Wandsworth Bridge Road, and Shepherd's Bush Green.
- North End Road suspected acid attack incident.
- Fire at St Mungo's hostel.
- Gas leak in Scrubs Lane.
- House fire on Fulham Palace Road.
- Firearms Incident in Clem Attlee Estate.
- Unlicensed Music Event involving over 60 youths in the north of the borough.
- Remembrance Sunday events at SBG and Fulham
- Supported with reassurance patrols and engagement with residents during the summer disorder

Highlights and good news stories over this period –

Multiple offender of flytipping caught:

36. The Law Enforcement Team has achieved a significant breakthrough in the fight against fly-tipping by seizing a tipper van linked to multiple fly tipping offences.
37. This decisive action, made possible through a strong collaboration with Hounslow Council, addresses the serious issue of waste dumping across both boroughs. Located in Westbourne Grove, the van was seized under Section 34b of the Environmental Protection Act and was held for 15 days, before being crushed as it remained unclaimed.
38. This operation underscores the effectiveness of teamwork between Hammersmith and Fulham's Law Enforcement officers and Environmental Enforcement officers from Hounslow. By sharing crucial intelligence, these teams effectively tackled cross border waste crime and demonstrating that fly-tipping—an issue that costs both local authorities thousands annually—is taken seriously.
39. We continue to encourage residents to take action by reporting any incidents of fly-tipping or suspicious activities, reinforcing our collective commitment to a cleaner community.
40. It is imperative that residents carry out checks on any private waste contractors they hire, ensuring these contractors are licensed and registered with the Environment Agency. We request that residents always request a waste transfer note to confirm proper disposal before handing over waste and insist on traceable payment methods. Cash payments should be avoided, as they promote anonymity and contribute to waste crime and fly-tipping.
41. **Appendix 2** shows photos of this work

Street harassment PSPO

42. In advance of issuing the street harassment PSPO coming into force all LET officers were trained to identify Street harassment and understand how to address any concerns. All officers have been provided information on the support available to victims and when and how to enforce – our officers have been provided with handouts which they carry with details of support available to victims.
43. The Council is working with Chelsea FC to further raise awareness, engagement and/or enforcement of the PSPO as fans go to and leave from matches. The South Team enforcement actions at Stamford Bridge during a Chelsea FC game were published in MyLondon news further highlighting the positive reception of the new powers. Two incidents brought to the attention of the LET led to FPNs being issued so far. ['I joined a Chelsea FC pre-match briefing and patrol to see new Law Enforcement Team in action' - MyLondon](#)

ATM interference –

44. While on patrol on King Street, LET Night team were approached by a man who reported that a cash machine had charged his account without dispensing cash. Upon inspection, the LET found a metal piece glued to the dispenser, with cash stuck inside. Two women claimed the cash was theirs, but the LET advised them to contact the bank. Meanwhile, a man loitering nearby attempted to use the machine but left after being informed it was out of service. Later, when the police officers arrived, LET secured £340 in an evidence bag, which was delivered to Hammersmith Police Station. The incident was logged, and affected customers were advised to contact the bank and was refunded the money.

Intervening and supporting vulnerable residents

45. LET Night officers on patrol in Philpot Square observed a cab dropping off an elderly couple who appeared intoxicated and struggled to exit the vehicle. The cab driver, who had picked them up from a restaurant in High Barnet, was unable to assist them effectively. Recognising their vulnerability, the officers called for emergency services. It was revealed that the elderly woman had a history of heart problems. Two ambulance units and a doctor arrived, discovering her blood sugar levels were extremely high due to intoxication. The couple was transported to Chelsea Hospital for further care. The officers' timely intervention ensured they received necessary medical attention, preventing a potentially dangerous situation.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 LET Performance Data

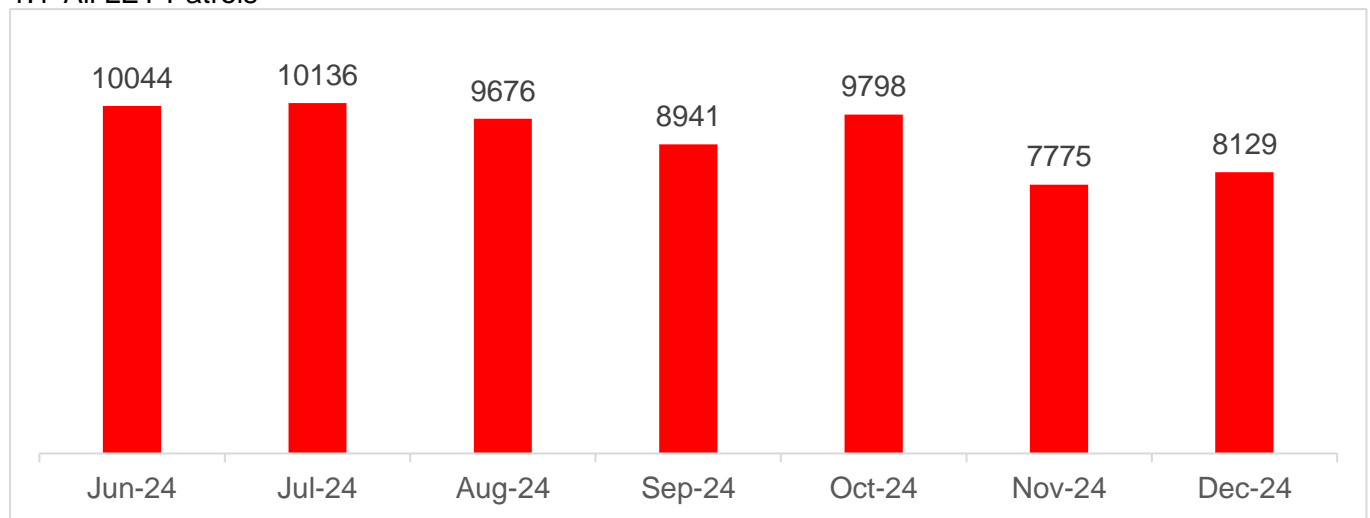
Appendix 2 Photos of work relating to multiple fly-tipping activities

Appendix 1 LET Performance Data

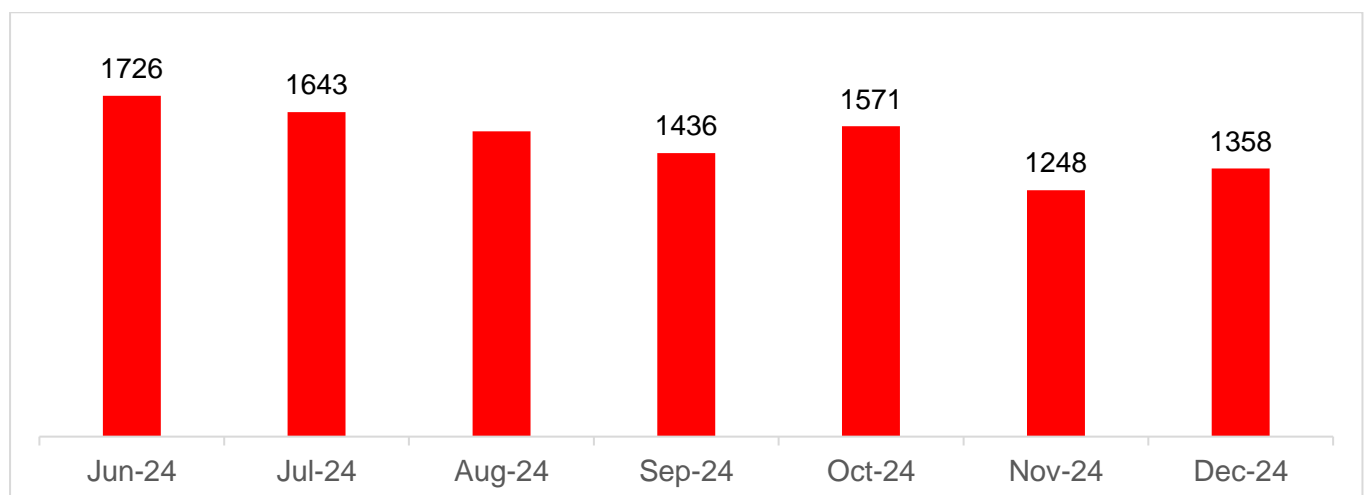
The table below shows the data for the period between June 2024 and December 2024.

Jun to Dec 2024	
Total Investigations	4239
Total FPNs issued	1557
Patrols in HRA estates and/or blocks	5566
Patrol hours in parks	1122
Patrol hours in estates and/or blocks	3517
Patrol hours in public realm	9260

