



Report to the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan:

Your Police, Your Priorities

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report seeks the comments of the Police and Crime Panel on the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan.

BACKGROUND

2. Under section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Commissioner must issue a police and crime plan (the Plan). The Plan is required to cover the:
 - Commissioner's police and crime objectives
 - policing which the Chief Constable is to provide
 - financial and other resources which the Commissioner will provide to the Chief Constable
 - means by which the Chief Constable will report to the Commissioner on the provision of policing
 - means by which the Chief Constable's performance will be measured
 - crime and disorder reduction grants which the Commissioner is to make and the conditions to which such grants are to be made
3. A Plan covers the term of office of a Commissioner and must be published in within the first financial year, although it is possible to vary the Plan during the period. A Commissioner taking office after an election following a vacancy may vary the Plan. Former Commissioner Bob Jones issued a Plan on 28 March 2013 and agreed a variation on 5 March 2014. After taking office in August 2014, Commissioner David Jamieson varied the Plan in February 2015.

4. Before implementing a Plan the Commissioner must:
 - prepare a draft
 - consult the relevant chief constable
 - send the draft to West Midlands Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”)
 - have regard to any report or recommendation by the Panel in relation to the plan
 - give the Panel a response to any report or recommendations, and
 - publish any such response

THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

5. The Commissioner is developing the Plan on a timetable which complements that for the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Commissioner has taken full ownership of the plan and led its development. The Plan will be a public-facing document that West Midlands Police and partners can use as they plan ahead.
6. Attached to this report at **Annex A** is a copy of the proposed Plan.
7. The Plan is informed by a number of strategic themes and new priorities including:
 - **Protecting from harm**
How West Midlands Police will work with partners to reduce harm through intervening and protecting
 - **Supporting victims of crime**
How West Midlands Police and myself will support victims so they can cope and recover from the impact of crime
 - **Building trust and confidence in our police**
How West Midlands Police will ensure that the public has faith in the work it does on their behalf
 - **Strengthening communities and growing the economy**
How West Midlands Police will support communities through local policing, encouraging people to become more active citizens and the key role that policing has to play in the economy
 - **Building a modern police service**
How West Midlands Police will respond to the financial challenges we face and the plans in place to make sure we have a modern and effective workforce
 - **Standing up for young people**

How West Midlands Police and myself will give young people the opportunities they need to contribute to society

- **Tackling national and international threats**

How West Midlands Police will work with partners to fulfil its requirements under the Strategic Policing Requirement, including an increased response to the threat of cyber crime

8. The proposed Plan is to be considered by the Commissioner's Strategic Police and Crime Board at its meeting on 3 October 2016. The Board will be provided with a report on the views of the Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. The Panel is asked to consider the proposed Police and Crime Plan by the Commissioner and to make its comments in respect of the Plan.

The West Midlands Police
and Crime Plan 2016 –
2020

Your Police, Your
Priorities

Foreword from Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson

The Police and Crime Plan is the most important document I will produce during my term in office. This plan pulls together my key aims and aspirations for the region and will be my principal guide when holding the Chief Constable and West Midlands Police to account.

This plan is first and foremost aimed at protecting people from harm and keeping them safe and secure. It also sets out how I aim to continue to build trust and confidence in the force's work, strengthen our communities, support the economy and bring offenders to justice.

This plan builds upon the previous document I published in 2015, updated for the emerging needs of the public and new threats we all face. I have placed a fresh emphasis on standing up for young people and giving them the opportunities they deserve, as well as dedicating a specific section of my plan to supporting victims of crime. Standing-up for victims has always been a priority and I wanted to re-affirm my commitment to them.

The plan is split into seven easy-to-understand sections that reflect my key priorities for the next four years. As well as being a guide for myself, this is a public document that West Midlands Police and partners should use as they plan ahead. I aim for this to be my Policing and Crime Plan until 2020 and as such many of the aims, measures and tasks are longer-term, forward-thinking issues that will require more than a single year to tackle.

Whether you are a police officer, work in the public sector, own a business or are a member of the public, I hope you find my Police and Crime Plan informative and most of all useful.

Introduction by David Jamieson

Since 2010, the force has faced £130 million in cuts - the highest proportion in the whole country – and government funding has been slashed by £2.5million this year too. That has placed huge pressures on the force and the decisions I make to keep the West Midlands safe. Despite these challenges, West Midlands Police has been rated as one of only five outstandingly efficient forces in the country – and I will make sure that money keeps going to where it matters most.

To respond to the budget challenges and increases in demand I cannot continue to lead the force in the same way. That is why in 2014 the WMP2020 partnership with Accenture was initiated to improve how the force works through better technology, new business processes and more effective partnerships. These improvements will help manage demand and make sure staff and officers are focussed on the issues that matter most to the public. Above all else, the service for the people of the West Midlands should improve too.

I will never shy away from meeting the public's needs and concerns. This plan places a strong emphasis on neighbourhood policing, the importance of PCSOs and maintaining strong community contact. As Police and Crime Commissioner, those issues will always be at the heart of my thinking and I will make tough decisions to support those areas.

Crime is changing not falling and the way we respond to the threats we face needs to continue to change too. New priorities have emerged in recent times including cyber crime and previously 'hidden crimes' including domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and modern slavery. I will make sure that West Midlands Police is set up to respond to those threats and interventions take place to reduce the harm people face.

This plan will continue to promote economic development and reducing offending. I am firmly committed to giving young people the opportunities they need and to help those that enter the criminal justice system turn their lives around. That is not woolly sentiment or just well-meaning words, but a hard-headed belief that fewer offenders means fewer victims and a desire to see less money spent on the impact of crime and locking up offenders. Instead, I want to see an effective system and strong society in which those offenders become citizens who actively contribute to our communities.

To deliver that aim I will take a more active role in the criminal justice system and work with partners to ensure these are shared goals.

In my plan there is a reference to 'Craig's Story'. The case study is a real one which highlights how the force and partners need to work differently together to stop harm happening in the future. I hope that Craig's Story will be a firm reminder for us all of the importance of interventions and protections.

I will continue to champion roads policing, road safety and a safer public transport network. Efficient and safe travel links contribute to the economy and are the arteries of business. When there are delays on our motorways, factories don't receive the goods they need, people don't get to work and ultimately we all lose out financially. In addition, far too many people are killed and seriously injured on our roads. Many of those deaths are preventable and I will do all I can to reduce the number of casualties. While consulting on my Police and Crime Plan, the public indicated that they agreed with me and believed this to be an important area I should make one of my priorities.

I hold a strong belief that Police and Crime Commissioners have had a positive impact and become effective voices for the public we serve. I will continue to be a campaigning Commissioner, making sure the public's needs are met and West Midlands Police gets a fair funding deal. I will also continue to support legislative

changes that make the people of the West Midlands safer, such as the ban I achieved in August 2016 on the sale of so-called zombie knives.

Keeping the people of the West Midlands safe and reducing harm will continue to be my overriding aims and I will work hard to deliver them.

Summary:

As Police and Crime Commissioner I am required to produce a Police and Crime Plan containing information on the policing to be provided and my police and crime objectives.

My plan sets out quantitative and qualitative measures, objectives and tasks that I will work with West Midlands Police and partners to achieve over my term of office ending in 2020.

My aims are grouped into seven key themes:

Protecting from harm

How West Midlands Police will work with partners to reduce harm through intervening and protecting

Supporting victims of crime

How West Midlands Police and myself will support victims so they can cope and recover from the impact of crime

Building trust and confidence in our police

How West Midlands Police will ensure that the public has faith in the work it does on their behalf

Strengthening communities and growing the economy

How West Midlands Police will support communities through local policing, encouraging people to become more active citizens and the key role that policing has to play in the economy

Building a modern police service

How West Midlands Police will respond to the financial challenges we face and the plans in place to make sure we have a modern and effective workforce

Standing up for young people

How West Midlands Police and myself will give young people the opportunities they need to contribute to society

Tackling national and international threats

How West Midlands Police will work with partners to fulfil its requirements under the Strategic Policing Requirement, including an increased response to the threat of cyber crime

Policing is complex and becoming even more so, meaning that measuring performance is not a straightforward task. The set of measures used to assess performance therefore needs to be diverse and wide-ranging.

The headline measures and aims in the plan are as follows:

- West Midlands Police to continue to have a lower recorded crime rate compared to other similar forces
- Increased reporting of 'hidden crimes'
- Low levels of reoffending
- Fewer young people entering the criminal justice system
- Reductions in the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads
- Increased confidence in West Midlands Police by 2020
- Reductions in the disparities of confidence in the police across different areas
- Satisfaction of victims of crime and anti-social behaviour to increase by 2020
- Fewer complaints against the police and those that are made should be dealt with quicker
- Reductions in the fear of crime
- Increase in public participation and the development of more active citizens in the West Midlands
- Reductions in burglary and robbery

The plan also sets out many other measures, objectives and tasks that will be delivered by myself and West Midlands Police. The Chief Constable and Chief Executive of the Office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner will be expected to report the progress, primarily via my Strategic Policing and Crime Board, but also other methods.

This plan sets out the resources I will make available to the Chief Constable. In 2016/17 the West Midlands Police budget will be £536 million and 14% of this will come from local Council Tax payers, with the rest from central government grants, reserves and other income. Tax payers in the West Midlands pay the second lowest council tax policing precept in the country.

