

**AT THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS
POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD AT THE CIVIC
CENTRE, WOLVERHAMPTON ON MONDAY 24
JUNE 2013 AT 1400 HOURS**

PRESENT:-

Birmingham

Councillor Deirdre Alden
Councillor Jess Phillips
Councillor Paula Smith

Coventry

Councillor Ann Lucas

Dudley

Councillor D Tyler

Sandwell

Councillor D Hosell
Councillor Julie Webb (Alternate)

Solihull

Councillor D Jamieson
Councillor K Meeson

Wolverhampton

Councillor E Mattu

Co-opted Independent Members

Mr N Drew
Mr L Walker

ALSO PRESENT:-

Bob Jones, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
Mike Williams, Treasurer, West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime
Inspector Paul Ditta, West Midlands Police

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Nominations were invited by John Polychronakis (Lead Chief Executive) for the position of Chair of the Panel.

It was moved, seconded and

41

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Darren Cooper (Sandwell) be appointed Chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the period ending with the Annual Meeting in 2014.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Nominations were invited by John Polychronakis (Lead Chief Executive) for the position of Vice Chair of the Panel.

It was moved, seconded and

42

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Jess Phillips (Birmingham) be appointed Vice Chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the period ending with the Annual Meeting in 2014.

Councillor Jess Phillips in the Chair.

43

APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of the following: -

Councillor Z Ali – Walsall
Councillor Safeena Arshad - Dudley
Councillor M Bird - Walsall
Councillor D Cooper – Sandwell
Councillor S Coughlan - Walsall
Councillor M Whitby - Birmingham

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

44

Councillor Jess Phillips declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Manager, Victim Services, Sandwell Women's Aid.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2013/14

The following report of the Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

It was confirmed that the named substitutes for Councillors Ann Lucas and Dave Tyler were Councillors Sucha Bains and Derrick Hemingsley respectively.

RESOLVED:-

- 45 That appointments to the Panel by the West Midlands Local Authorities and the West Midlands Joint Committee for the 2013/14 Municipal Year be noted.
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MINUTES

- 46 The Minutes of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 18 March 2013, having been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Panel was advised that no written questions from members of the public had been received. However, Hubert Taylor, who had submitted questions seeking clarification of BME issues to the last Panel meeting on 18 March 2013 via social media, had received a response from the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime, but had asked for a formal response from the Panel.

47 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Chair respond to the questions raised by Hubert Taylor on behalf of the Panel.

PANEL SCRUTINY OF THE PCC'S ROLE IN SAFER TRAVEL IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

The following programme and background papers for the session were submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

In addition to Bob Jones, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, the following representatives of the Safer Travel Partnership attended the meeting:-

Mark Babington, Safer Travel Manager
Inspector Lee Gordon, British Transport Police
Superintendent Allan Gregory, British Transport Police
Peter Coates, National Express
Gordon Frost, Area Business Manager, Arriva Midlands Limited

During discussion of the draft Local Transport Policing Plan, the following principal points were made by Panel members:-

- There was only limited focus on victims, and it was suggested that all victims of crime on public transport should be directed towards appropriate victim support.
- The re-introduction of conductors on some bus routes would improve passenger perceptions of safety. Whilst it was recognised that there would be a cost implication for operators, this might be offset by revenue from increased passenger numbers.

- It was important that passengers received adequate feedback on reported incidents, not simply an automated acknowledgement.

During questioning by Panel members, the following points emerged:-

- 81% of victims of crime on buses were aged 13-21 years, and young people were also the main cause of anti-social behaviour and low level nuisance on public transport. The Safer Travel Partnership therefore recognised the importance of engagement with young people, and was working extensively in education, using Youth Councils as a sounding board. As a result of their input, passengers were now able to report concerns through the “See something, say something” initiative using a smartphone application launched in February 2013. There was also regular engagement with young perpetrators of crime to carry out some form of restorative justice.
- Although Passenger Champions had been introduced in September 2012, they were not yet representative of the full age spectrum of public transport users.
- Whilst alcohol consumption at bus stations/stops located within an alcohol-free zone was illegal, the consumption of alcohol on buses was not.
- Driver and operative responsibilities with regard to incidents on public transport varied according to the operator. Some operators fitted CCTV in vehicles and provided radios in the driver’s cab so that assistance could be summoned promptly. Others felt that a balance had to be struck with the duty of care owed to their employees, did not fit security equipment in vehicles as standard, and advised operatives not to get involved in any disruptive incidents.
- Practice also varied between operators with regard to driver training on dealing with aggression.