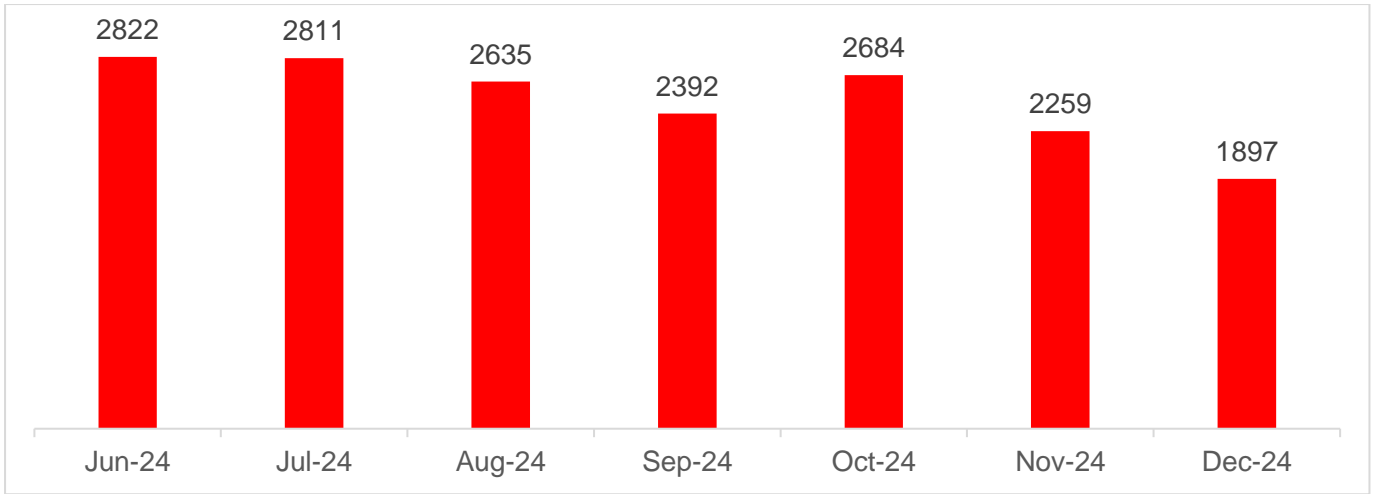
1.1 All LET Patrols



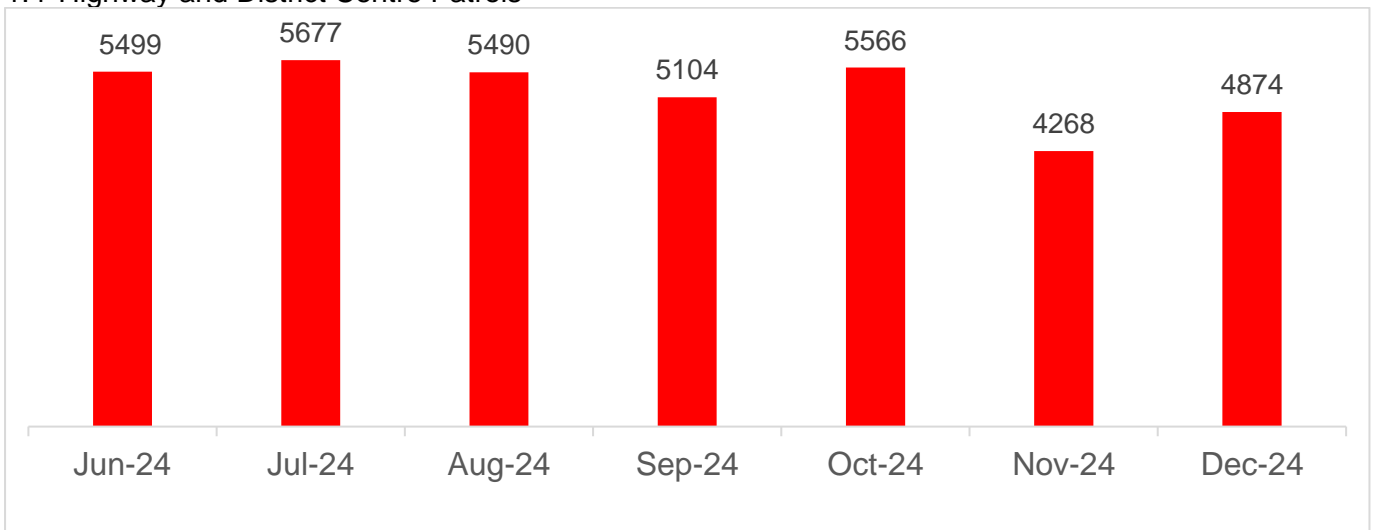
1.2 Park Patrols



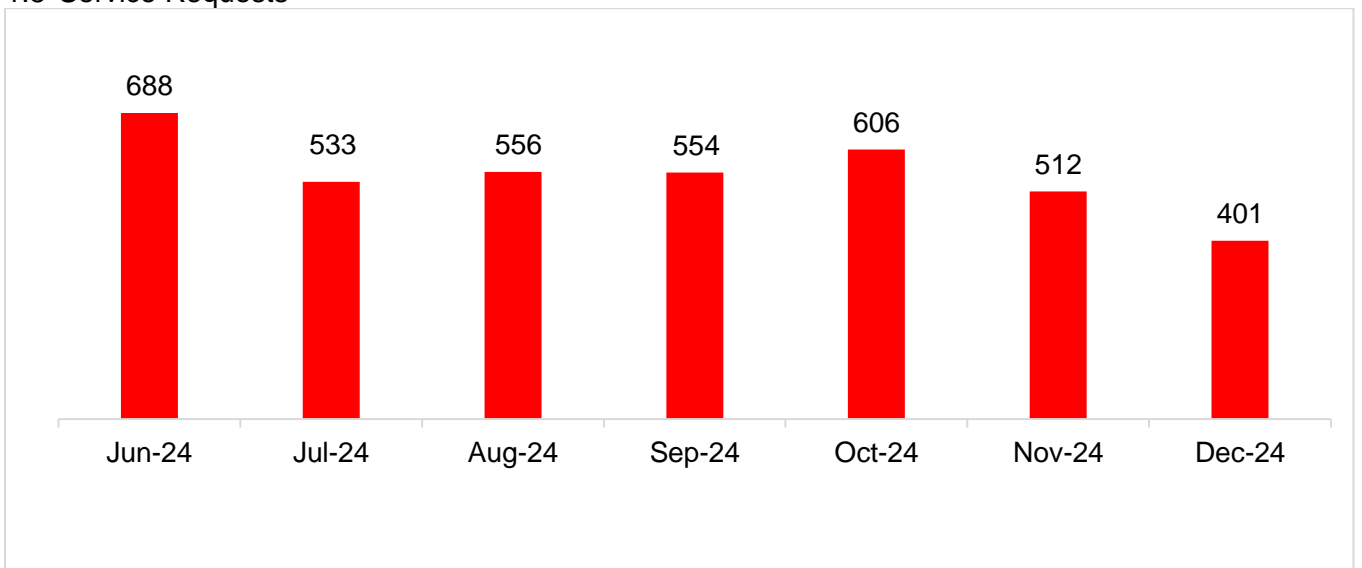
1.3 Housing Patrols



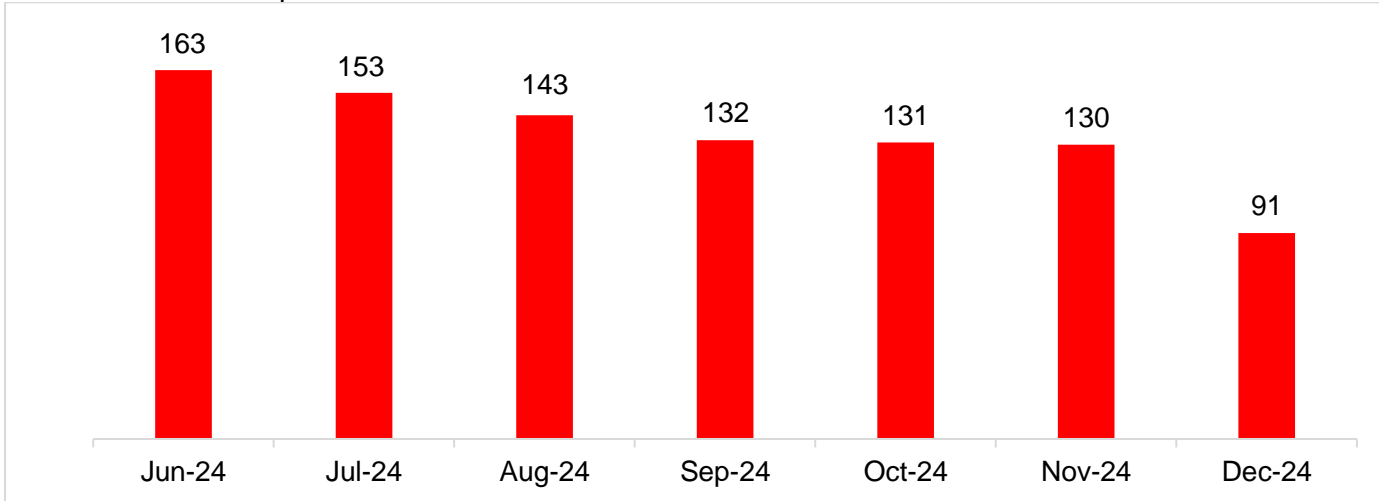
1.4 Highway and District Centre Patrols



