

**Council 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Opposition Motion in the name of Cllr Jennifer Grocock**

**Barnet and London deserve better than its current Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.**

**Council notes that:**

- Since being elected to the position, the current London Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) has overseen some of the worst periods of crime in London over the last 10 years.
- The PFCC published a press release which some might say misled the public by claiming that knife and gun crime, homicides and burglaries have fallen under his tenure, this was rebuked by the director-general at the Office for Statistics Regulation (a common occurrence for this PFCC) who found that the statement was misleading.
- ONS figures show that within this period, knife crime across London has increased by 40%.
- Between 2016 and 2019/20 the crime rate in the UK capital increased in every reporting year, with the sudden drop seen in the 2019/20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing a sharp reduction in certain types of crime such as robbery and theft.
- In Barnet, we've seen anti-social behaviour getting worse, bike theft getting worse, drug use, theft and burglary all getting worse with many cases unresolved.
- Funding for Police in England and Wales has increased in real terms every single year since 2016, with the funding for the financial years ending in March 2024 being £17.6billion.
- This time last year, the PFCC announced a 5.4% increase to the police precept in his tax which aimed to raise an **additional** £29.3 million for the Met's budget.
- The 2024/2025 budget will further see an increase of £54.8 million into MOPAC.
- The PFCC has not been able to hire enough officers, with London the only place in England and Wales not to hire enough therefore having to return c.£60 million to the Government.
- The installation of bleed-stopping kits across London is an indication of how bad things have become.

**Council resolves to:**

- To write to London's PFCC requesting a review on the allocation of Officers for Barnet and the North West London BCU and to increase the number of Officers allocated to Barnet.
- To write to our MPs and Assembly Members to encourage them to push for more officers alongside any increase in taxation of Londoners.
- To launch a knife amnesty across the borough alongside the police allowing those carrying knives to hand them in.