I will also make Crime and Disorder Grants totalling £11.4 million to address local issues and deliver the aims of my Police and Crime Plan. To support victims of crime, I will continue to work with my Victims' Commission and make funding available based on its priorities.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2016 - 2020 **Your Police, Your Priorities**

Protecting from harm

Reducing crime and harm
Reducing offending and reoffending
Substance misuse - a key element of reducing reoffending
Preventing and detecting 'hidden crimes'
Organised crime and urban street gangs
A safe, secure and efficient road network
Violence Prevention Alliance
Animal crimes

Supporting victims of crime

West Midlands Victims Commission – supporting victims and improving outcomes
Victim-focussed Restorative Justice

Building trust and confidence in our police

Confidence in policing
Satisfaction with service
Accurate recording and increased reporting of crime
Complaints and misconduct
Stop and Search
Access to police services
Effective accountability and governance
Evidence-based policing

Strengthening communities and growing the economy

Perceptions of safety
Local Policing and Crime Boards
Better support for people with mental health needs
Supporting local policing and public engagement
Supporting economic development
Safer Travel
Leading in the criminal justice system
Effective partnerships to tackle crime and reduce harm
Collaboration

Building a modern police service

Budget
Developing a modern workforce and supporting our staff
WMP2020

Standing up for young people

Opportunities for the future
Youth Commissioners and engagement

Tackling national and international threats

Strategic Policing Requirement
West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit
West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit
Cyber crime

Protecting from harm

i. Reducing crime and harm

Protecting people from harm is at the core of policing and is at the forefront of my Police and Crime Plan. Public concern of crime is increasingly shifting from the public space to the people's homes, policing has changed and needs to continue to evolve to reflect that. I want the West Midlands to continue to be a safe place to live, work and visit. That aspiration is critical for all of our communities.

I want West Midlands Police to continue to have the lowest crime rate in comparison to similar forces, and more specifically, I want to see burglary and robbery continue to reduce.

More than one in five recorded crimes are committed against businesses, hurting our economy and the prospects of ordinary people. I will look to continue develop our understanding of business crime, while working with companies and other partners to reduce overall business crime. This is crucial if we are to continue to attract investment into the area and ultimately grow the economy and improve the resilience of our communities.

I will continue to develop a service with intervention and prevention at its heart to reinforce our efforts to stop people becoming perpetrators in the first place and steering repeat offenders away from crime. Fewer perpetrators means fewer victims.

West Midlands Police is active in public service reform and are leading on work to understand the lifelong impacts of 'adverse childhood experiences' and being able to identify the underlying factors behind behaviour that needs support. Work to identify possible early interventions for young people is crucial if we are to reduce harm.

To reduce crime, West Midlands Police should do all it can to take the profit away from criminality. My board and I will explore how the powers contained in the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) are used and crucially how West Midlands Police ensures crime truly does not pay. I will also examine the partnership work going on with other agencies and explore the work of the National Crime Agency and Crown Prosecution Service in relation to POCA. Internationally modern slavery is second only to the drug trade in terms of size. I will ensure that POCA is used effectively to ensure assets related to modern slavery are seized.

West Midlands Police should continue to identify emerging threats and trends to protect the public from harm. My recent successful campaign to ban the sale, import and manufacture of zombie knives is a strong example of a threat that was identified and not allowed to become widespread before strong action was taken. The law regarding zombie knives was strengthened on August 18th and expect West Midlands Police to enforce the new law robustly.

To improve the understanding of harm and help resources be focussed on where they are most needed, I want West Midlands Police to produce a Harm Index that measures crime according to the damage inflicted on victims.

West Midlands Police's Strategic Assessment 2016/17 identified late interventions as a key issue, using the real life example of 'Craig.' It is estimated that in England and Wales [the cost of late intervention is nearly £17 billion per year](#). The largest costs are related to children who are taken into care, the consequences of domestic abuse, and welfare benefits for 18-24 year olds. I will help to embed the philosophy of '[Think Craig](#)' into the organisation so intervention and prevention are at the forefront of the approach. I will also expect West Midlands Police to work closely with partners to encourage that approach too.

Craig's Story:

Violent Offence

At the age of 15, Craig Jones and his friends approached a young man and his girlfriend from behind. In an unprovoked attack the group circled the couple and started to punch the man. When his girlfriend tried to help him she was knocked to the floor. Craig held the man while he was stabbed.

Craig and his friends were arrested. Later Craig was sent to a young offenders' institute for seven years, and he spent three years at a specialist unit before being released.

The Victim

The victim suffered three stab wounds, to his neck, chest and stomach. The injury to his stomach was very deep and he suffered a significant loss of blood. He underwent emergency surgery and was placed in a medically induced coma and sent to the intensive care unit to recover. The victim was lucky to have survived the attack, and although he made an initial recovery from his injuries, he might suffer from further life-changing physical illnesses in the future. Both he and his girlfriend continue to suffer from the emotional trauma of the attack.

Craig's Family

Craig Jones is the second child of Ron and Kate Jones. Ron was 26 when he started a relationship with Kate, who was 14 at the time.

She gave birth to their first child, David, when she was 19, in the same month that Ron started a three month prison sentence. Ron had been committing crime since his teens and was a heroin user. Kate became addicted to drugs.

Craig was born just 14 months after Ron's release from prison. Kate went on to give birth to a further four children; Adam, Kylie, Stacey and Harry; a total of six children in seven years. During this period Ron served four prison sentences for a range of offences including burglary, drugs, fighting, racially motivated criminal damage carrying a weapon, theft, and stealing from a car. Kate gave birth to her fifth child three days after Ron went back to prison; she had four children below the age of six to look after as well as the new baby.

There were multiple instances throughout Craig's childhood when interventions may have reduced harm in future years.

ii. Reducing offending and reoffending

West Midlands Police will continue to protect the public by identifying offenders and intervening to prevent criminality. Managing offenders is critical to reducing crime and I am committed to working with partners to reduce reoffending and support offenders away from criminality. My ambition is to help as many offenders as possible move into work so they become contributors to the economy. I will give offender management close oversight to ensure strong performance.

I will work with Community Rehabilitation Companies, National Probation Service (NPS), Local Authorities and other partners to minimise levels of reoffending within the West Midlands, building on our strong track record in operating statutory and non-statutory arrangements.

My focus on offender management remains a professional approach, based on well-trained staff, understanding what delivers success, and strong partnership networks. To improve outcomes I will further develop our approach to domestic abuse, relationships with Youth Offending Teams and West Midlands Police's contribution to other preventative schemes such as Troubled Families and Early Help.

Women are much more likely to go to prison for the first time offences than men ([with a third of females and only a fifth of males entering custody being first-time offenders](#)) and the impact upon the families they support is much higher too. I will work with partners to reduce reoffending and the number of women going to prison. I will examine how the New Chance programme for female offenders progresses with the view of embedding it further into our approach if it proves successful.

Working with partners I want to increase the consistency of vulnerable people entering diversionary schemes to reduce reoffending and avoid people unnecessarily entering the criminal justice system. I want to ensure that West Midlands Police has a consistent approach to Neighbourhood Justice and where appropriate the Force should use mechanisms such as: out of court disposals, community resolutions and conditional cautions, to ensure that offenders move into rehabilitation rather than a cycle of offending. In particular I want to reduce reoffending by young people and women.

Specifically I will ensure the following tasks are undertaken:

- Developing joint approaches to reducing reoffending through initiatives such as Restorative Justice, where perpetrators make good the effects of their crimes
- Agreeing of joint reoffending strategies between the OPCC, West Midlands Police and partners in the criminal justice system which recognise the multiple factors involved, such as housing, training, education, employment, health, and families, as well as probation, policing and criminal justice
- Ensuring that partnership mechanisms – such as the Local Criminal Justice Partnership and Reducing Reoffending Steering Group – are effective and appropriately supported, including engagement from the OPCC where this adds value
- Reviewing our approach to preventing reoffending by young people, including an evaluation of the existing Prince's Trust programme

- Supporting development of a commissioning process based on reducing reoffending by young people
- Making sure partnership work to reduce alcohol and substance abuse (including Psychoactive Substances) – which are closely linked to reoffending – is effective

I also want to play a greater role in contributing towards reductions in youth offending. I will work with local partners to work towards having greater control over the delivery of youth justice services in order to pool resources, integrate functions and commission services more strategically and effectively.

I will also look to ensure we have an understanding of the relative effectiveness of criminal justice outcomes where, rather than a criminal sanction, offender and victim agree to a non-judicial outcome, such as community resolutions. My work with the magistracy will support this activity.

My objective is to help deliver an efficient criminal justice system with low levels of reoffending in the West Midlands, and I will work with the force and other agencies to deliver that aim.

iii. Substance misuse - a key element of reducing reoffending

Nationally, levels of drug use are high amongst offenders, with highest levels of use found with prolific offenders. A total of 64% of prisoners reported having used drugs in the four weeks before custody and 66% of women and 38% of men in prison report committing offences to get money to buy drugs.