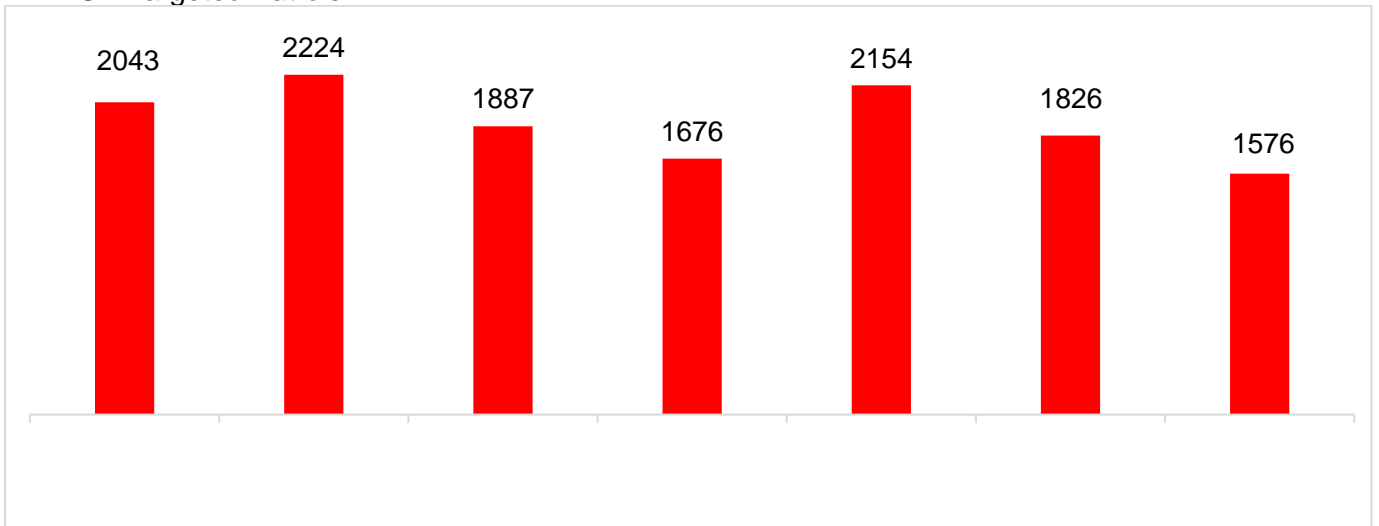
1.5 Service Requests



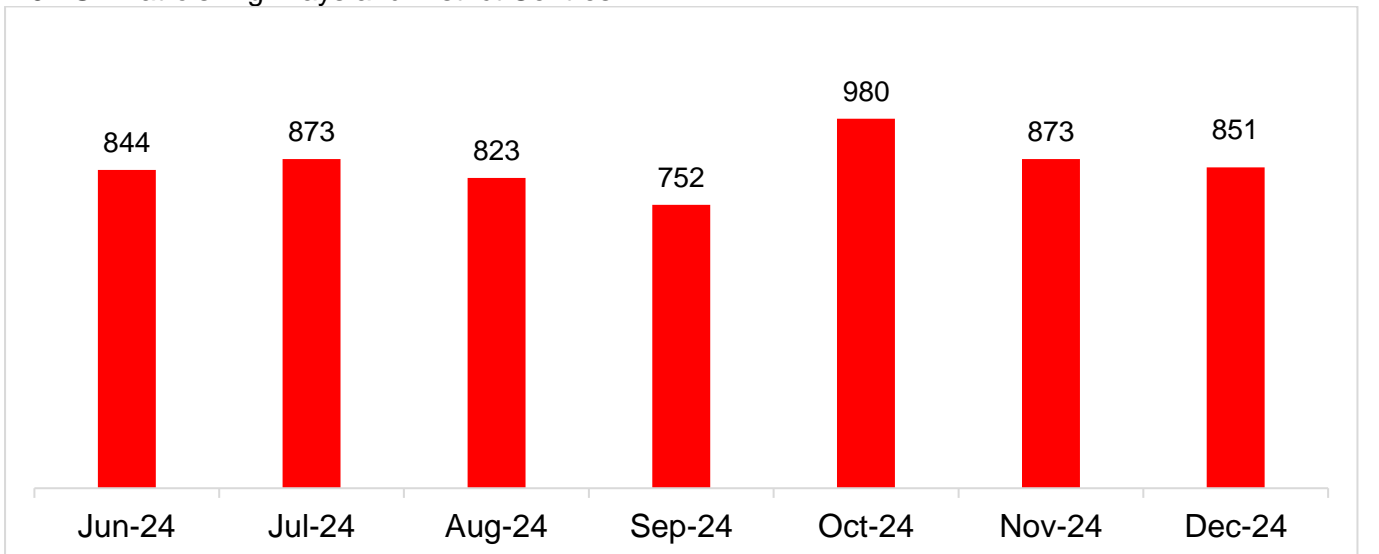
1.6 ASB Service Requests



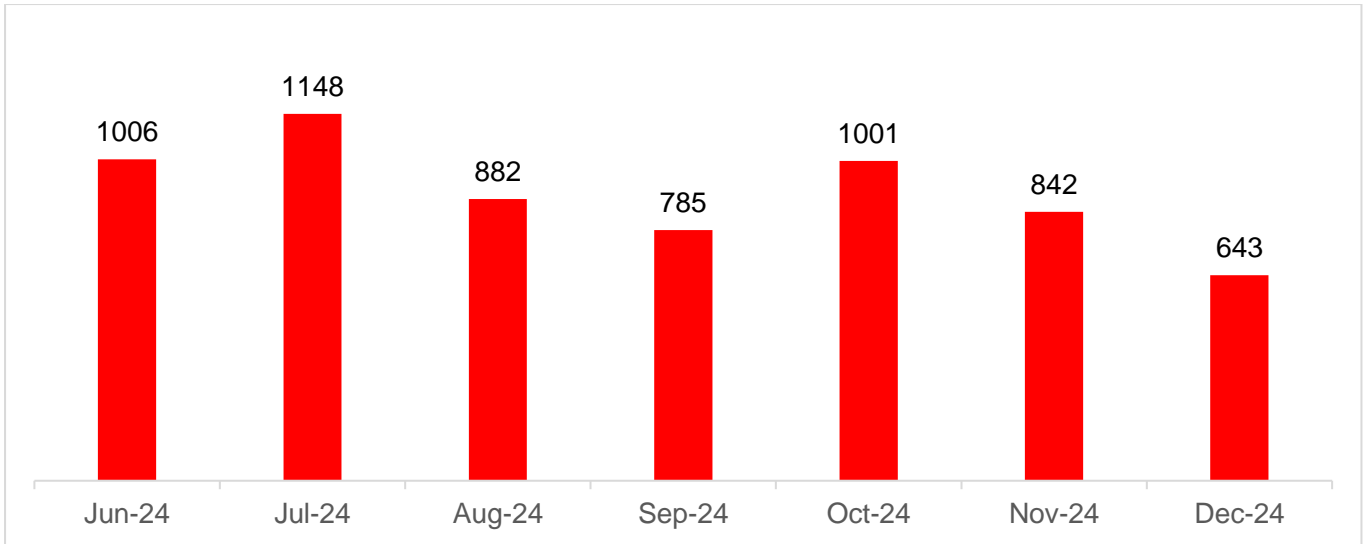
1.7 ASB Targeted Patrols



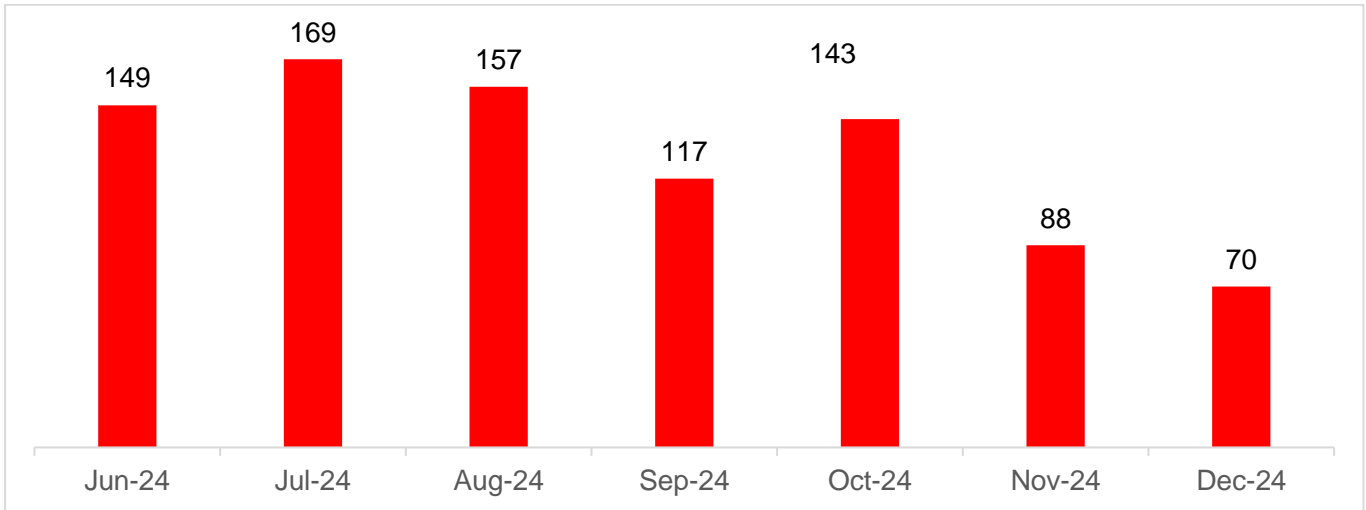
1.9 ASB Patrols Highways and District Centres



