

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2015 AT 1400 HOURS, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:-

Cllr Mohammed Arif (Substitute) - Walsall
Cllr Rose Burley – Walsall
Cllr Darren Cooper – Sandwell (Chair)
Cllr Ken Hawkins – Solihull
Cllr Mike Leddy – Birmingham
Cllr Ann Lucas – Coventry
Cllr Elias Mattu - Wolverhampton
Cllr John Rowley – Wolverhampton
Cllr Dave Tyler – Dudley
Cllr Joe Tildesely – Solihull
Cllr Paul Tilsley – Birmingham
Lionel Walker (Independent Member)

ALSO PRESENT:

Sarah Norman - Chief Executive Dudley MBC / Panel Secretary
Emma Williamson – Head of Scrutiny Birmingham/ Panel Lead Officer
David Jamieson – West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
Yvonne Mosquito – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Dave Thompson – Deputy Chief Constable
Jonathan Jardine –Chief Executive, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Kenyon –Chief Finance Officer, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 205 The Chair advised that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

APOLOGIES

- 206 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of the following Panel Members:- Councillors Thompson (Birmingham), Holl-Allen (Solihull) and Nick Drew (Independent Member).

MINUTES

- 207 The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2015, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)

- 209 Cllr Joe Tildesley noted that he had submitted a detailed letter with declarations of interest last year. Those still stood although the issue of the Police Federation and pensions had been resolved.
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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 210 No allowable questions from members of the public were notified to the Panel in advance of the meeting.
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OPERATING MODEL FOR WMP2020 AND ASSOCIATED SAVINGS

- 211 The PCC, Mr David Jamieson and Deputy Chief Constable Dave Thompson presented and answered questions. The WMP2020 vision aims to maintain high quality policing and keep people safe whilst addressing the funding reductions between 2010 and 2020. The total workforce has been reduced by 2000 since 2010. A 40% reduction in funding over that period is expected; they have experienced 23% already and expect another 20% over the next 5 years. In 2010 there were 13,000 staff and officers and the PCC expects this will drop to 8,500 by 2020. Strong representations regarding the new funding formula has ensured that the funding cut is £37 million less than expected. It was noted that changing the way policing is done but that new technology has to be used to meet customers' needs and that new ways to engage with the public will have to be developed.

Responses to Members questions included:

- Work is on-going to improve the programme management in the force (through the Accenture contract) and the quality of business cases to make the changes have improved;
- The contract with Accenture was set up so that do not get paid if they do not deliver;
- Regarding police numbers, work is on-going to ensure that satisfaction remains high and greater use is made of emails and phone calls and making appointments for non-urgent issues, but where people are in need and physically need an office they will get one;
- Work is on-going with the Royal British Legion to ensure the Remembrance Day Parades can go ahead.

Further , with the rationalisation of the Police estate, the PCC was urged to discuss with local authorities and other public sector bodies ways that police stations due to be closed could be developed into multi-use service hubs.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

- 212 The Panel received a letter from Mr Jon Spellar MP regarding neighbourhood policing.

The PCC said the confidence in policing is increasing not decreasing. Burglaries have decreased. The offender programme in the West Midlands has been very successful.

The Deputy Chief Constable noted that the force regards local policing as very important. The public want to know what is going to be different and there is a commitment to making sure that they are told.

RESERVES

- 213 The PCC explained why reserves in West Midlands Police had been built up. This included an underspend when more officers left under A19 (retirement of officers serving over 30 years) than expected. There is an intention to keep reserves for items such as uninsured issues and major incidents Other than that the usable reserves are earmarked to be spent within the WMP2020 change programme.

Members were assured that adequate funds will be within the major incidents budget.

Further information was requested on the amount received for Proceeds of Crime to ensure that the West Midlands receives its fair share. However, the Deputy Chief Constable explained that the funding pays for the assets and confiscation team. But the motivation for the force is not to maximise income, but to focus on the priority criminals.

The figures do not include inflation. The PCC understands that whilst the public may be frustrated by the level of reserves, they need to be spent gradually and the plan is now in place to do that.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PANEL SCRUTINY INQUIRY: PARTNERSHIP WORKING

RESOLVED: -

- 214 To carry out a short inquiry to focus would be on partnership working, in November to report in January.

WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16 AND RECENT DECISIONS BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

- 215 The work programme was agreed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 216 The date of the next meeting is 23 November 2015, 2pm in Coventry.

CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF CONSTABLE

- 197 The PCC corrected an omission from the Independent Member's report. The ethnic origin of the current West Midlands Police Force is white 79% and BME 24%.

Panel Members considered the information provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the candidates' responses to the questions relating to his appointment to the post of Chief Constable and determined that the candidate demonstrated professional competence and personal independence. It was:

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Panel recommends the appointment of ACC Dave Thompson to the post of Chief Constable for West Midlands Police in accordance with Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011; and that
- iii) The Panel write to the Police and Crime Commissioner with its decisions and publishes its report on the Panel's website.

The Chair thanked the PCC and Deputy Chief Constable for attending.

The Meeting ended at 1555 hours

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CHAIR