Substance misuse is not just an issue for the police, but for a range of partners as well. It is important that interventions with those on the path to addiction take place at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably well before they come into contact with the criminal justice system. For the large numbers of individuals addicted to drugs both in the community and in prison, supporting them into recovery is invaluable to breaking the cycle of reoffending. A consistent approach to Neighbourhood Justice to divert offenders into rehabilitation schemes could support this work.

I will also work with partners in health and education to raise awareness of the harm caused by substance misuse. My aim is to ensure more people get the support they need for substance misuse and that there is a reduction in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system too. I will actively work with partners to break down barriers and make these shared goals across the public sector and criminal justice system.

To meet the threat and challenge of new psychoactive substances, West Midlands Police should continue to increase its own knowledge and awareness-raising work to protect vulnerable people. The emerging new substances have been overwhelmingly marketed towards young people. Protecting that group from harm must be a priority for West Midlands Police, health and education partners.

Alcohol misuse generates large demand on blue lights services and increases the vulnerability of people becoming victims of crime.

Alcohol is often a major driver of harm which poses particular challenges in city and town centres, both on the street and in licensed premises. West Midlands Police should continue to work in partnership with local authorities to pro-actively contribute to the licensing process and intervene where necessary to help support a safe and successful night-time economy.

Following national best practice, West Midlands Police has undertaken collaborative work with health care providers to deliver medical services within the night time economy environment to reduce demand on both accident and emergency departments and police resources.

In people's homes, domestic abuse and violence is frequently linked with alcohol consumption. Alcohol addiction must be addressed in order to reduce the risk of violent or abusive behaviour.

People are often discouraged from using public transport because of alcohol driven crime, especially during evenings. West Midlands Police should continue to work with the Safer Travel Partnership to reduce the fear of crime and increase safety.

iv. Preventing and detecting 'hidden crimes'

In addition to encouraging more reporting, I will continue to do more with partners to prevent and detect 'hidden crimes', including domestic abuse, child abuse, vulnerable adult abuse, child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour based violence, modern slavery, human trafficking, hate crimes and gender selective abortion. It is clear that public expectations of the role of the police in the regulation of private spaces and individuals' intimate relationships are increasing. Abuse will not be tolerated in private or public spaces. I will also work to understand the implications of new legislation in this area. I will expect the force's knowledge of these 'hidden crimes' to further improve, and that the police and partners will use all the available powers to intervene to protect victims.

In relation to child sexual exploitation and modern slavery, I am committed to ensuring West Midlands Police and partners improve their understanding of the growing issue of 'missing migrant children'.

I have made a huge investment in the force's Public Protection Unit and that focus on intervention, prevention and protection will continue. 'Sentinel' is the force's flagship policy to improve awareness and training for officers and staff, as well as encourage victims to come forward. I will work closely with the Preventing Violence against Vulnerable People programme to ensure it delivers real changes across the public sector to protect victims.

Major strides have been taken to ensure that identifying and responding to 'hidden crimes' is policing staple, with safeguarding part of everyone's everyday business. I will maintain close oversight to ensure that process continues.

West Midlands Police and partners should also continue to publish information on Child Sexual Exploitation to help with transparency, and crucially, continue to bring this hidden crime out into the open.

I want to see increased confidence in the police to deal with 'hidden crimes' reflected by increased reporting.

v. Organised crime and urban street gangs

Organised crime groups and urban street gangs damage the social and economic fabric of our communities via fraud, trafficking and supply of drugs and illicit goods, human trafficking, prostitution, violence, corruption and a range of other serious offences.

I welcome the introduction of the modern slavery legislation which will sharpen our focus on this important economic and social threat. Organised crime happens at different levels, often starting with crimes such as shoplifting, but, at its most serious groups can intimidate and control our neighbourhoods.

I expect West Midlands Police to continue to respond to the threat of organised crime by detecting, disrupting and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Knife and gun crime is a growing issue in the public's mind which needs to be addressed. To respond to the issue I formed the Commission on Gangs and Violence in 2016. I will support the Commission and work with it to support the development and implementation of its recommendations for how we move young people away from violence and into work, education or training. The Commission is community-led and brings in partners from across the public sector. Those partnerships will be key in moving people away from crime and into the productive economy. The police have a role to play in enforcement and partnership working, but the biggest changes will be made by communities themselves. I will support communities to make their own areas safer. As a result of the work done by the Commission, the police, partners and I want to see gang-related offences including gun and knife crime reduce.

To support the work of the Commission on Gangs and Violence I will continue to support the introduction and maintenance of weapon surrender bins across the West Midlands, with the aim of increasing the number of bins and ensuring there is at least one bin in each borough. I will continue to work with West Midlands Police, partners and the community to promote the use of weapon surrender bins. I will also assess the location of the bins to ensure they remain in the best possible place to ensure as many weapons as possible are removed from our streets.

Disrupting the drugs trade is also an important part of my focus on tackling organised crime in the West Midlands. Organised criminals must not be allowed to profit from the misery and desperation of people suffering from addiction. West Midlands Police should focus enforcement efforts in this area against the manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of illegal substances to reduce harm.

vi. A safe, secure and efficient road network

Our roads are the arteries of our economy. Good policing can deny them to criminals, keep them safer for the rest of us and also contribute towards growing the economy, driving investment into the region and creating jobs. I will seek a safe, secure and efficient road network in our area.

Well-ordered roads are central to social and economic wellbeing. The development of travel, especially road travel, facilitates trade and commerce, and supports improving standards of living. A safe and secure road network has socio-economic benefits that are often underestimated. Fewer casualties mean both a reduced human cost and reduced economic impact: national data suggests each fatality on the road costs £1.7 million. The road transport sector within the economy is considerable, not only in quantitative terms (tonnes transported), but also in economic, such as source of wealth, employment and support given to other activities. Roads are the foundation of the business supply chain, linking producers, markets and customers.

Road deaths remain one of the leading causes of death for young adults, with 28% of car drivers killed each year are aged between 20 and 29. Road collisions are the leading cause of death for young adults aged between 15 and 24 and account for a quarter of deaths in the 15 to 19 age group. In the West Midlands region in 2015, 973 people were killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions, up from 950 in 2014.

Nationally, in the year 2015/16, 24,610 people were killed or seriously injured in road collisions. A total of 187,050 casualties in road collisions were reported to the police in 2015/16, and the economic and welfare costs of road collisions alone are estimated at around £16 billion per year.

Most of these deaths and injuries are a consequence of the 'Fatal 4': excess speed, use of mobile phones / electronic devices, failure to wear a seatbelt and drink or drugs.

Where local authority and community support exists, I will encourage the reintroduction of digital road safety cameras across the West Midlands, following the example set in Birmingham and Solihull, which introduced average speed safety cameras in August 2016.

I want to see reductions in the number of people who are killed or seriously injured on the roads through partnership working to reduce the 'Fatal 4.'

Proactive roads policing is an effective means to deny use of the road network to criminals, especially those involved in organised crime.

I will ensure West Midlands Police has sufficient capabilities in place to respond to serious and cross-boundary criminality that utilises the road network. I will maintain close oversight of the current operation of motorway policing in our area - delivered by the collaborative three-force Central Motorway Police Group - to ensure this is an

efficient, effective and sustainable service. Roads policing in the West Midlands force area is also under the command of the Central Motorway Patrol Group.

The Central Motorway Police Group plays a key role in protecting against and detecting hidden crimes, including Child Sexual Exploitation and organised crime which often takes place across force boundaries and is facilitated using the road network.

I will develop a formal collaboration agreement with the Central Motorway Police Group and work with other PCCs to ensure effective roads policing across the wider region.

I held a successful hearing in public into [motorway delays in March 2016](#) that brought agencies such as the police, local authorities and Highways England in front of my Strategic Policing and Crime Board to make sure lessons were learnt and co-ordination would be in place in the future. This approach was novel and the first of its kind in the country. I have had many of the recommendations taken on by the Combined Authority and will be examining the progression of those recommendations.

vii. West Midlands Violence Prevention Alliance

Violence is preventable, but a comprehensive approach requires many organisations such as the police, health and local authorities to work together across traditional boundaries. Launched in 2015, the alliance will continue to use a public health approach to shape the work of police and partners to address the links between deprivation, violence and other forms of crime, using a model developed by the World Health Organisation.

After implementing in 2015/16, the alliance will continue to run an injury surveillance system and share anonymised data between health, police and other partners as part of using data to gain a clearer picture of violence across our communities. It is likely that this will reveal significant underreporting of violent crime. The alliance demonstrates mine and West Midlands Police's commitment to doing our part in addressing problems experienced in our communities earlier, before they may escalate to violence, and supporting communities to be resilient. The alliance will continue to drive a number of initiatives, including supporting schools to train young mentors, basing domestic abuse advocates within health settings supported with funding from myself.

I want to improve our understanding of violence and see interventions that reduce harm in the West Midlands.

viii. Animal cruelty and crimes involving animals

Cruelty to animals, crimes involving animals and animal welfare provoke significant public concern.

I will work with partners to ensure appropriate standards for animal welfare, supporting enforcement activity where necessary. I will give attention to the safeguarding issues arising from the irresponsible ownership of dangerous dogs.

It is also known that animals figure in criminal activity, such as dog fighting and the use of dangerous dogs for assaults. Significant kennelling costs fall on West Midlands Police, for example, and equipping and training officers to deal with dangerous dogs has become a growing concern.