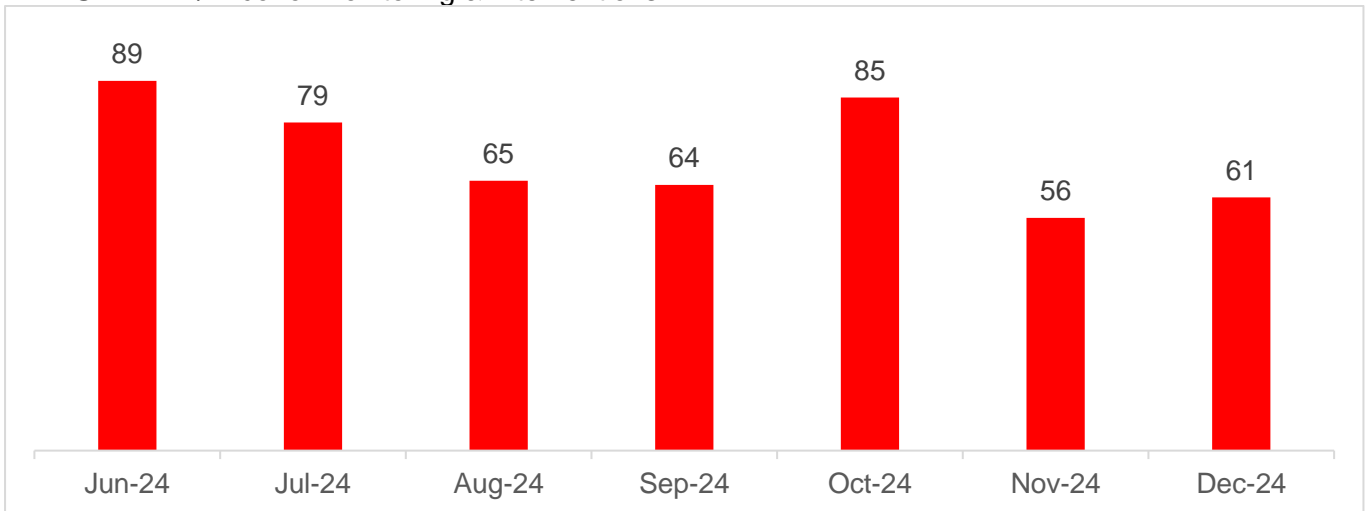
2.0 ASB Patrols Housing



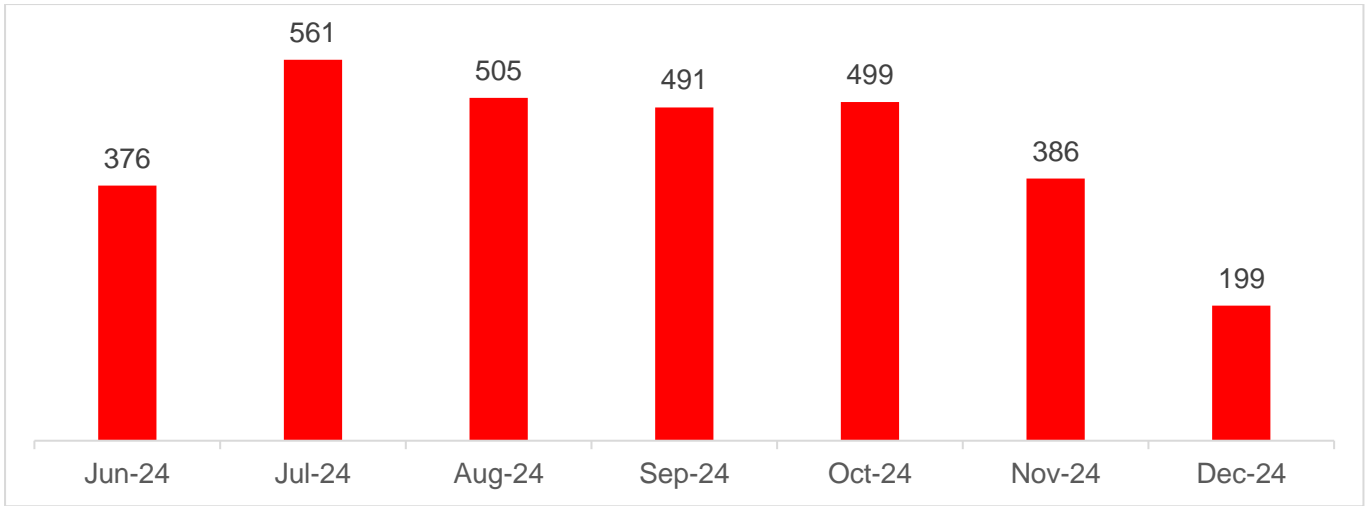
2.1 ASB Patrols Parks



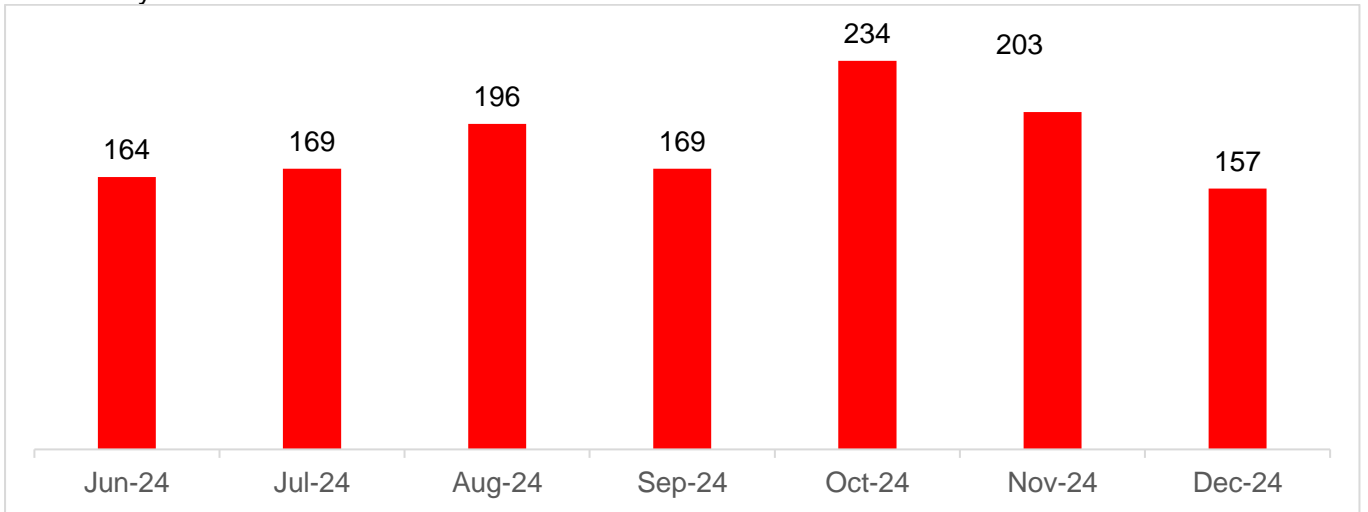
2.2 ASB Drink / Alcohol Monitoring & Interventions



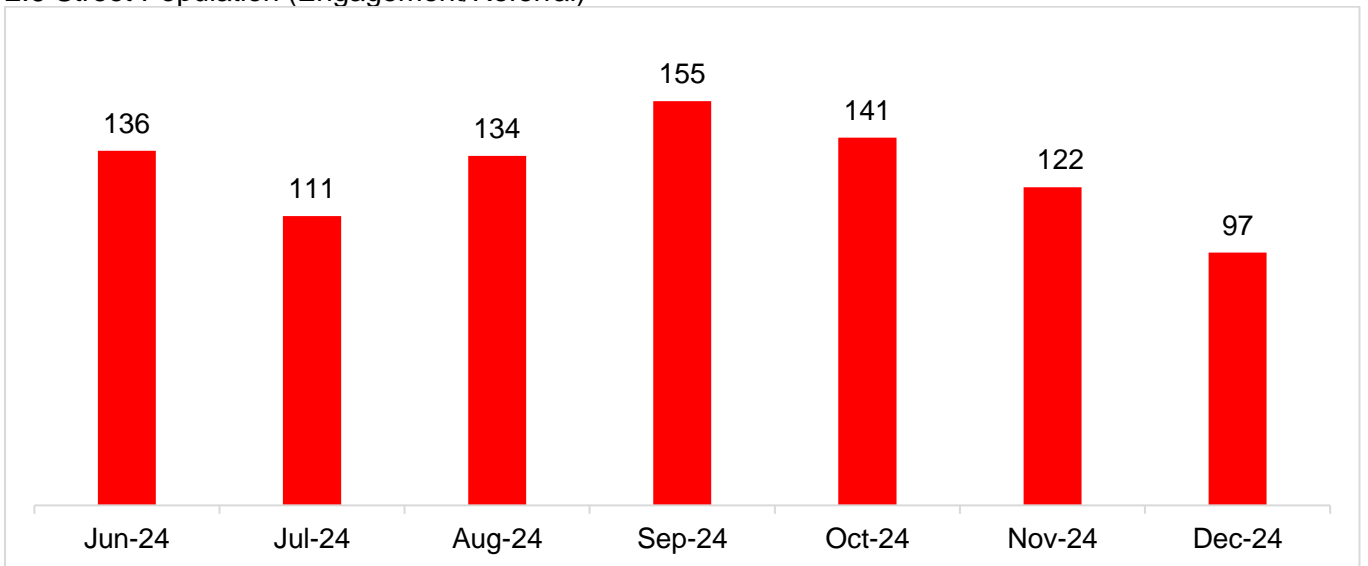
2.3 ASB Drugs Monitoring & Interventions



2.5 FPN by Month



2.6 Street Population (Engagement/Referral)





20 Nov 202
3 South
Grea





20 Nov 2024 20:0
3 Southway C
Greater Lon
Eng

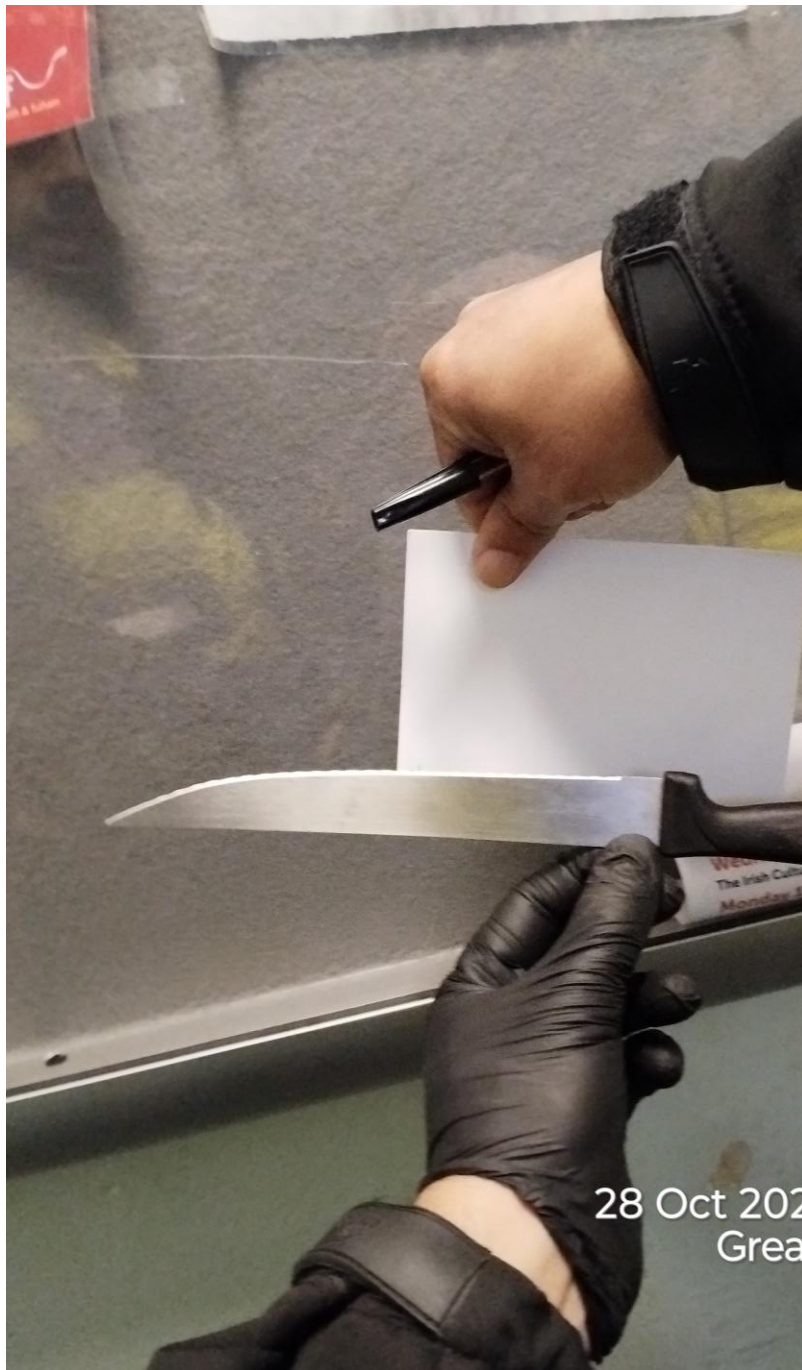


20 Nov 2024 20:03:53
3 Southway Close
Greater London
England



Page 28

14 Nov 2024 14:
1 Titmuss S
Greater Lo
En



28 Oct 202
Great



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Report to: Social Inclusion and Community Safety Policy & Accountability Committee

Date: 04/02/2025

Subject: 2025/26 Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

Report author: Andre Mark, Head of Finance (Strategic planning and investment)
Kellie Gooch, Head of Finance (Place)

Responsible Director: Sukvinder Kalsi, Executive Director of Finance and
Corporate Services
Bram Kainth, Executive Director of Place

SUMMARY

Cabinet will present their revenue budget and Council Tax proposals to Budget Council on 26 February 2025. This report provides an update on the overall preparation and proposals for the 2025/26 revenue budget, risks, financial resilience, and the impact of those proposals.

