Please ask for: Jacky Courtney
Telephone Number: 0121 626 5396
Email: j.courtney@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

Councillor Darren Cooper
Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel
West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Office
Council House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
B1 1BB

12 February 2013

Dear Darren

Thank you for your letter dated 8 February 2013 in which you enclose the report from West Midlands Police and Crime Panel on my proposed precept in accordance with the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2013. I thank the Panel for their support of my proposals. In response to the recommendations that you make I would wish to make the following comments. I have used your numbering for ease of reference.

1. I welcome the Panel's interest in fuller details of the Capital Programme. Working through our respective offices to agree a suitable date, I will provide a report, as requested, on the Capital Programme which will include details of the large capital projects and their supporting business cases.

2. I thank you for your support of the principle that I have adopted to passport back the Community Safety Fund to the seven partnerships that serve the West Midlands. I attach to this letter a copy of the letter which my Chief Financial Officer, Mike Williams, sent through to each of the local authorities with details of my proposed approach to the allocation of funds. I hope this provides the details you require. As to future years, while I cannot guarantee the exact amount of future grants, I will endeavour, where possible, to ensure equality of treatment to all those to whom I make grants. This would be true for monies paid to policing alongside that granted to community safety partnerships.

3. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the balance between precept and grant income in future years. Again I would hope that my offices, working with yours, can build this in to the work programme for the Panel. I would make the observation that the approach taken by the predecessor Authority, which was largely supported by the Leaders of the seven local authorities, made sense up to the point where the Government made 20% cuts to the central government grant with no account taken of the balance to which you refer. You know that I continue to actively campaign for a fairer funding deal for policing in the West Midlands and am grateful for the support I have for this campaign from local authority colleagues.

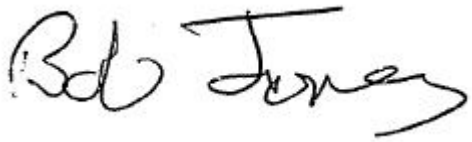
4. I can understand the view expressed by the Panel in respect of the level of reserves. The Report you considered does outline how I intend to reduce these on an 'invest to save' approach over the term of my office. Having considered your recommendation, I remain of the view that I am adopting a prudent approach to their use, bearing in mind the

uncertainties of future funding. However I am exploring the possibility of how I might mitigate the significant reduction that the Government has made to community safety funding. I do believe that, in general, it is not good financial practice to use reserves to address continuing gaps in income and expenditure. However, I am considering how I might use an element of reserves to establish a capital pot against which bids could be made on an 'invest to save' basis. I will provide further details of this once I have taken the appropriate professional advice on how this might be achieved.

5. I assure you that the Partnership Summit would not, and has not, impacted on the level of precept that I propose to raise. In addition, as the sum available to the community safety fund has been set by Government the Summit was also unable to alter the quantum of this funding stream. However I will include a further Report to the Panel's meeting in March on the allocation of community safety funds, including how the work I outline in paragraph 4 above has progressed.

Having now received your support for the precept levels set out in my Report to the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel on 6 February 2013 I intend to take a formal decision on the precept, overall budget and Community Safety Fund allocations on 13 February 2013. I do so to provide certainty to the Chief Constable and partners and also to facilitate the billing process for the precept and Council Tax undertaken by local authority colleagues. I thank them in advance for the work they do in this respect.

Yours



Bob Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner

Please ask for: Mr. D. Giles
Telephone Number: 0121 626 5380

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28th January 2013

Dear Colleagues

Community Safety Fund

I am writing to follow up on my e-mail dated 21st December 2012 and, as I said I would, to share with you my proposals for "passporting"

The Police and Crime Commissioner has given a commitment to passport the CSF to districts / Community Safety Partnerships in 2013/14, subject to the establishment of Local Policing and Crime Boards and has asked me to devise an appropriate formula.

Thank you for returning information on current drugs, crime and community safety funding which will in future be covered by the Community Safety Fund (CSF), the details of which are summarised on the attached ***appendix 1***

The CSF allocation for the West Midlands in 2013/14 is £6,969,000, i.e., 82% of the current funding streams.

I am therefore proposing that the allocations of the CSF for 2013/14 should be proportionate to current funding levels, viz.:-

	BCC	Sandwell	Coventry	W'hampton	Walsall	DMBC	Solihull	Sub-Total	West Mids Police	Total
HO Funding 2012/13 (£)	2,838,552	1,139,025	620,885	559,730	457,111	450,476	324,974	6,390,753	2,066,103	8,456,856
%	34	14	7	7	5	5	4	76	24	100
CSF Allocation 2013/14	2,339,152	938,631	511,650	461,254	376,689	371,222	267,800	5,266,398	1,702,603	6,969,000
%	34	14	7	7	5	5	4	76	24	100

Looking at the total allocations to Districts / CSP's (i.e. excluding allocations to West Midlands Police), the respective allocations would be:-

Lloyd House, Colmore Circus Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6NQ
Tel: 0121 626 6060 Fax: 0121 626 5003 Web: www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk

	£	%
Birmingham	2,339,152	44
Sandwell	938,631	18
Coventry	511,650	10
Wolverhampton	461,254	9
Walsall	376,689	7
Dudley	371,222	7
Solihull	267,800	5
	5,266,398	**100**

These proposals will be included in the PCC's Budget & Precept report which will be considered by the Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on the 6th February, although subject to the Panels deliberations, the final Budget and Precept will not be approved by the PCC until later in February.

In the meantime, it would be very helpful for any comments / feedback on the implications of these proposed allocations. I have also sent copies of this to the Heads of Community Safety for their informarion and comments.

Thanks for your help.

Yours Sincerely,

Mike Williams
Chief Financial Officer to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

Lloyd House, Colmore Circus Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6NQ
Tel: 0121 626 6060 Fax: 0121 626 5003 Web: www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk

Please ask for: Mr. D. Giles
Telephone Number: 0121 626 5380

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4th February 2013

Dear Colleagues

Community Safety Fund

I am writing to correct an error in my letter dated 28th January, which has now come to light. The current funding levels for DIP in Sandwell were overstated and this has now been corrected. The revised figures are set out in the tables below. The proposed allocations would now be 88% of the current funding streams.

	BCC	Sandwell	Coventry	W'hampton	Walsall	DMBC	Solihull	Sub-Total	West Mids Police	Total
HO Funding 2012/13 (£)	2,838,552	602,572	620,885	559,730	457,111	450,476	324,974	5,854,300	2,066,103	7,920,403
%	36	8	8	7	6	6	4	74	26	100
CSF Allocation 2013/14	2,497,583	530,190	546,304	492,495	402,203	396,364	285,938	5,151,077	1,817,923	6,969,000
%	36	8	8	7	6	6	4	74	26	100

Looking at the total allocations to Districts / CSP's (i.e. excluding allocations to West Midlands Police), the respective allocations would be:-

	£	%
Birmingham	2,497,583	48
Sandwell	530,190	10
Coventry	546,304	11
Wolverhampton	492,495	9
Walsall	402,203	8
Dudley	396,364	8
Solihull	285,938	6
	5,151,077	**100**

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I will table amendments to the Budget & Precept report for the Police and Crime Panel meeting on the 6th February. These proposals will also be discussed at the Partnership Summit on Friday, after which the PCC will make final decisions.

My apologies for the initial error, but this has been a difficult exercise.

Yours Sincerely,

Mike Williams
Chief Financial Officer to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

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