Working with partners, I will explore the evidence of animal cruelty being an indicator of harm and how this can help inform work on intervention and prevention.

I will work to make sure that our approach to criminality involving animals is coherent and effective.

Supporting victims of crime

i. West Midlands Victims Commission – supporting victims and improving outcomes

I have taken on the bulk of responsibility for commissioning emotional and practical support services for victims, building on existing statutory provision by probation providers. These services are on the whole provided by the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

Delivering a comprehensive service to victims across a large geographical area with growing diversity presents significant challenges; not just in terms of coverage but also across the spectrum of victim needs which need to be met.

The Ministry of Justice Victims Services Commissioning Framework recommends that victim commissioning activity covers eight categories of need:

- Mental and physical health
- Drugs and alcohol
- Shelter and accommodation
- Finance and benefits
- Family friends and children
- Outlook and attitudes
- Education skills and employment
- Social interaction

In April 2015 I became responsible for a new victim service, providing support and information to all victims. By ensuring specialist help is provided when needed, these services support victims to cope and recover from the impacts of crime. Delivering a comprehensive service to victims across a populous and diverse area presents significant challenges, not just in terms of overall demand but also the spectrum of victim needs.

As part of my first Victims Strategy, I have worked closely with the voluntary and community sector (VCS), West Midlands Police and partner agencies to create a Victims Commission as the advisory body for specialist victim services. Victims will have support available whether or not they have reported the crime to the police.

The Victims Commission has delivered tangible results such as reducing waiting times for victims of sexual violence, but also has shaped the operational response from West Midlands Police to make sure it puts victims first.

The Commission benefits from external involvement from individuals, groups, organisations and communities. I will ensure there is a wider perspective makes policing at both a strategic and local level more effective and more responsive to community needs.

The Victims Commission will continue to work with the VCS, Local Policing and Crime Boards and partners to develop policies and procedures that are appropriate to each local authority, the force as a whole and reflect emerging issues and trends. A key objective will be a service for victims that is visible, accessible, reliable and responsive. The role and representation of the Commission continues to ensure the voice of the victim is at the forefront.

The Victims Commission will harness the work of multi agency networks to ensure victims receive the best possible support. I will work in a collaborative and coordinated way to ensure resources are best used and victims benefit from the coordinated response from West Midlands Police and partners.

The priorities of the Commission are:

- First contact, assessment and referral service
- Domestic abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Hate crime
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Forced marriage and honour based violence
- Modern slavery
- Support services for children and young people
- Fatal road traffic collisions
- Child sexual exploitation

Table 1:

Victims' Commission Priority	Funding 2015-16
First contact, assessment and referral service	£1,385,000
West Midlands domestic abuse services	£339,948
West Midlands sexual abuse services	£481,570
Victim support family intervention project	£75,620
Female genital mutilation support services	£96,745
Honour based violence and forced marriage support service	£110,000
Modern slavery and child	£124,889

trafficking	
Victim Fund	£396,419
Road traffic charity BRAKE	£2,000
Restorative Justice services	£304,466
Total	£3,331,657

There has been an increase in the number of citizens living in the West Midlands who have suffered and potentially can become victims of FGM, this rise was recognised by the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel. In conjunction with them, a taskforce was launched which will be reviewed in Autumn 2016. I am committed to eradicating this practice which causes physical and physiological damage to women and girls. Prevention of this practice will save resources in the health service, criminal justice system and save many women and girls going through the horror of FGM.

I am committed to supporting awareness-raising programmes, the training of professionals and strategic leaders, as well as support services for FGM and the other priorities of the Victims Commission. I will hold a Victims Summit in Autumn 2016 to support that work too.

The national Code of Practice for Victims of Crime seeks to place victims at the heart of the criminal justice system. The Code sets out the services and minimum standards to be provided to victims of crime in England and Wales. I will continue to deliver this code and give extra support to three priority categories of victims – victims of the most serious crime, persistently targeted and vulnerable or intimidated victims. I will also continue to ensure that West Midlands Police are compliant with the code and delivering the service that victims need at the first point of contact.

I will also take forward our work to identify and support repeat victims, be they individuals or businesses.

I will review the Victims strategy ensuring that victims of the most serious crime are responded to appropriately. The West Midlands framework was founded on the principles of supporting victims to (a) cope with the immediate impacts of crime and (b) recover from the harm experienced.

I will assess the first contact, assessment and referral mechanisms that exist at the moment, as well as specialist services and local provision.

I will examine the Victim's Journey and work more closely with the criminal justice system to bring about any improvements.

I will actively seek the devolution of the Court Based Witness Service and other services currently commissioned nationally, including Homicide Services, Male and Female Rape Support Services, Brake Support for Families Bereaved by Road Traffic Crime and the Victims Information Line. The monetary value of such services would be around £1.1million per year. The West Midlands response is that we support devolution except for modern slavery and support for victims of terrorism

which needs to have a national rather than local response. I will make sure the OPCC is ready to take on new commissioning roles.

I will examine the work to be done and projects that help victims of crime back into the workplace.

I will also launch our 'mapping' of victims services and produce an online directory to help victims and partner organisations. To support organisations seeking funding of all sizes and types, I will continue to work with groups such as the Council for Voluntary Services.

I will support child victims of sexual assault to ensure they receive support that is effective and sensitive through the provision of paediatric SARC and Childrens Independent Sexual Advisors through our sexual abuse service providers. I will also seek to ensure that support services are available for children from the age of 5 across the West Midlands.

In 2015, a new dedicated team was established within the Central Motorway Policing Group's to provide support and guidance for the families of victims of fatal road traffic collisions. Previously this was a non-specialised role that officers undertook in addition to other duties. I will examine the progress of this new team going forward.

To support victims I want to continue to improve joint working between the police and partners, especially in regards to Safeguarding Boards for children and adults. Joint working should be further explored with the aim of reducing the risk of abuse and harm.

ii. Victim-focussed Restorative Justice

I will develop a victim-focussed Restorative Justice strategy. The strategy will ensure Restorative Justice is available to all victims of crime, at all stages of the criminal justice system and aims to put victims at the heart of Restorative Justice in the West Midlands.

I will increase the awareness of Restorative Justice accessibility, capacity and services available across the West Midlands.

I will explore local and regional best practice and keep abreast of new legislation, policies and updates to maximise the opportunities to use Restorative Justice across the West Midlands.

I will develop further the successful Midland Heart/West Midlands Police Restorative Justice project dealing with low level crime.

I will host a Restorative Justice Summit in Autumn 2016 bringing together voluntary and community sectors, alongside West Midlands Police and the CRC who also have a responsibility to deliver Restorative Justice. In addition, it will give the criminal justice system an opportunity to re-engage with our communities, victims of crime and offenders.

Building trust and confidence in our police

I want West Midlands Police to continue to be a strong, effective and well-led force that has the confidence of the public. The public play an integral role in policing, therefore building and maintaining trust and confidence are important operational considerations I will monitor closely.

Recent inspections by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary have shown the force is performing well. I want that to continue. Crime levels are generally lower in the West Midlands than other similar force areas. The force has made progress in its response to issues like 'hidden crimes', mental health and stop and search. I am satisfied that progress has been made in recent years, but will use this plan to push for further improvement.

i. Confidence in policing

I want the public to have confidence in the police and see the force as their service - responsive to them and committed to putting them first in everything they do.

Issues that undermine public confidence include how stop and search powers are used, the police complaints process, and the way police disciplinary matters are handled. I expect officers and staff to act with integrity, and if things go wrong we rightly expect the police to be open and transparent in how they manage complaints, discipline and misconduct. I will continue to promote the Custody Visiting and Appropriate Adults services to build public confidence in standards in custody. I expect to see confidence in policing, independently measured, to increase over the course of the next four years. There are also disparities of confidence in different areas across the force, this must be understood and reduced.

Confidence would be improved by further oversight of the use of force and the use of body worn video for local oversight panels. I will also maintain close scrutiny of coercive police powers.

I will commission work on the perceptions of Taser to improve understanding and confidence in its use.

West Midlands Police will explore and embed research into procedural justice into its work to improve confidence by making sure that fairness, dignity, respect and transparency of decision making is fully integrated into its processes. That work will improve police contact with the public.

ii. Satisfaction with service

When people experience crime or anti-social behaviour, either as victims or witnesses, they should be satisfied with the service they receive from West Midlands Police. I want to see people's satisfaction increase, and standards for answering and responding to requests for service also improve.

West Midlands Police collect satisfaction information by contacting victims and witnesses after their case has concluded. I will seek to improve satisfaction of victims of crime and anti-social behaviour over the course of the next four years.

iii. Stop and Search

Significant progress has been made in stop and search thanks to a joint action plan by West Midlands Police and myself. Following work over a number of years, use is down and positive outcome rates, for example where someone is arrested, are up. Racial disproportionality is declining. I am pleased we were able to be a lead force in the national 'Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme'. However, West Midlands Police can go further.

In 2015, for the first time detailed, map-based stop and search data was published to give unprecedented transparency to police use of these powers. I will continue to explore ways to expand the data published.

I will hold the force to account to deliver the refreshed stop and search action plan and to do more to make the public, particularly young people, aware of both how the police use stop and search powers and the new oversight mechanisms that are in place.