This report also sets out the budget proposals for the services covered by this Policy and Accountability Committee, and the committee is invited to comment on the budget proposals set out in detail in the appendices. Risk schedules and Equalities Impact Assessments of any budget changes are provided in the appendices alongside an update on any proposed changes in fees and charges in the budget where applicable.

Nationally, the strategic operating environment for public services (including local government) has been challenging over the past decade with continuing demographic, legislative and regulatory demands. Combined with the recent macro-economic turmoil, and fluctuations in interest and inflation rates, this has resulted in considerable financial pressures. The Autumn Budget combined with other central government communications on the local government finance settlement suggest that it is likely that there will be more collaborative and partnership working in the future combined with reforms to the existing funding frameworks for local authorities. The Council will work with national government on this reform programme.

The Council welcomes new resources for Extended Producer Responsibility (for waste collection and disposal costs), additional resources for Social Care, Children Services, Homelessness, and funding for the extra national insurance levies, in addition to an extension of Household Support Fund (Round 7).

The overall objectives of the revenue budget proposals for 2025/26 are intended to:

- continue to protect the delivery of core services valued by residents, businesses and visitors
- ensure the safety of our borough

- support prosperity across Hammersmith and Fulham
- promote an exceptional, innovative and efficient Council
- maintain strong financial governance and resilience across the Council and
- preserve one of the lowest Council Tax rates in the country.

A balanced budget for 2025/26 is proposed (whilst protecting our reserves and in year contingencies) including £5.1m of efficiencies, plus additional investment of £12.3m across many services and will allow the continued delivery of the best services to our residents, businesses and visitors. This builds on the administration's record of prudential financial management, running a budget surplus in the last full financial year (2023/24) and increasing reserves at a time when many other councils are utilising them to balance the books.

The key investment proposals of £12.3m for 2025/26 include:

- £3.4m for community safety and social inclusion through permanent funding for our Law Enforcement Team and Gangs Unit, including additional investment to tackle Violence against Women and Girls.
- £2.8m for Adult Social Care (primarily residential and nursing care in addition to existing free home care services).
- £2.2m for Children Services (including family hubs, travel support, looked after children and supporting school attendance).
- £1.8m for Waste Collection and Disposal Services (extra packaging waste, contractual costs on pensions, fuel, and addressing cost pressures).
- £1.2m for Homelessness (in addition to a further £3.5m from the Homelessness Prevention Grant and inflationary uplifts).
- £0.3m to support the continued delivery of the Upstream Strategy (this will promote the long-term economic growth and prosperity of the Borough).
- £0.6m across a range of services including our Climate Team, Sports Facilities, Insurance Services and enhancing protection against fraud through digital inclusion.

The proposed increase of Council Tax by 2.99% and the additional social care precept (which equates to a total increase of 88p per week) will generate an additional £4m (or 2% of the council's net budget) per annum to fund Council services. This is essential funding for the Council to ensure continuing financial resilience, protect its funding position over the medium term, meet the challenges posed by increasing demand and inflation, whilst balancing the impact on local council taxpayers.

Council Tax in Hammersmith & Fulham remains the third lowest in the country. Since coming to power in 2014, this administration has cut or frozen council tax five times in ten years. But who pays council tax is just as important as how much they pay, which is why we are rightly proud to have one of the most comprehensive Council Tax Support Schemes in the country. Almost four in ten households receive some sort of discount, with those least able to pay paying nothing at all, and the administration choosing to exclude care leavers and foster carers entirely.

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 obliges the Council to set a balanced budget, and the detailed proposals contained in this report will put the Council in a strong position to be able to do so for the next financial year. Cabinet in February will need to

consider these alongside the outcome of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement and any other funding statements that may follow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Policy and Accountability Committee considers the budget proposals and makes recommendations to Cabinet as appropriate.
2. That the Committee considers the proposed changes to fees and charges and makes recommendations as appropriate.

Wards Affected: All

Our values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F values
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	The council has a proud record of maintaining low Council Tax to its residents. The revenue budget for 2025/26 proposes savings and efficiencies across services and corporate functions that rationalise its estate and reduce its operating costs, whilst also delivering value for money from external contractors.
Creating a compassionate council	The proposals in the revenue budget for 25/26 supports the ongoing investment in services that directly support residents in living, healthy and independent lives. This includes continuing to provide free homecare for older residents, continuing to provide comprehensive Council Tax support to those eligible and increasing investment to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.
Building shared prosperity	The budget proposals support the launch of the next phase of the industrial strategy (Upstream London) which sets a clear strategy to grow a localised economic ecosystem, with a focus on the sectors that are set to grow and that are deemed right for the local area.
Doing things with residents, not to them	The budget for 25/26 will continue investment in our Family Hubs, ensuring that every child, young person, and family is able to access the right support at the right time. The Hubs will also be developed by collaborating with children and young people and their families, family groups, the local third sector, the NHS and the council's children's services in genuine partnership.
Taking pride in H&F	The council's revenue budget will invest over £50m in public realm services. These services will provide access to safe clean, green spaces for all to enjoy, visit and live in. It will deliver improvements to highways, whilst continuing to invest

	in the Law Enforcement Team and regulatory services to crack down on anti-social behaviour and rogue traders.
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	The council has an ambitious target to become a net zero borough. To help achieve this, the budget will support work to increase engagement and investment in green energy and technologies, increase investment in its waste services, continue to keep our streets and parks clean, and take a tough stance against anyone dropping litter, creating graffiti, or dumping rubbish.

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

Not Applicable

CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND REFORM FOREWORD

Concern about crime is by far the most common issue that my residents in Coningham ward contact me about, in my role as a councillor. Across the borough, residents are frustrated that despite regularly reporting crimes committed in their communities, they do not see action taken to address them.

The local police work extremely hard, but resource constraints mean that they often are not able to work as effectively as they would like. The numbers of police officers allocated to wards has reduced in the last decade and a half, and in recent years my own Safer Neighbourhood Team has, at times, just had one officer. This makes it impossible to provide a visible presence across the ward to reassure the public.

Since 2010, centrally imposed reductions in numbers of police and police stations have made it harder for neighbourhood policing to combat crime in our communities. Residents are increasingly contacting the council for help, and while the council has no control over the police or police numbers, we see it as our duty to act to keep our streets safe.

Cuts to police numbers and police stations in the borough since 2010 have undoubtedly had a major impact on residents' perception of crime. Although crime prevention is the responsibility of the police, rather than the council, this administration sees it as its duty to act when we can to keep residents safe. We will do what we can to support them in this, the most important part of any area of government.

This is why we established the Law Enforcement Team, a unique service among councils in the UK, which provides a visible presence on our streets to tackle anti-social behaviour. This is why we established the innovative Gangs Unit, which works with the police to keep young people out of a life of organised crime. This is why we have funded more CCTV cameras per person, than any other local authority in the country. This is why we were the first council in the country to establish a borough wide Public Spaces Protection Order to prevent street harassment of women and girls in the area.

This work is now more important than ever, which is why this budget funds the fight against crime here in Hammersmith & Fulham. This is a budget which, to borrow a phrase, is tough on crime, but tough on the causes of crime too.

It does so with new resources allocated to stop truancy from our schools and educate residents of the growing risk of fraud.

In this budget we have chosen to:

- Secure the funding of the Law Enforcement Team, moving this to the base budget so that it is protected against fluctuations in the economic cycle and residents can be reassured that it will be there when they need it.
- Fully fund the innovative Gangs Unit, which has so successfully choked off organised crime at its roots in recent years.
- Invest new resources in the prevention of violence against women and girls here in our borough.
- Allocate additional funding to a school attendance strategy, which will keep young people in education and reduce the risk of the falling into a life of crime or committing anti-social behaviour; and
- Ensure that residents have the digital skills and awareness to avoid fraud, the fastest growing crime in the country.

Public safety cannot be done on the cheap. This budget is vital to keep our streets safe and to protect the residents of Hammersmith & Fulham. Criminals across the borough will desperately hope that this is not passed, but the message should go out from this council that their days of terrorising residents are numbered, and that we are coming for them.

The objectives of the General Fund revenue budget proposals for 2025/26 as set out in the report are to:

- continue to protect the delivery of core services valued by residents, businesses, and visitors.
- ensure the safety of our borough.
- support prosperity across Hammersmith & Fulham.
- promote an exceptional, innovative and efficient Council.
- maintain strong financial governance and resilience across the Council; and
- preserve one of the lowest Council Tax rates in the country.

In recent years a combination of statutory requirements placed on councils without corresponding funding, and the lacklustre performance of the economy creating additional need for council services, have stretched local government finances. This budget recognises pressures placed on areas like school transport, temporary accommodation and social care, and provides new funding to address these.

Anyone involved in local government over the last decade and a half should appreciate how difficult budget setting has become. The national public finance policies adopted since 2010 and the economic turmoil from events like Brexit and the 2022 “mini budget” directly caused significant pressure on services and the finances of the Council. This

has increased the costs for both provision of and delivery of key services, and has eroded the disposable income for many, increasing the demand for the provision of and delivery of key services. The high interest rates directly impact on the cost of mortgages for homeowners whilst making it more expensive for the council to borrow and resource its capital programme.

However, the cumulative impact of austerity imposed by the previous Government has meant funding from central government has reduced by 54% in real terms¹ and 19% in cash terms, from £164m in 2010/11 to £132m in 2025/26².

A change in Government after 14 years of continued austerity for local government has provided the opportunity for the relationship between local and central government to be reset and planned reform of the financial funding framework for local authorities. The Chancellor's Budget on 30th October 2024 outlined a set of measures aimed at fixing the foundations of the economy and delivering change.

Despite the financial pressures being experienced across all local authorities, our ruthlessly financially efficient approach (by generating more than £123m of efficiencies since 2014/15, securing more than £100m in contributions from developing the Borough and generating more than £60m in annual income) has allowed the council to ease financial burdens on residents by keeping taxes low, freezing key charges and providing one of the country's most comprehensive Council Tax Support Schemes.

