

(JS) Jeremy Stern	Lay Member
(CM) Claire Morris	Lay Member
Akash Rushana	Lay Member

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Introductions were made, including Lana from the youth participation team, who would later provide an update on a funded youth project. The Chair confirmed the agenda would be followed as published.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Claire Morris, Jeremy Stern, Colleen Sullivan, and Akash Rutari, who were unable to attend.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The previous minutes had been circulated in advance. No matters were raised outside the agenda, and the minutes were approved.

Chair's Quarterly Report

The Chair explained that illness had delayed circulation of the final version of the quarterly report but confirmed this would be shared shortly. Members were encouraged to review the SNB Terms of Reference, which have not been updated since 2018. A letter from Commander Nirav Patel had been shared with ward panel chairs, and efforts are ongoing to obtain a complete list of panel contacts. Update on the London Chairs' Panel (LCP2): discussions with senior Met officers are focused on improving ward panel engagement and reducing Mopac's scrutiny burden. The next LCP2 meeting will take place in January at New Scotland Yard, with feedback to follow in March.

Vice Chair Update: Met CC Forum

The Vice Chair reported on the November meeting with the Met Command & Control Forum. Key issues included poor visibility of data, unreadable presentation slides for online attendees, and borough-level statistics not being provided. Recruitment and retention challenges in call centres were highlighted, alongside frequent changes in senior leadership and training systems. Risk of strike action among police staff was noted, which could impact call handling; contingency plans involve redeploying officers. The group agreed that clearer performance data for Hillingdon should be sought before the next meeting.

Police Quarterly Performance and Stop & Search

The Met Police provided a comprehensive update on operational pressures and crime trends: immigration hotel protests, budget constraints, court backlogs, and Heathrow-related crime continue to drive demand. Robbery has risen in the last four weeks but remains lower year-on-year; burglary is down; vehicle crime fluctuates; hate crime has decreased recently but is higher than last year; shoplifting detection rates are around 20%. Stop & Search: There were 3,200 stops in the past 12 months, with a positive outcome rate of 37%, significantly above the previous 20% aspiration. Body-worn video compliance is monitored regularly. Concerns were raised about the lack of advance access to performance data, which limits meaningful discussion. The Chair will raise this issue with the Met.

MOPAC Funding and Finance Update

The Chair reminded members that all allocated funds must be spent by 31 March 2026. YMCA reported strong engagement in youth sessions, with positive impacts on reducing antisocial behaviour and no safeguarding concerns. Lana and Ash from the Youth Council outlined progress on their crime and safety project. Following consultation, the project will focus on producing a youth-led animated video for professionals, supported by a borough-wide youth survey launching in January. Funding will be committed before year-end, with a clear audit trail.

Membership

The Chair noted ongoing challenges in recruiting new members. Despite applications, attendance remains poor, and engagement strategies will need review.

Neighbourhood Watch Update

Neighbourhood Watch membership continues to grow, with 7.4% of residents signed up and Met Engage reaching approximately 9,600 members. Benchmarking shows Hillingdon performing above London and BCU averages. Recruitment is supported through events and local media. Concerns were raised about crime reporting processes, particularly the perception of premature case closures; this will be reviewed with the Met.

Ward Panels and Letter to LCPF Chair

Discussion focused on the declining effectiveness of ward panels, with issues including poor communication, difficulty recruiting chairs, and inconsistent police attendance. The Chair will seek a full list of active panels and contacts and explore reform options with the Met.

Councillors Update

No updates were provided by councillors.

Age UK Update

Age UK reported that it is now delivering borough-wide advice services under a new contract, which includes responsibilities beyond older people. Safeguarding issues remain minimal, but funding constraints continue to pose challenges.

Hillingdon Youth Council

Covered under the MOPAC update, with emphasis on youth-led engagement and project delivery. HL requested a copy of the report to be sent to her for circulation.

Any Other Business

Concerns were raised about CCTV coverage; the constraints and licensing requirements was explained. A query was raised regarding the Met's IT system (Connect); while challenges remain, improvements are ongoing. The Chair highlighted a misleading local press report claiming Hillingdon has the second-highest crime rate nationally. A corrective response was sent to the editor, but no acknowledgment has been received.

Next Meeting

Date: 17 March 2026 | Location: Committee Room 3, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Hillingdon.