So that young people in particular know their rights on stop and search I will support the roll-out of schools workshops across the West Midlands that have been successfully piloted in Birmingham.

I will encourage further development of intelligence-led use of stop and search, and embed good practice in the use and oversight, including making sure that Stop and Search Scrutiny Panels continue to represent the communities disproportionately subjected to the procedure.

In addition, the recording and publication of Section 163 traffic stops data will be initiated and serious consideration given to early adoption. I expect West Midlands Police to continue its commitment to stay at the forefront of building confidence in stop and search. I want the force to maintain its position as a leader nationally and within the most similar group of forces. West Midlands Police will also work with the Home Office to bring about national agreement on data collection for Section 163 traffic stops. Digital devices will support the recording of data to reduce demand on the force's service desk. Body worn video should be used to provide oversight of use of stop and search.

I will continue to explore our understanding of disproportionality in relation to stop and search and how we can continue to reduce it.

iv. Accurate recording and increased reporting of crime

When a crime is committed, the public should be able to trust the police to deal with it appropriately and effectively, recording the crime accurately, so the right action can follow. Over 78,000 incidents are reported to West Midlands Police monthly, and each must be categorised correctly. For most incidents this is straightforward, but some are less clear and require interpretation. A central team audits crime recording monthly. West Midlands Police is subject to national inspection by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the most recent of these HMIC reports rated our compliance with national standards as the best in the country. I expect high standards to continue.

Where, for whatever reason, a victim is unable or unwilling to make a report, there is an increased risk that a crime will go unrecorded. When this happens justice cannot follow and we have an incomplete understanding of the threat the police face. I therefore want to see increased crime reporting where there is evidence of under-reporting.

Increased reporting of 'hidden crimes' is a key indicator of trust and confidence in the police to deal with those issues properly, as such I want to see the increase in reporting levels continue.

It is known that 'hidden crimes' are often under-reported, meaning that victims and witnesses are unwilling to come forward. This is a national problem which we will continue to address in our area. The force's Sentinel programme seeks to improve awareness of 'hidden crimes' among officers and staff, and encourages victims to come forward. Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) are now in each of our seven local authority areas, which I will continue to develop, with the possibility of them becoming wider vulnerability hubs. My office will also play its part in the national review of them.

Hate crime can take many forms, with victims targeted for race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and disability. I will also support third party hate crime reporting and the 'True Vision' online reporting website. Hate crime has a corrosive effect on communities, and as such West Midlands Police should prioritise local engagement with those who feel vulnerable. West Midlands Police should retain its zero tolerance policy on hate crime to continue to maintain the community's trust on this issue.

I will vigilantly monitor other crime types to look for cases where it appears that, for whatever reason, victims and witnesses are unwilling or unable to come forward.

v. Complaints and misconduct

I will hold the Chief Constable to account to embed the College of Policing's Code of Ethics into the force. I will look to improve management of complaints and misconduct. I will also look at how we manage concerns raised internally, so the public can be confident officers and staff are treated equally and fairly. A police force that acts ethically and inspires confidence in the public is less likely to provoke complaints.

As the Police and Crime Bill makes its way through parliament, I will consider the options and implications in the future handling of complaints against the police. Public confidence in the complaints process is crucial and for this reason I welcome to options set out in the Bill for an enhanced role for PCCs. These options would see the OPCC taking on responsibility for all appeals in local complaint matters as a minimum, with the option to consider an enhanced role to undertake initial assessments when complaints are received, or to take on all the contacts with the complainant throughout the process.

I currently appoint legally-qualified Independent Chairs to oversee Police Misconduct Hearings and my office manages Police Appeal Tribunals. I will continue make sure that those legally-qualified Independent Chairs are of the highest standard.

People should have confidence their complaint will be handled in a timely manner. The IPCC target is for all local investigations to be completed within 110 days. At present, West Midlands Police does not meet that target, and I will hold the force to account make sure that local investigations are completed within the IPCC target time. (March 2016 – West Midlands Police taking 217 days to complete an average investigation). I will also work with the IPCC to ensure complaints involving them are as timely as possible too.

The public should also be able to trust that all staff and officers continue to have the highest standards of integrity. Holding misconduct hearings and appeals in public should be a step towards demonstrating this.

I will continue to examine disproportionality in the complaints process and the dip sampling of complaints should also include the use of body worn video footage.

Overall, I expect the number of conduct complaints against the police to fall and for them to be completed in a more timely manner.

vi. Access to police services

Our research shows that satisfaction is linked to the experience at the first point of contact and our consistency in keeping the individual who has contacted us updated. Two call centres were opened in November 2013, and improved training means callers' needs can be identified earlier and then supported with signposting to appropriate services. Since these new centres opened we have seen improving satisfaction levels. I will continue to review this after the merger of 101 and 999 call handling.

Call centres are not the only way people contact us. I have reviewed public access to policing services, examining in particular whether the current balance of resource is both sustainable and appropriate given new technologies and public expectations.

In 2015 the front counters review was implemented, making alternative ways to contact the police available and with options for further co-location with partners explored.

I will also continue to push to make sure West Midlands Police has a strong online presence. The public are demanding this and that demand should be met.

West Midlands Police is involving citizens throughout the process to ensure new digital services are shaped by their feedback. I expect a new online portal to help the public find the service they require more easily and provide online incident reporting to be ready by the end of 2016. In Spring 2017, I expect an online statement generator and a feedback and progress journey feature to be part of the force's digital offer. I will hold West Midlands Police to account to deliver on these important

digital improvements and continue developing new digital capabilities to meet the public's demands.

vii. Effective accountability and governance

The Strategic Policing and Crime Board supports holding the force to account. The board's diverse membership ensures we can engage across the West Midlands and also supports setting of strategic direction for West Midlands Police. The board has 11 members: the Commissioner, two Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners and eight board members. Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners have geographic responsibilities for local authority areas and, with board members, engage with local people and represent the Commissioner on partnership structures.

The Strategic Policing and Crime Board meets regularly in public (rules of procedure are published on our website), receiving reports on performance against the objectives in this plan together with crime data, finance, professional standards and complaints and personnel information. The board also considers reports on the performance of the Commissioner's office. The board will be supporting work with the Chief Constable on the transformational change at the heart of the WMP2020 programme. The board will make more use of the findings and recommendations from external evaluations to inform its work, such as those from the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner and Interception of Communications Commissioner, as well as those from HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and others.

I will explore the continued development of the Joint Audit Committee and how I maintain appropriate oversight of new approaches to data, intelligence and powers.

Four board members, alongside an independent chair and independent member appointed jointly with the Chief Constable, make up the Joint Audit Committee. The committee meets quarterly in public to provide independent, effective assurance about both the adequacy of financial management and reporting, and the management of other processes required to achieve corporate and service objectives, which in turn delivers good corporate governance. Joint Audit Committee will also now also help to ensure an appropriate response to HMIC recommendations.

Agendas, reports and minutes are published on my website. I will continue to maintain effective accountability through an effective internal audit function and maximise the value of external auditing.

Myself and members of my board meet regularly with the Chief Constable and others within the force. My board and I are supported by staff including a Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer who help deliver my aims.

I welcome support and advice from West Midlands Police and Crime Panel and I work with the panel in support of my decision making. I also work closely with the leaders of our seven local authorities.

Myself, board members and staff meet and engage with individuals and groups from across the West Midlands, discussing policing and community safety. I also make active use of the internet and social media as two-way communication channels.

I will continue our commitment to openness and transparency in my work, ensuring appropriate force performance information is available to the public and continue to webcast public meetings.

The Strategic Policing and Crime Board will continue to stretch itself to explore further areas of accountability such as at the successful '[M6 Motorway Hearing](#)' in 2016, where the board asked questions to local authorities and Highways England, as well as the police. Many of the recommendations were subsequently taken on by the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Strategic Board Members and Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners were appointed following an open public process. Like myself, I expect them to adhere to high standards of conduct and follow the Nolan Principles of public life.

I will explore options around an online public performance portal to keep the public informed and display transparency.

I will also take account of the Deputy Chief Constable's on-going governance review of West Midlands Police.

viii. Evidence-based policing

Evidence based policing builds innovative, effective and practical solutions to improve policing. Scores of research projects are underway, all aiming to identify ways of working that will make our communities safer.

I will review the pilot projects examining the operational, technical and legal implications of body worn cameras to assess whether these should be used more widely as a way to increase public confidence, improve evidence gathering and reduce complaints against officers. In addition I will assess if body worn video has had an impact on early guilty pleas in the criminal justice system.

I want West Midlands Police to continue to adopt best practices from elsewhere and engage with the College of Policing and academia.

Strengthening communities and growing the economy

i. Perceptions of safety

The public want to see the police get on with their main job of preventing crime and making everyone feel safe, at home and out and about, day and night. People who have confidence in public services can contribute fully to society, going to work, furthering themselves and their families. People's perceptions are the product of many factors and reflect activity by a range of partners.