Few organisations would be able to deliver the same services they delivered over a decade ago with less than half of the resources available. In Hammersmith & Fulham we have not just maintained front line services that residents rely on, but we have gone further, providing new services like the local Law Enforcement Teams to keep our streets and communities safe and clean, maintain weekly bin collections, free breakfasts in primary schools and establishing three Family Hubs at the heart of our communities.

We have also eased financial burdens that residents face by abolishing home care costs, using an Ethical Debt Collection Policy to support those struggling with Council Tax rather than taking further enforcement action, and providing one of the country's most comprehensive Council Tax Support Schemes.

While the national tax burden reached historically high levels due to the previous government, there is nowhere better to be a Council Taxpayer than right here in Hammersmith & Fulham. Not only have we set the third lowest Council Tax in the country by cutting or freezing rates in five of the last ten years, but we have one of the most comprehensive Council Tax Support Schemes, which ensures that those least able to pay, pay the least.

We are one of just three London councils that has maintained no minimum payment, meaning the most vulnerable residents will not need to pay a penny of their Council Tax when they are struggling to make ends meet. We have also taken the decision to

¹ As per RPI indices - [Retail Prices Index: Long run series: 1947 to 2023: Jan 1974=100 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/retail-prices-index)

² Funding includes Revenue Support Grant, Business Rates Funding Baseline, Social Care and other general grants.

exclude Care Leavers and Foster Carers from Council Tax entirely, in recognition of the unique difficulties that they face and their inspiring contribution to our community.

This has only been possible because of the ruthlessly financially efficient approach that we have taken to managing residents' money. We will continue to reform the council to ensure that we provide the best value for their money possible. This budget does this through innovative use of new technology and data, and council-wide efficiency programmes to streamline operations and ensure the best use of resources.

This council will continue to manage its financial resources effectively to ensure financial resilience and sustainability (including a good level of reserves and in year contingencies). Despite the wider challenges faced by councils across the country, the council will continue to rise to the financial challenges faced to protect its residents, businesses and visitors services, and deliver on its commitment to make the borough a stronger, safer, and kinder place for everyone.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

National Financial Context and Outlook

1. Local government continues to operate in a volatile and uncertain financial environment for the short and medium term. Although inflation has fallen in recent months, inflationary price rises over the last twelve months continue to impact the Council's budgetary position and increase the cost of living for its residents and businesses.
2. CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation has returned to the Bank of England's 2% target level in 2024/25, falling to 1.7% in September. However there has been an upward turn in recent months mainly attributed to the rise of the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) energy price cap in October 2024.
3. Whilst CPI inflation is no longer at the peak of 11.1% experienced in October 2022 (this was the highest rate in over 40 years), the lower level of inflation is applicable to prices which have seen a cumulative increase of more than 20% over the last 3 years.
4. As part of its fiscal policy and to meet the Government's 2% inflation target, the Bank of England have put up the UK base interest fourteen times over the past two years, and the base rate now stands at 4.75%, although this is down from a peak of 5.25% from August 2023 to July 2024. For the council, its main source of borrowing is via the Public Works Loan Board, whose rates vary slightly from those issued by the Bank of England, being based on gilt rates.
5. This will have an impact on the Council's capital programme as much careful consideration will have to be given by Members on how to finance and pay back any sums borrowed and repayable soon.
6. The table below sets out some of the Office of Budget Responsibility's (OBR) key economic and fiscal indicators over the medium term.

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
CPI	2.6	2.2	2.1	2.1
Average Earnings	3.0	2.1	2.0	2.3
Interest Rates	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.5
Gilt Rates	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.5

7. The Provisional 2025/26 Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) was published by MHCLG on the 18th of December 2024. This statement outlines provisional funding allocations for local authorities for 2025/26 alongside the Core Spending Power for each authority.
8. The 2025/26 PLGFS continues the recent trend of single year funding settlements with no grant allocations confirmed beyond next year. However, in the statement, the new Government has set out its intention to simplify the wider local funding landscape, reducing the number of grants and consolidating them into the Local Government Finance Settlement, as well as moving towards a multi-year settlement for local government from 2026/27 so local authorities can plan more effectively.
9. A consultation was also launched at the PLGFS asking authorities for their views on the reforms. The proposed reforms will have no impact on funding for 2025/26 but are expected to have an impact for future years. No assumptions are made in the budget until further details are known.
10. Core Spending Power estimates total revenue funding available to authorities. The provisional settlement provided a real terms increase in Core Spending Power of 3.5% however within this calculation what is shown as funding for local authorities is in large part, the ability for local authorities to raise Council Tax locally as opposed to direct grant funding from central government.
11. The settlement assumes that local authorities will need to increase local tax by 5% each year until 2028/29. It also includes assumptions on business rates income (including compensation for under indexing the multiplier) as well as growth in the Council Tax base.
12. A summary of the Council's Core Spending Power in comparison to the previous financial year is set out in the table below

Table 1 - Core Spending Power 2025/26

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	Change between years £m
Revenue Support Grant and Estimated Retained Business Rates	89.1	90.4	1.3
Government Grants	53.2	58.3	5.1
Estimated Council Tax	78.8	84.2	5.4
Total	220.3	232.9	11.8

13. It should be noted that whilst the overall Core Spending Power for the Council has increased by £11.8m, £5.5m (47%) of this relates to grant funding distributed directly to local authorities as part of the LGFS, as both Council Tax and business rates income are locally generated sources of income.

An explanation of the key funding streams is outlined below:

- **Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)** – The SFA is made up of two elements: The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and the Baseline Funding Level (BFL). RSG is given to local authorities and can be used to finance revenue expenditure on any service. This grant has increased by £0.42m. The BFL is the estimated retained Business Rates as calculated by the Government, usually uprated in line with the small business rates multiplier. The actual business rates estimated by the Council is set out in the business rates section below.
- **Social Care funding** – An additional £1.13bn of new funding was announced for local authorities targeted at adult and children social care (with £250m of this being a new Children’s Social Care Prevention Grant, distributed using a new children’s needs- based formula).

This funding is in addition to £1.05bn continuing ringfenced funding for adult social care in relation to the Local Authority Better Care Grant (which now includes the Discharge Fund) and the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund.

- **Compensation for the under-indexing of the business rates multiplier** – this is funding to compensate local authorities for lost business rates income arising from the decision to freeze the small business rates multiplier.
- **New Homes Bonus** - There will be new rounds of New Homes Bonus (NHB) payments in 2025/26. In line with last year, these payments will not attract new legacy payments. It was announced that this will be the last year of the funding, with further announcements on alternative funding to be determined.

The statement confirmed the repurposing of the **Services Grant** to simplify the system, in line with the assumptions set out in the MTFS.

Other Funding

- **Household Support Fund (HSF)** - In 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions announced that vulnerable households across the country would be able to access a new support fund to help them with essentials over the winter. The total HSF allocated to Hammersmith and Fulham during 2024/25 was £2.8m, all of which is planned to be spent as part of the council’s Cost of Living response.
- It was confirmed by the Chancellor in her Autumn Statement that the HSF will continue until the end of 2025/26 (with £740m distributed to councils in England) which is welcome news given how vital this additional funding has been to support those most vulnerable and affected by the Cost-of-Living crisis.

- **Extender Producer Responsibility for Packaging (pEPR)** – This income will cover the existing costs local authorities incur for managing household packaging waste, provide additional funding for new legal duties, and support much needed investment in the waste and recycling industry. The council will receive an estimated £1.87m as a guaranteed payment in 2025/26 towards these costs. However, the government will assess the impact of additional pEPR income on the relative needs and resources of individual local authorities, and how it factors into the measurement of local authority spending power, ahead of the 2026/27 Settlement.

The Government has outlined as part of the terms of the funding that councils will be subject to monitoring and evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of its waste management functions. The council may be subject to improvement actions if it is not deemed 'efficient and effective', and potential deductions on payments from 2027/28 if improvements are not delivered.

- The Council will receive £24.3m for the Public Health Grant, £6.6m for the Homelessness Prevention Grant (although in a change in policy it should be noted that 49% of this grant cannot be spent on temporary accommodation and must be spend on prevention, relief and staffing activity) plus a further £1.0m for rough sleeping prevention and recovery, plus £188.3m for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). These grants are ringfenced within departmental budgets and are assumed to have a neutral impact in the current budget proposals.

The Budget Requirement and Gap

14. The proposals for balancing the budget for 2025/26 are included in the table below:

Table 2 – Proposals for balancing the 2025/26 budget

	Proposed (£m)
Base Budget 2024/25 (Balanced Budget)	-
Provision for Price Inflation (2.7% plus some targeting)	6.2
Provision for Pay Inflation (2%)	3.1
Provision for Growth and Investment in Services	12.3
Other Changes (cost of borrowing/minimum revenue provision/concessionary fares/interest on balances)	7.2
Recognition of current income projections	(3.0)
Savings and Efficiencies	(5.1)
Resources	
Increase in Central Govt Grants	(7.9)
Collection Fund (business rates and prior year surpluses)	(6.8)
Increase in Council Tax Base (Households)	(2.0)
Additional Council Tax Income (from April 2025)	(4.0)
Budget Gap 2025/26	-

Investment and growth pressures

15. Additional investment and growth of £12.3m is being provided following the budget setting and review process. The proposed investment and growth items are summarised in Table 3 by department and for those relevant to this committee in Table 4. The detailed investment proposals for this committee are set out in Appendix 1 to this report and as part of the Executive Director's comments section below.

Table 3: 2025/26 Investment Proposals

Department	£m
People	5.0
Place	5.5
Housing Solutions	1.2
Finance and Corporate Services	0.6
Total	12.3

Table 4: Investment and growth proposals relevant to this committee

Proposal	£000
New investment in prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls	250
Continued investment in the Law Enforcement and Gangs teams	3,075
Enhancing corporate and resident anti-fraud measures through the Digital Inclusion Strategy	124
Total	3,449

Savings and Income Generation

16. After more than a decade of austerity, it is increasingly difficult to identify and deliver substantive savings. However, further savings are necessary if the financial challenge of real terms government funding cuts, unfunded burdens, inflation, and demand and growth pressures is to be met, and the council has been able to find these. In the future, the Council must consider all available options to operate within the funding available to it.
17. The proposed savings (including additional income) for 2025/26 are set out in Table 5. The savings proposals for this committee are set out in Appendix 1 to this report and as part of the Executive Director's comments section below.