The Chair thanked Safer Travel Partnership representatives for their attendance, and asked for the opportunity to review the final draft Local Transport Policing Plan prior to publication.

48

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the comments and responses in the above preamble be used to inform the Panel’s report to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, and its recommendations taken into account when finalising the joint Local Transport Policing Plan; and
- (ii) that Safer Travel Partnership representatives be invited to give a progress report on implementation of the Plan to the Panel in 12 months’ time.

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER’S ANNUAL REPORT
2012-13**

The following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, presented his report and invited comments on the latest draft.

During discussion, the following principal points were made:-

- There should be greater emphasis on the approach to road policing and road safety.
- Further information on partnership working, with both statutory partners and community-led organisations, should be included.
- There should be further detail on how the learning from the various summits held during the past year would be taken forward.
- The structure and content of future Annual Reports should be simplified.
- The Commissioner's assurances that there were no changes planned to neighbourhood policing were welcomed.

49

RESOLVED:-

That the comments made by the Panel be incorporated into its statutory report and taken into account when finalising the Annual Report for publication.

ROLE AND FUNCTION OF POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS IN WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

The following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, presented the report together with Inspector Paul Ditta. He drew attention to the 2 principal changes arising from the internal force review conducted in autumn 2012 – the extension of powers to address begging, and training on the powers available and using them more proactively.

Inspector Ditta explained that the review had reinforced the view that the primary role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) should remain as reassurance and community engagement. There was a reluctance to extend their enforcement powers, in order to maintain a clear distinction between PCSOs and warranted officers.

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RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND ESTATES STRATEGY

The following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted:-

(See document No.5)

Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, introduced the report, and advised that he had already taken the decision regarding the future of the central Birmingham estate and Walsall Green Lane.

Panel members noted that provision would be made in Lloyd House for a central Birmingham Police Station to replace the current building in Steelhouse Lane, and that the views of partners and the public would be sought on where best to locate re-provision of Aston and Edgbaston Police Stations. With regard to the Walsall Green Lane premises, agreement had been reached with Walsall MBC to provide a co-located police facility accommodating a neighbourhood police base and a fully integrated partnership team in the Council House. This would build on the successful model at the Bluebell Centre, Chelmsley Wood, developed in conjunction with Solihull MBC.

Whilst the Commissioner recognised that there was disappointment at the loss of local police stations, he pointed out that a police presence could be retained in an area at a lower cost through co-location with public sector partners. The Bluebell Centre model had already proved effective, achieving higher levels of reporting of crime and customer satisfaction. The business case for re-provision was robust, and the savings realised through the estates strategy would allow retention of 75-100 police officers.

51

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARDS

The following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted:-

(See document No. 6)

Councillor Meeson reported that he had written to the Chair, Councillor Cooper, suggesting that it might be more appropriate for the relevant Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner to serve on Health and Wellbeing Boards (H & WBBs) in the region, rather than the Local Policing Unit (LPU) Commander. This was based on his belief that the Commissioner commissioned services, not the LPU Commander. The Commissioner pointed out that this was incorrect, and therefore in his view, operational input to H & WBBs through the local LPU Commander was more appropriate. However, if police representation in a governance-oriented role was preferred, he would accommodate the request.

The Commissioner thanked the Panel for its support in gaining police representation on H & WBBs, and asked if representation on the Sandwell H & WBB could be reconsidered. The Panel agreed that the Sandwell Board's Chair write to the Commissioner accordingly.

52

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

The following report of the Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No. 7)

53

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the meeting dates as set out in section 2 of the report be agreed;
 - (ii) that the indicative future work programme be noted; and
 - (iii) that Panel meetings continue to be held throughout the West Midlands, on a rotational basis.
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The meeting ended at 1625 hours.

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CHAIRMAN