I monitor public perceptions of safety and policing with independent local surveys and national crime surveys. I want to see fear of crime as reported in these surveys affecting fewer and fewer people.

ii. Local Policing and Crime Boards

Local Policing and Crime Boards in each local authority area develop local policing and crime plans and receive community safety funding (CSF) from the myself taken from police grant to support safety in local areas. This money must be spent well: the public rightly expects the process for allocation and expenditure to be transparent and fair, and based on sound evidence of need and thorough local consultation. Critically, funding should lead to real outcomes for local people. Allocations to each Local Policing and Crime Board for 2016-17 are set out in Table 2. Despite the reductions in police budgets, Local Policing and Crime Boards are still supported by grants that are higher than our most similar forces.

Local Police and Crime Plans should continue to reflect the aims of my plan, as well as the needs of individual local areas. I will maintain a very close oversight of local plans to ensure that they properly reflect local needs.

I expect to see smarter and more collaborative working and in return have guaranteed funding will remain at the same levels until 2017/18. I will explore for 2018/19 a West Midlands-wide Policing and Crime Board with representatives from each local authority area that will aim to deliver responses to issues more efficiently and effectively at a regional level.

Table 2:

CSF Allocation	
District	£
<i>Birmingham</i>	<i>1,873,187</i>
<i>Coventry</i>	<i>409,728</i>
<i>Dudley</i>	<i>297,273</i>
<i>Sandwell</i>	<i>397,643</i>
<i>Solihull</i>	<i>214,454</i>
<i>Walsall</i>	<i>301,652</i>
<i>Wolverhampton</i>	<i>369,371</i>
Total	3,863,308

iii. Better support for people with mental health needs

Twenty per cent of demand on policing is mental health related and a large majority of the prison population has a mental health problem. Responding to people with mental health needs is a shared responsibility across the police, ambulance service, local authorities, mental health trusts, primary and secondary care services, the fire service and housing providers. Much progress has been made. The use of police cells for people facing a mental health crisis has all but ended, and they are no longer transported in police vehicles. New joint mental health triage services should reduce demand for crisis services and in-patient admission. I will review the effectiveness of this service.

As the new large custody suites have now opened, I will ensure provision of effective mental health services for detainees. I will work with partners to further develop our preventative work to stop people with mental health needs becoming drawn into the criminal justice system. I will also work with partners to ensure there are specialist mental health, self-harm, self-neglect and substance misuse services for children and young people. I will work with Combined Authority and its Mental Health Commission to explore ways in which devolution can improve outcomes for those with mental ill-health and in particular reduce their contact with the criminal justice system. I want mental health services to be accessible to all sections of the community, I will work with partners to help in this area.

I will also work with the Mental Health Commission to develop an individual placement service to support people with mental health needs into employment and use OPCC funding to find ways of helping those with mental ill-health into meaningful activity and employment. I will work with and share the outcomes of this with partner agencies such as the Public Health England, NHS and Mental Health Trusts to promote best practice.

I will work with West Midlands Police and partners to encourage greater use of Mental Health Treatment Orders. I will also encourage the training of mental health first aid for officers, staff and potentially partners.

Following the Offender Health and Mental Wellbeing summit funded and hosted by OPCC in February 2016, I will work with partners in the criminal justice system and with the health sector to encourage them to develop the recommendations, including:

- Individual plans for offenders with mental health needs
- More work with looked-after children as 45 per cent have mental health issues
- More - and better promotion of - mentoring schemes in the West Midlands
- Early intervention and prevention with vulnerable people

iv. Supporting local policing and public engagement

Confident and safe communities are better able to flourish so, along with partners, policing has a role to play in developing stronger communities.

Neighbourhood policing lies at the heart of keeping our communities safe. It should continue to be easy for residents to find out who the officers and PCSOs in their area are. Close working by local people and those that protect us is the key to a safer place to live and work.

I will embed the Next Generation Local Policing Project. Specific training on problem solving and building relationships with the community and partners will underpin this.

Most crime starts and finishes in a local neighbourhood which is why the force is focused on neighbourhood policing. Varying neighbourhoods have different needs and each has a local policing team that understands the area and tackles local problems. The force's approach to neighbourhood policing emphasises professionalising and developing specialist staff, and recognising the importance of engagement and communication.

Within neighbourhoods, Police Community Support Officers and Special Constables work with police officers to help reassure the public, increase visibility of the force and make the West Midlands a safer place. West Midlands Police helps communities solve problems and encourages community cohesion by encouraging volunteers and community-led initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch, Police and Community Together (PACT), Street Watch, Independent Advisory Groups and Street Wardens.

These forums and groups will grow in importance as reduced budgets and new ways of working take effect. With officer numbers declining, there will be a need for increasing realism about the extent to which police have the capability and capacity to respond to every local issue. This is not a retreat from policing responsibilities but an honest assessment of what the police can reasonably be expected to achieve. Empowered, inclusive communities will become increasingly important partners for the police and other agencies, working together to build social capital and resolve local issues. I want to see increases in public participation in both the identification of policing priorities and support of community safety activity, leading to reduced public demand for police services. More active communities are more cohesive and resilient too. With partners, I want to help strengthen all of our communities. This work will be underpinned by the emerging Active Citizens project, Citizens Portal and Active Citizens Fund (paid for using following funding streams: the Proceeds of Crime Act, Community Initiatives Funding and the Police Property Act).

I will continue to support events that recognise the contribution people make to their communities to encourage others to become more active citizens too.

West Midlands Police will ensure the right local policing services are in the right areas that need them most and will work with partners to line up their services in the same way.

v. Supporting economic development

West Midlands Police can and should support the development of the economy and our local communities, both through its activities as a major local employer and the objectives set out in this Police and Crime Plan. The delivery of the outcomes in this plan will be significantly enhanced by building economic, community and environmental assessments into how we work.

To encourage investment in the region, I want companies to have confidence that West Midlands Police takes business crime seriously. I will be developing a three tiered approach to engaging with businesses on a local, borough-wide and regional level to help business engage with the police and OPCC.

The annual procurement bill of West Midlands Police is more than £50 million. I will ensure local businesses are able to bid for these contracts and, where possible, we support local employment and training.

As a responsible local employer, it is important that our terms and conditions of employment are fair and support employees out of poverty and off benefits. By the start of the 2017 financial year, West Midlands Police will be a Living Wage

Employer, and I will review our procurement processes to encourage contractors to adopt the Living Wage too. I will take the necessary steps for the OPCC and West Midlands Police to be [accredited Living Wage employers](#).

I have already integrated 30 UK-built electric vehicles into our fleet following the largest single public sector trial of low carbon vehicles. I am now refreshing the fleet. I want West Midlands Police to continue to be a leader in the adoption of new transport technologies. I will work with public sector, voluntary and private sector partners to explore how we can make policing an effective partner in economic development, such as through increased engagement with Health and Wellbeing Boards, Local Economic Partnerships and City Deal. I will play an appropriate role in the development of the West Midlands Combined Authority, seeing the potential for improved transport provision, shared approaches to key community safety issues and increased prosperity.

I will explore how we can ensure that whilst still achieving strong value for money we are 'buying local' wherever possible and that our procurements take social value into account as well as local employment and apprenticeship opportunities.

I will also explore having a role in resilience and Local Resilience Forums to support economic development and improve safe and efficient transport.

Some areas of the West Midlands have amongst the highest levels of uninsured vehicles in the country. This is an economic development issue that needs to be addressed.

I will examine work that can be done and projects that help victims of crime back into the workplace.

Modern slavery has huge human impacts on the people involved and major economic impacts too through the undercutting of wages. Tackling modern slavery is a key part of my economic development strategy and I will explore the steps West Midlands Police and partners can take to ensure the practice is removed from the supply chains of the West Midlands.

West Midlands Police and multi-agency partnerships should seek to protect businesses from being used as places of employment by traffickers for victims of labour exploitation and forced labour. I will seek to work with them in partnership providing advice, guidance and support where appropriate.

I will also seek to ensure the victims' risk of being re-trafficked are minimised by working closely with partners after Home Office National Referral Mechanism.

vi. Safer Travel

An efficient and safe public transport network the public wants to use remains a cornerstone of economic development.

The Safer Travel Plan, with its aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour on buses, trains and trams, remains a statement of intent bringing together British

Transport Police, Transport for West Midlands, West Midlands Police and transport operators. I will continue to use the Safer Travel Plan as the framework to support further integration and joint working.

Fear of crime on public transport can prevent people from using the system. Crime on public transport has been driven down and because of the excellent work of the Safer Travel Partnership there has been increased public confidence in safety while travelling.

I will put a particular emphasis on combatting alcohol related crime and improving safety in the evenings so that all people, especially women and younger people, feel safe on public transport.

I will continue to support Birmingham International Airport to be a safe well policed environment. I will make sure effective policing plays its part in supporting the continued success and expansion of the airport.

I will also ensure the policing of the environment surrounding the High Speed Rail 2 development is effective and supports inward investment in the surrounding areas.

vii. Leading in the criminal justice system

I have a statutory duty to develop collaboration across the criminal justice system and the OPCC will develop this role further. The criminal justice system operates to reduce crime and reoffending, to protect the public and provide victims with justice.

Commissioners can help build local transparency and accountability, and I will do more to ensure this is the case in our area. I have a democratic mandate to ensure improved partnership working and overcome 'barriers' between police, Community Rehabilitation Companies, National Probation Service (NPS), the Crown Prosecution Service and the Courts Service. I will review current partnership arrangements and bring agencies together to ensure joined-up thinking in relation to outcomes.

