



Matthew Barber
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
The Farmhouse, Thames Valley Police HQ
Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 2NX

01865 541957
pcc@thamesvalley.police.uk
www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk

Stephen Brown
Chief Executive
Slough Borough Council

By Email

25th January 2023

Dear Stephen,

It was good to see you at Arbour Park earlier this month. I look forward to continuing the close working relationship between Slough BC, Thames Valley Police and my office and hope we can finalise a date soon to meet and discuss in more detail.

I am writing in relation to the forthcoming decision by the council on the future of CCTV in the Borough. I am well aware of the financial challenges facing Slough BC and in the public interest will continue to work constructively to support the council wherever possible. As I have set out publicly I hope to establish a Thames Valley-wide CCTV partnership which will see financial contributions from both the police and local authorities in order to provide a greater level of public protection. It is clear however that the timing of the proposal for Slough Borough Council to discontinue the current CCTV system at the end of March is driven entirely by the financial problems within the council.

Your officers have been good enough to share the draft Cabinet report with my office and Thames Valley Police in order to finalise a workable proposal. I would reiterate the point that I made during a meeting with Slough Council officers on 18th November last year that the earliest Thames Valley Police would be looking to take on responsibility for CCTV in Slough is 1st January 2024. This would allow for the necessary procurement and preparation of control rooms.

Therefore I would restate my strong preference would be for Slough Borough Council to continue providing the much needed CCTV in Slough on the current basis until 1st January 2024. This will allow TVP to properly transfer to a new system and monitoring arrangements.

I need not stress how important the provision of CCTV is to public safety and how vital a tool it can be to the police in deterring and detecting violent and acquisitive crime.

If the Cabinet feel that they cannot prioritise funding for this important contribution to community safety within Slough then I would consider a request from the Council to allow funding provided by my office through the Community Safety Fund to be used to support the continuation of CCTV by Slough Borough Council until Thames Valley Police are in a position to move to a new system from 1st January 2024.

I would not welcome the transfer of the existing system before this date as it would be driven by the council's financial considerations, rather than the best interests of delivering a stable transfer to a new system and control room. If this situation were to arise, obviously my office and the Force would make every effort to ensure the continued provision of CCTV within Slough, although where this may incur additional costs I may have to review the allocation monies from the Community Safety Fund for the year 2023/24.

I am pleased that in addition to work on CCTV and the Knife Angel, we have also been successful in securing additional funding from the Home Office to support Slough Children First to play their part in Operation Deter. As ever I am happy to discuss our continued work together to make Slough a safer place to live.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Barber', is positioned above the printed name.

Matthew Barber
Police & Crime Commissioner