Table 5: 2025/26 firm savings and additional income

Department	£m
People	(1.8)
Place	(2.1)
Finance and Corporate Services	(1.3)
Total	(5.1)

18. The savings relevant to this committee are summarised in table 6 below.

Table 6: Summary of savings relevant to this committee

Proposal	£000
Enhanced specialist enforcement of environmental street scene crime	(150)
Additional external income for CCTV	(30)
Local Support Payments - bringing the service in-house and reducing administration costs	(150)
Total savings	(330)

Fees and Charges

19. Charges governed by statute are set in accordance with those requirements and not varied in accordance with inflation. For non-statutory fees and charges levied by the council, it is recommended that:

- They are frozen for Adult Social Care, Children’s Services and Housing in line with administration policy.
- Commercial services that are charged on a for-profit basis, will be reviewed on an ongoing basis in response to market conditions and changed as appropriate, with due authorisations according to the Council constitution.
- Parking charges and fines are to be set in line with transport policy objectives and not considered as part of the budget process.
- A standard uplift of 1.7% is applied for other non-commercial and non-parking fees, as per September 2024 CPI.

Exceptions to these assumptions are set out in Appendix 4.

Equalities Implications

20. Each budget proposal has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) review. These are attached in Appendix 3. A consolidated EQIA report will be presented to Budget Council in February 2025.

Comments of the Executive Director of Place and the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services on the 2025/26 Budget Proposals

21. The Place Department is responsible for the delivery of a wide range of universal services to the residents of Hammersmith & Fulham, including the following services that are relevant to this Policy and Accountability Committee: Community

Safety, Environmental Health and Regulatory Services, Building Control, and Technical Support.

22. The Place Department continues to review and challenge current service delivery models and budgets, to ensure that services are effective and efficient, and reflect the Council’s priorities. Some notable examples are highlighted below:

- Optimising commercialisation. Targeting £20m in commercial income across the department through robust contract management, a focussed review of fees and charges, and maximisation of developer contributions.
- Optimising commissioning. Actively working with the Council’s Contract Assurance Board to reprocure and embed external service contracts.
- Continuing our programmes of service improvement. For example, restructuring the department to make it better equipped to deliver the Council’s priorities; and pushing ahead with the department’s three major transformation programmes (commercialisation, digitalisation, and business development).

23. The Finance and Corporate Services Department also includes a wide range of universal services to the residents of Hammersmith & Fulham, including the following services that are relevant to this Policy and Accountability Committee:

- The Third Sector Investment Fund includes £3.9m to be invested in third sector providers through the main programme, that awards grants over multiple years, and the small one-off grants programme.
- The Government’s Household Support Fund is administered via the Policy Team and funds programmes across the Council. The final allocation for 2025/26 is yet to be announced.
- The Council’s Local Support Payments scheme, designed to help residents facing emergencies or crises. This service is currently administered by The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and a saving of £150,000 is included in the 2025/26 budget to be delivered by bringing this service in-house and reducing administration costs.
- The Council’s Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team sits in the People and Talent directorate, and advises services across the Council.

24. The 2025/26 revenue budget for services relevant to this Committee is summarised by portfolio in the table below.

Table 7 – Change in Controllable Revenue Budget from 2024/25

Department	2024/25 Budget	Growth	Savings	Inflation	2025/26 Budget
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Place	6.8	3.3	(0.2)	0	9.9

Finance & Corporate Services	3.4	0.1	(0.1)	0.1	3.4
Total Social Inclusion and Community Safety	10.2	3.4	(0.3)	0.1	13.4

25. The net controllable budget is £13.4m and will ensure the continued investment of resources in key services for residents. In particular, the following matters should be noted:

26. The budget for 2025/26 provides for additional ongoing investment of £3.449m in the services covered by this Committee as follows:

- Investing in the prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The H&F VAWG Strategy aims to end this type of crime through a coordinated community response. Working with a number of other organisations, it aims to address the wider context within which violence against women and girls happens. It is estimated that 23,285 women in H&F have experienced domestic abuse at some point in their life; 2,983 women living in H&F have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM); and 15,523 women in H&F have experienced stalking or harassment. Every year H&F VAWG services receive around 800 referrals for women living in the borough who have experienced VAWG, including women with mental health issues, disabilities and those with no recourse to public funds and nowhere else to turn for support. The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference deems that approximately half of the cases (around 400 residents) are high risk of death or serious injury, with 80% (320) of these residents having children.

The objectives of the H&F VAWG Strategy are to prevent VAWG, support survivors, hold abusers to account, and collaborate to make change. Since the establishment of the VAWG Strategic Board and publication of the new VAWG Strategy, the partnership has made significant progress in enhancing its response to these crimes. The H&F Specialist Domestic Abuse Court (SDAC) is recognised as a best practice model and acted as a mentor court in a national review of domestic abuse courts across the country (two year programme). In July 2024 H&F became the first UK Council to prohibit street harassment, introducing a borough wide street harassment Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). This was launched with the Friends of Shepherds Bush Green as a community influencer initiative. The H&F Law Enforcement Team have received specialist training in this area to ensure that robust enforcement action is taken against offenders.

The Council is determined to end violence against women and girls, and the budget for 2025/26 provides for £250,000 of new ongoing investment to strengthen that determination. This investment will safeguard the funding for a range of specialist providers and ensure the continued delivery of the H&F VAWG service, the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, Specialist Domestic Abuse Court, and Refuge service.

- Investing in the Law Enforcement Team (LET) and Gangs Unit

The H&F LET seeks to drive down environmental crime and anti-social behaviour to help keep H&F's residents and visitors safe. In 2024 alone the team of 72 uniformed officers carried out 107,000 investigations and patrols, 4,461 weapon sweeps, and issued 2,270 fines. The first-of-its-kind H&F Gangs Unit includes council professionals and council funded police officers, working together to tackle gang crime and support vulnerable young people, their families and communities. On average 36 young people are open to the Gangs Violence and Exploitation service every month.

Since the LET and Gangs Unit were established in 2021 antisocial behaviour reports to the Police in H&F have reduced by 22%.

Since their establishment these services have been funded from developer contributions. To safeguard the ongoing investment in these services, the budget for 2025/26 provides for £3.075m of ongoing funding. The current reliance on external funding is therefore removed, which can then be repurposed to support other Council priorities.

- Investing in the H&F Digital Inclusion Strategy

The H&F Digital Inclusion Strategy aims to address the barriers arising from digital advancements that may impact residents' lives and service delivery (such as lack of access to digital connectivity, devices and skills). The strategy has been co-produced with residents, the voluntary and community sector, and other stakeholders to ensure that the needs of residents and services are effectively captured. It drives a coordinated approach to the existing programs and activities across the Council and voluntary community sector in this area, and sets out priority areas of activity with key actions and objectives. It is an enabling strategy, which unlocks transformative change both within the council and across the borough.

The budget for 2025/26 provides for £124,000 of funding to further develop and deliver the H&F Digital Inclusion Strategy, including investment in reducing resident vulnerability to cyber security and enhancing corporate anti-fraud. This investment will fund a Programme Manager to lead and work with residents on the co-production of the delivery and continued development of the strategy. It will also fund digital inclusion activities such as voluntary and community sector engagement, focus groups, events, and participation in partnership opportunities.

27. Contract inflation on externally provided services has been allowed for in the budget based on a minimum of 2.5% (£1.3m in total), although it should be noted that inflation continues to be high. As such, some services relevant to this PAC are currently facing financial challenges relating to national inflationary pressures, particularly where contracts are provided by small businesses or charities. National public finance pressures may also impact specific grant funded services. Budget managers are continuing to work with contractors and funders to manage

within existing budget, and to maximise external grant funding where possible. It is expected that these risks will continue to have an impact on the budget in 2025/26. The staffing budget for 2025/26 has also been uplifted by 2% for inflation.

28. The budget for 2025/26 also targets £330,000 of new savings, to be delivered from maximising external income, reducing back office administration costs, and tackling environmental street crime to reduce the cost of keeping the borough clean.
29. Services in this portfolio provide an extensive range of chargeable services to local businesses and residents. It is proposed to apply the recommended Council inflationary uplift of up to 1.7% on fees and charges from April 2025, with the exception of the fees and charges set out in Appendix 4. Statutory charges which the department cannot influence, will be set according to the relevant statute. Where proposed changes require consultation under statute, this will be undertaken as necessary.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext. of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	None		

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Savings and Investment proposals

Appendix 2 – Service Risks

Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessments for Savings and Investments

Appendix 4 – Fees and Charges

Place Department Investment and Savings relevant to this PAC

Investment, Demand and Demographic Growth			Budget Change			
Ref Nos	Service	Summary	2025-26 Budget Change Cumulative (£000's)	2026-27 Budget Change Cumulative (£000's)	2027-28 Budget Change Cumulative (£000's)	2028-29 Budget Change Cumulative (£000's)
1	Community Safety	New investment in prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls	250	250	250	250
2	Community Safety	Continued investment in the Law Enforcement and Gangs teams	3,075	3,075	3,075	3,075
3	Resident Services	Enhancing corporate and resident anti-fraud measures through the Digital Inclusion Strategy	124	124	124	124
Total Investment, Demand and Demographic Growth Proposals			3,449	3,449	3,449	3,449

Change and Savings Proposals			Budget Change			
Ref Nos	Service	Summary	2025-26 Budget Change Cumulative (£000's)	2026-27 Budget Change Cumulative (£000's)	2027-28 Budget Change Cumulative (£000's)	2028-29 Budget Change Cumulative (£000's)
4	Community Safety	Enhanced specialist enforcement of environmental street scene crime	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)
5	Community Safety	Additional external income for CCTV	(30)	(30)	(30)	(30)
6	Resident Services	Local Support Payments - bringing the service in-house and reducing administration costs	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)
Total Change and Savings Proposals			(330)	(330)	(330)	(330)

The Place Department Risks/Challenges Relevant To This PAC

Appendix 2

	Department & Division	Short Description of Risk	Mitigation
1	All divisions	Significant national inflationary pressures impacting on service spend and current service contracts (such as rising energy, fuel and materials costs)	Continue to work with service contractors to manage within existing budgets
2	All divisions	Potential national public finance pressures impacting specific grant funded services (such as Central Government grants for Community Safety)	Plan for projects that can be scaled to match funding as far as possible
3	All divisions	Ongoing pressure and challenges to secure funding for the H&F Plan objectives	Continue to explore funding opportunities, both internally and externally to the council. Manage within existing resources as far as possible

Budget 2025/26 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

Place Investment and Growth Proposals relevant to this PAC

New investment in prevention of Violence Against Women & Girls - £250,000

1. This additional ongoing investment will enhance the support provided to victims, and those at risk of becoming victims, of violent crime (particularly women and girls), and the prevention of this type of crime. The service is specifically designed to be inclusive of all women, including transgender women, and non-binary individuals. It therefore has a positive impact on groups that share protected characteristics (and particularly on age, sex and gender reassignment).