The current approach is failing to address wider issues: reducing reoffending, supporting economic development, supporting people with mental health needs, increased reporting of 'hidden crimes' and data-sharing to improve prevention. There should also be a more co-ordinated approach to the use of civil orders. To make those outcomes happen I aim to take a stronger co-ordinating and leadership role within the criminal justice system.

I have committed to developing a West Midlands Domestic Violence Perpetrator Change Programme. I will commission this service in September and once established, it will be delivered in conjunction with local domestic abuse services which will work with the victims – partners and children.

viii. Effective partnerships to tackle crime and reduce harm

I will look for new opportunities for partnership that make the most of new technologies and opportunities, or in response to new threats and issues. I recognise partnerships are critical to prevention: WMP2020 envisages an approach based on joint delivery and shared responsibility.

I will develop proposals to work with other agencies to better gather, share and map information and intelligence. I will actively fund projects that support this work across the public sector. This is a crucial area of work that needs to be progressed to improve the public sector's response to issues such as violence, child sexual exploitation, child trafficking and modern slavery. This work should happen on a national as well as regional level as many of the crimes do not respect traditional boundaries.

West Midlands Police should continue to work with partners including multi-agency networks to increase the number of modern slavery victims identified and rescued and refer to the National Referral Mechanism under the 'duty to notify' provision of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. I will hold responsible agencies to account to deliver on this. I will also ensure modern slavery crimes are investigated and seek to prosecute and convict the traffickers with the help of partner agencies. I will ensure that the victims' risk of being re-trafficked are minimised by ensuring West Midlands Police works closely with partners post Home Office National Referral Mechanism aftercare.

West Midlands Police and I will be effective contributors to partner-led work to support families and individuals at the greatest risk and potentially greatest causers of harm. I will ensure activity and resource is focused on those with greatest need to minimise risk and harm to them and the wider community.

I will maintain oversight of the Community Trigger and Community Remedy introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to ensure that local services are responsive to the public's concerns.

I will continue to explore whether furthering the policing role in economic development would benefit from our greater engagement in the new Local Enterprise Partnerships. Furthermore, I will look at whether our work to develop better support for victims can encompass improved support for victims of business crime. I will also play an appropriate role in broader discussions about regional governance including the West Midlands Combined Authority.

ix. Collaboration

There are opportunities to further develop our operational collaboration with other police forces, particularly our neighbouring regional forces. I will work with the other Police and Crime Commissioners in our region to deepen and broaden our collaborative working, building on the existing response to organised crime and criminal use of the road network, as well as ensuring there is effective regional and national oversight of counter-terrorism policing. Beyond this, I will look to work with my regional partners to develop collaborative approaches to other policing activity, such as uniformed operations (including armed policing) and other specialist functions. While ensuring continued responsiveness and preserving local accountability, these steps can deliver cost effectiveness, increased capability and greater resilience.

I will explore with West Midlands Fire Service opportunities for tactical operational collaboration; better use of our combined estate, whether there are merits to exploring collaboration in support services; whether we should actively pursue collaborating on prevention and reducing vulnerability; and how we should seek to share data more effectively. I look forward to taking part in the ['Future Governance Working Group'](#) of West Midlands Fire Service. I will look at the duties the Policing and Crime Bill places upon PCCs and make decisions based on the best interests of the West Midlands. I will follow this approach in relation to others of regional governance and co-operate with new structures as they emerge.

I will play an active part in Public Service Reform and am willing to lead the development of a shared information/intelligence capability across the public sector in the West Midlands as the basis for effective prevention and addressing vulnerability.

To reduce harm and detect and prevent 'hidden crimes' I will ensure that the force prioritises responding to situations where harm is identified and highest. West Midlands Police in turn should work collaboratively to ensure partners are aligned to offer support and intervene earlier too. With the commitment and collaboration of partners, West Midlands Police will be able to respond earlier to offer support where concerns and difficulties arise, understanding the value of early intervention and being better equipped to ensure the force can identify the signs of harm, and support accessing an intervention earlier. A key element of this co-operation will be maintained via the Preventing Violence against Vulnerable People programme I will support.

I will play an appropriate role within the national 'Police Reform and Transformation Board' to help tackle new threats and continue to improve the police service for the public.

I will explore opportunities for closer working with the NHS and Ambulance Service especially in relation to recording and reducing violence and its impact.

I will continue to engage on a national level with MPs, government and through the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

Building a modern police service

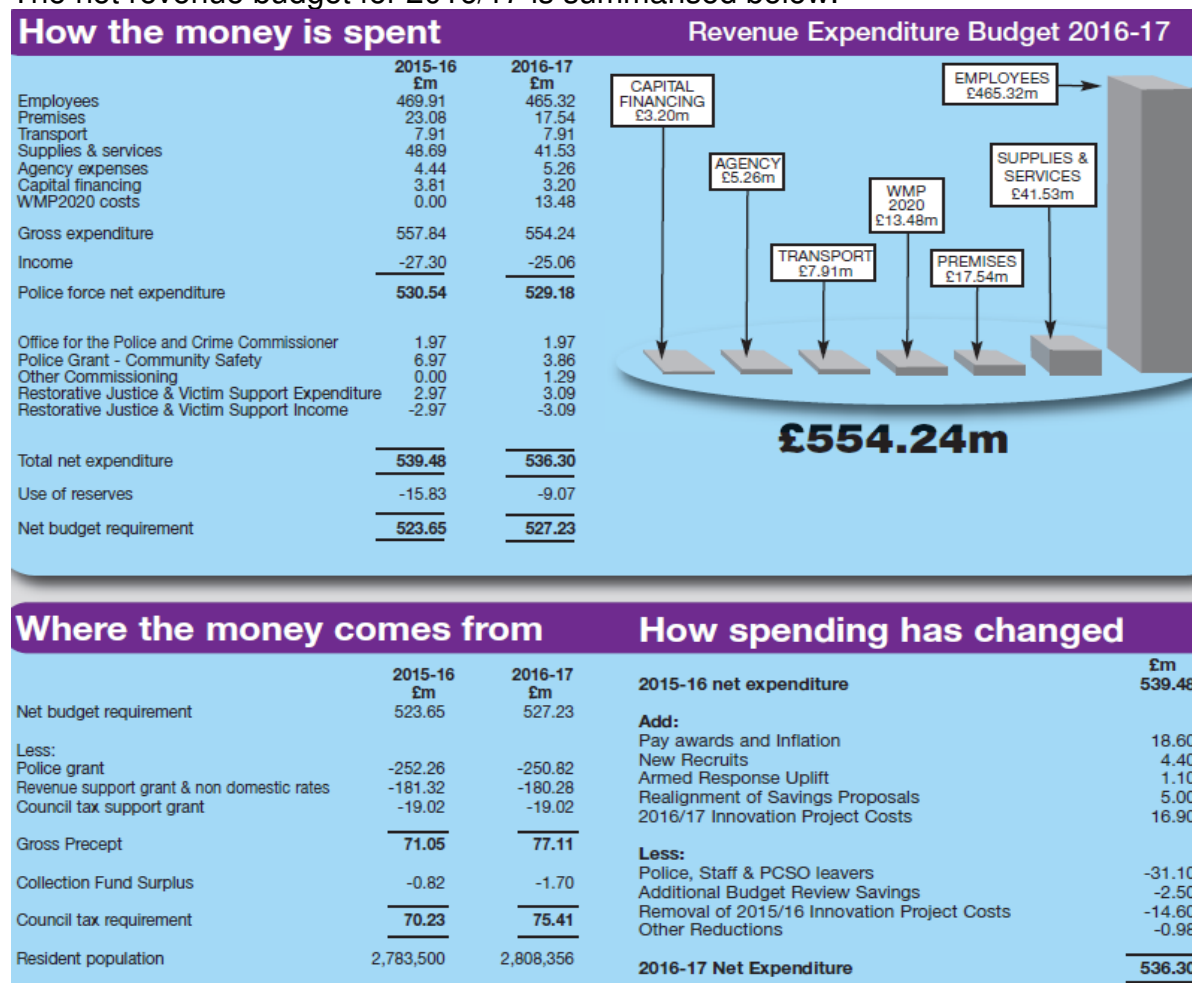
i. Budget

The HM Inspectorate of Constabulary inspection of efficiency concluded in its overall judgement that West Midlands Police is 'Outstanding'. This means the service is exceptionally well prepared to face its financial challenges, there is robust management of its current demand, its finances and its plans for change.

This has been achieved with the second lowest council tax for policing in the country and proportionally greater reductions in general funding because of the continued application of crude, across-the-board grant damping arrangements.

I will also support the revitalisation of the Building Blocks charity.

The net revenue budget for 2016/17 is summarised below:



The core budget for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner West Midlands in 2016/17 is £1.97m, or approximately 0.3% of the total budget.

ii. Medium Term Financial Plan

The Police and Crime Plan has been constructed in conjunction with the Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2017/18 to 2019/20, which includes my commitment to:

- Increase recruitment to 1,000 officers
- Recruitment to specialist posts in areas such as cyber crime
- No compulsory redundancies of PCSOs
- Continued investment in new technology
- Implementation of the Living Wage

The financial plan states that towards the end of the period, local police spending is in line with the police funding settlement and other recurring funding. This follows a period of a number of years where reserves have had to be used to make up for a shortfall in resources.