Continued investment in the Law Enforcement and Gangs teams - £3.075m

2. This additional ongoing investment will ensure the continuation of the Law Enforcement and Gangs teams, whose purpose is to improve safety and the feeling of safety, and prevent crime across the borough. Although the Law Enforcement Team is a universal service, there to protect all residents, businesses and visitors to the borough, it is believed that this additional ongoing investment has a positive impact on groups that share protected characteristics. Particularly those groups that are at greater risk of becoming victims of crime (such as women and girls) or those that are disproportionately disadvantaged by obstructions on the highway (such as those with mobility issues). The continued investment in the Gangs team is also believed to have a positive impact on those with protected characteristics, such as age, given the focussed work the service does with children and young people.

Enhancing corporate and resident anti-fraud measures through the Digital Inclusion Strategy - £124,000

3. Resources are required to implement the Digital Inclusion Strategy for the borough. The Strategy vision is for Hammersmith and Fulham to be a more digitally inclusive borough by 2025 (aligned with the Greater London Authority); a place where residents have access to the digital skills, devices and support they need to achieve their aspirations. The proposal is for a digital inclusion programme manager and resource budget to be allocated to ensure the ambitions set out in the strategy are delivered. There are no direct negative equality implications for groups with protected characteristics, under the Equality Act 2010. The implementation of the strategy Individual actions as part of the digital inclusion programme will be evaluated appropriately prior to delivery, however the overall impact on equalities is expected to be positive.

Place Savings Proposals relevant to this PAC

Enhanced specialist enforcement of environmental street scene crime - £150,000

4. The purpose of this specialist service is to improve street cleanliness and reduce health and safety risks relating to environmental street crime (such as flytipping, littering and obstructions on the public highway). Although this is a universal service, there to protect all residents, businesses and visitors to the borough, it is believed that this has a positive

impact on groups that share protected characteristics. Particularly those groups that are disproportionately disadvantaged from obstructions on the highway (such as those with mobility issues). An equalities impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the options appraisal and decision process.

Additional external income for CCTV - £30,000

5. This budgetary saving is to be delivered through new external funding, with no impact on the current service delivery model. It is believed that this proposal has a neutral impact on groups that share protected characteristics as there are no planned service changes, and this service is provided to all residents, businesses and visitors.

Local Support Payments - bringing the service in-house and reducing administration costs - £150,000

6. The proposal is based on the reduction of administration costs in delivering the Local Support Payments scheme by bringing it in-house. Legal implications of bringing the service in-house are currently being investigated. This cannot currently be confirmed and if this is not achievable the budget will need to be supplemented by the Household Support Fund (HSF). This proposal will have a neutral impact on groups that share protected characteristics as the mitigation proposed will ensure that the value of awards are maintained. There is a dependency on HSF round 7 to achieve this.

Public Protection Fees & Charges Proposals 2025/26

Fee Description	2024/25 Charge (£)	2025/26 Charge (£)	Proposed Variation (£)
ANIMAL LICENCES (Fees Set by City of London)			
Animal Boarding Establishments dogs & cats (NEW LICENCE)			
PART A - Application fee	£698.40	£977.40	£279.00
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£893.90	£1,176.20	£282.30
Animal Boarding Establishments dogs & cats (LICENCE RENEWAL)			
Part A - Application fee	£616.60	£904.20	£287.60
Part B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£812.10	£1,103.02	£290.92
Dog breeding kennels (NEW LICENCE)			
PART A - Application fee	£873.40	£1,111.80	£238.40
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£1,068.90	£1,310.62	£241.72
Dog breeding kennels (LICENCE RENEWAL)			
PART A - Application fee	£709.60	£977.40	£267.80
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£905.10	£1,176.20	£271.10
Dog breeding - Domestic (NEW LICENCE)			
PART A - Application fee	£703.40	£927.00	£223.60
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£898.90	£1,125.82	£226.92
Dog breeding - Domestic (LICENCE RENEWAL)			
PART A - Application fee	£585.60	£831.00	£245.40
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£781.10	£1,029.82	£248.72
Dangerous Wild Animals (NEW LICENCE - Commercial)			
PART A - Application fee	£902.40	£819.00	-£83.40
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£1,097.90	£1,017.82	-£80.08
Dangerous Wild Animals (LICENCE RENEWAL - Commercial)			
PART A - Application fee	£710.60	£634.20	-£76.40
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£906.10	£833.02	-£73.08
Dangerous Wild Animals (NEW LICENCE - Domestic)			
PART A - Application fee	£769.40	£634.20	-£135.20
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£964.90	£833.02	-£131.88
Dangerous Wild Animals (LICENCE RENEWAL - Domestic)			
PART A - Application fee	£623.60	£541.80	-£81.80
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£819.10	£740.62	-£78.48
Performing Animals (NEW LICENCE)			
PART A - Application fee	£667.40	£757.80	£90.40
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)			
Application Total	£667.40	£757.80	£90.40
Performing Animals (LICENCE RENEWAL)			
PART A - Application fee only required	£524.60	£611.40	£86.80
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)			

Public Protection Fees & Charges Proposals 2025/26

Fee Description	2024/25 Charge (£)	2025/26 Charge (£)	Proposed Variation (£)
Application Total	£524.60	£611.40	£86.80
Pet Sales (NEW LICENCE)			
PART A - Application fee	£854.40	£1,123.80	£269.40
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£1,049.90	£1,322.62	£272.72
Pet Sales (LICENCE RENEWAL)			
PART A - Application fee	£709.60	£904.20	£194.60
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£905.10	£1,103.02	£197.92
Riding Establishments (LICENCE RENEWAL) based on 15 - 29 horses			
PART A - Application fee	£1,460.60	£2,566.20	£1,105.60
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application Total	£1,656.10	£2,765.00	£1,108.90
Home Boarders/daycare (NEW LICENCE) Up to 6 dogs			
PART A - Application fee	£574.40	£831.00	£256.60
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application total	£600.30	£1,029.80	£429.50
Home Boarders/daycare (LICENCE RENEWAL) Up to 6 dogs			
PART A - Application fee	£491.60	£757.80	£266.20
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application total	£687.10	£956.62	£269.52
Dog Day Care (NEW LICENCE) More than 10 dogs			
PART A - Application fee	£636.40	£1,046.60	£410.20
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application total	£831.90	£1,245.42	£413.52
Dog Day Care (LICENCE RENEWAL) More than 10 dogs			
PART A - Application fee	£554.60	£904.20	£349.60
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application total	£750.10	£1,103.02	£352.92
Franchisee Arranger (NEW LICENCE)			
PART A - Application fee	£570.40	£831.00	£260.60
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application total	£765.90	£1,029.82	£263.92
Franchisee Arranger (LICENCE RENEWAL)			
PART A - Application fee	£491.60	£757.80	£266.20
PART B - Ongoing costs (visits, enforcement etc)	£195.50	£198.82	£3.32
Application total	£687.10	£956.62	£269.52
Hobbyist Host			
Inspection fee	£187.00	£292.80	£105.80

Public Protection Fees & Charges Proposals 2025/26

Fee Description	2024/25 Charge (£)	2025/26 Charge (£)	Proposed Variation (£)
FOOD HYGIENE TRAINING			
<i>Discounts apply on the following rates for charities</i>			
Introductory -Level 1 (half day course)	N/A	£200.00	New Charge
Foundation (Food Hygiene Level 2) full day	N/A	£400.00	New Charge
Intermediate Food Hygiene Level (3 days)	N/A	£1,200.00	New Charge
<i>All above fees attract additional charge per candidate for supplies (exam paper, course books, course materials etc.)</i>			
PEST CONTROL (Including VAT)			
Mice and Rats			
For up to 3 visits for mice	£151.60	£170.00	£18.40
For each additional visit required	£47.10	£50.00	£2.90
Fleas			
1 visit for fleas; maximum of 3 rooms (additional rooms £15 each)	£137.20	£150.00	£12.80
Wasps			
1 visit for wasps	£82.60	£90.00	£7.40
Bedbugs			
2 visit for bedbug treatments; maximum of two bedrooms (additional rooms £26 each)	£271.20	£300.00	£28.80
For each additional visit required	£132.20	£150.00	£17.80
Cockroaches			
Up to 3 visits for cockroaches	£181.60	£200.00	£18.40
For each additional visit required	£57.10	£60.00	£2.90
Tropical ants			
Up to 2 visits	£147.80	£160.00	£12.20
For each additional visit required	£59.00	£70.00	£11.00
Garden ants			
1 visit for up to 4 rooms	£57.50	£70.00	£12.50
Other pests			
Other pests - Includes squirrels, common clothes moths, etc.	POA	POA	N/A
Commercial Charge - up to 1 hour	£146.50	£160.00	£13.50
Commercial Charge - per 30 minutes after first hour	£73.90	£80.00	£6.10
FIXED PENALTY NOTICES			
50% discount on the following rates for prompt payment (within 14 days)			
Fixed Penalty Notices (Fly-tipping)	£1,000	£1,000	£0
Fixed Penalty Notices (Littering)	£150	£250	£100
Fixed Penalty Notices (Graffiti)	£100	£500	£400
Fixed Penalty Notices (Household Duty of Care)	£400	£600	£200
40% discount on the following rates for prompt payment (within 14 days)			
Fixed Penalty Notices (Street trading contravention of conditions).	£100	£150	£50
No legislative discount permitted on the following rates for prompt payment			
Fixed Penalty Notices (Commercial waste receptacle breach)	£110	£150	£40
Fixed Penalty Notices (Repairing vehicles on road)	£100	£150	£50
Fixed Penalty Notices (2 or more vehicles for sale)	£100	£150	£50