I will continue to campaign for a fairer, more equitable funding settlement, whilst exploring further opportunities for WMP2020 and “Invest to Save” schemes, reducing

costs and, wherever possible, improving services for the people of the West Midlands.

I will actively explore commissioning projects using available resources identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan. This includes exploring the creation of a 'social investment fund' that will deliver my key aims. I will examine how such a social investment fund could work with LEPs and the private sector to create additional funding streams.

iii. Developing a modern workforce and supporting our staff

Our workforce must develop to be ready for and respond to the changes necessary to maintain effective policing and West Midlands Police must support its staff who do an excellent job in often difficult situations. West Midlands Police through its work to support staff and through its upcoming work on procedural justice must continue to be a learning organisation that recognises the diversity of the region.

I will support staff as West Midlands Police's People Deal is implemented. The expertise of our staff associations and trade unions will be vital in this objective. I will create new opportunities for people to enter the police workforce through work experience, taster programmes, apprenticeship schemes and volunteer initiatives. I will develop options to provide greater flexibility around pay and benefits and we will make sure our people understand these benefits. Our approach to flexible working will be informed by responding to demand while appropriately supporting officers and staff. I will continue to consider the recommendations from the Winsor Review of Police Officer Pay and Conditions as they are approved by Government. Overall, we expect to see staff confidence in West Midlands Police increase, along with increased staff confidence in their own capabilities.

Human Resources and Learning and Development are to merge and form a new strategic function, which will help with existing aims.

There will also be a focus on:

- Ensuring the health and wellbeing of the workforce, including engagement, mental health, job design, employees and their families and occupational health.
- Organisations which treat the health and wellbeing of their staff as a priority typically have 15% higher attendance. A new Head of Wellbeing is being appointed to turn this into a reality.
- Organisational development with a focus on the leadership, culture and values required for the force to succeed.
- Workforce design, which will examine demand, workplace representation, reward and recognition and change capability

I want to increase the diversity at all levels and in all roles in the force to better reflect the varied community it serves, not as an end in itself but as a way to make policing more effective. I will ensure the force maintains objective standards that eliminate preferential bias in its recruitment, promotion and human resources processes, to ensure equality of opportunity for everyone who works for West Midlands Police.

The force has made improvements but more needs to be done to make sure that all communities are represented. To help put that into action, West Midlands Police

should explore whether residents of the region should have an advantage in the recruitment process. In addition, positive action initiatives should be explored to improve recruitment from under-represented communities whilst maintaining the highest standards.

I will continue to support events and campaigns that recognise the diversity of our region, contribute to making the force look more like the people it serves and help the progression of officers from different backgrounds. Making West Midlands Police look more like the community it serves is a key part of ensuring confidence in the force.

I will examine direct entry and assess the pros and cons of this with West Midlands Police, with the potential of expanding upon the Police Now scheme that the force has already joined.

Special Constables provide excellent support to our force. I want to increase the number of specials in the force and utilise them in specialist roles by attracting candidates with a diverse range of skills and experiences. I also want to up-skill the current cohort and there should be further health and wellbeing support to improve retention. Work has begun to encourage former officers to become Special Constables and this should be developed further. Work has also started to support Special Constables through the recruitment process to become Police Constables - that work should continue to develop.

As the financial situation is healthier than it was before the Comprehensive Spending Review of 2015, in addition to the 450 officer recruitment due to be completed by April 2016, I will increase recruitment to 1,000 officers.

I will also protect PCSOs from redundancy and numbers will be maintained with a programme of recruitment each year in order to achieve this.

West Midlands Police will also recruit to specialist posts to improve our digital capabilities. West Midlands Police needs a modern workforce and should seek to recruit specialist staff in other areas where an officer with warranted powers is not necessary. Such specialist staff and skills could make a huge difference in many areas including public protection, murder investigations and cyber crime.

I will offer close oversight of progress via the Strategic Policing and Crime Board and continue to work closely with Trade Unions, the Police Federation and Staff Associations to develop this work.

iv. WMP2020

WMP2020 is a collaboration between West Midlands Police and AccentureUK to improve how the force works, particularly by harnessing the potential of new technology. The partnership sets out what policing will look like in 2020 and supports the steps needed to get us there.

It is about developing new capabilities based on the latest technology, with particular emphasis on mobile technology that supports and maximises the effectiveness of

officers and keeps them on the street preventing and detecting crime. This mirrors what people experience in so many aspects of everyday lives, where mobile technology maximises productivity.

The need to harness new technology is very real and very pressing. Policing, like the rest of the public sector, has always relied on private suppliers to support its activities, and this case is no different. I will monitor performance of the WMP2020 contract using an agreed framework that echoes many of the measures and milestones in this plan.

West Midlands Police will need to work even more closely with partners to deliver the aims of WMP2020.

Working predominantly through the members of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board, I will maintain close oversight and ensure a focus remains on improving services that offer excellent value for money. WMP2020 represents a huge opportunity for West Midlands Police and the public in our area.

During my term of office I will review the learning from the WMP2020 project to help lead West Midlands Police into the next decade.

“New Ways of Working” encapsulates a programme of service improvement and cost savings projects within WMP2020. The largest component of this programme is the consolidation of the police estate in central Birmingham, which will see the end of expensive leases as we increase the occupancy of the existing Police HQ at Lloyd House by more than 50%. This one-off £33 million refurbishment will dramatically reduce our annual outlay on rented property. West Midlands Police and the OPCC will reoccupy Lloyd House later this year.

In addition, I opened two new custody suites in Birmingham and the Black Country in 2016. These new facilities offer safer and more cost-effective detention facilities, allowing us to close expensive existing custody facilities and further reduce our estate. The new custody suites also have improved facilities for vulnerable detainees as well as dedicated facilities for partners working in detainee health, mental health, substance misuse and immigration.

With low and declining visitors to police stations, I have already made the difficult decision to support the Chief Constable’s plans to close 27 front counters, leaving 10 across the force with one, in Birmingham, open 24 hours. By saving £3 million a year, this change not only reflects public preferences but frees resource we can use to protect local policing. The closure of the front counters began in 2015.

I want to continue to provide modern facilities for officers and staff, with the aim that the estate they work in supports their work and does not hold it back. I also want to foster closer links with partners and wherever practical I want to use the shared estate to facilitate that closer working.

Standing up for Young People

Young people are the heart of the West Midlands. The West Midlands metropolitan area is a young region, with a higher proportion of people aged under 25 compared with the rest of the country and Birmingham is the youngest major city in Europe. It is only by building on the creativity and talent of the next generation that the West Midlands will succeed in the 21st century.

As gatekeepers for much of the criminal justice system, the police occupy a unique position to use their influence and innovation to improve the lives of young people. Engaging young people in the work of the police is about empowering them to build stronger and more prosperous communities.

i. Opportunities for the future

As a key player in the public sector, West Midlands Police can and should help to create, provide and improve pathways into employment for young people. I have supported Youth and Employment Initiatives and will actively look to support schemes with similar aims in future, to give young people the opportunities they deserve and reduce offending.

I will build on the work that has been done by West Midlands Police and will actively explore the introduction of a modern-day West Midlands Police Cadet Scheme. It is not just about recruiting police officers of tomorrow- it's about developing young people to make a difference to our communities. It is hoped this scheme could be collaborative with other emergency services and will help support efforts to make the force look more like the community it serves.

I will also train more than 200 apprentices to work in West Midlands Police using funds from the national apprenticeship levy, including in the OPCC.

The OPCC has supported youth employment schemes, and will seek to expand this approach across the region, to move young offenders into training or employment.

Where appropriate, young offenders should be given a second chance to fulfil their potential and contribute to society. I want people who commit crime to stop being a cost on the public purse and become contributors instead.

ii. Youth Commissioners and engagement

Young people are more likely to be victims of crime and unfortunately become involved in criminal activity.

The Youth Commission has been vital in highlighting significant issues such as child sexual exploitation, mental health and knife crime.

A crime that particularly affects young people and also highlighted by the Commission is online bullying. Cyber bullying, like bullying in schools, on the street or at home, causes substantial misery for the victim. I will continue to harness the talents of the Youth Commission to ensure that not only is a force strategy developed to combat online bullying, but West Midlands Police continues to integrate the opinions of young people into its work on all issues.

The Youth Commission comprises 20 young volunteers selected by their peers from across the West Midlands to work with me and represent the views of young people to the police. I will ensure Youth Commissioners remain an effective channel for communicating with young people. The Youth Commission will support a review of the Young Persons Strategy and help facilitate the sharing of the views of young people with my office and the force.

I will continue to develop policy on youth engagement and involvement of young people in crime reduction, policing services that young people have trust and confidence in, victim support services for young victims of crime, and maximising the ways in which they can become active citizens.

I will identify the existing resources and challenges to engagement with young people and monitor the effectiveness of West Midlands Police Strategy for Children and Young People.

I will use a wide range of techniques to ensure views are sought from a range of young people that is representative of the diverse population of the region. I will also support methodologies and events that partners have that increase the opportunities for positive interactions between young people, the police and other emergency services.

I will review the OPCC's digital offer and look forward to the new opportunities offered by West Midlands Police through WMP2020 to make sure young people are at the heart of engagement.

I will actively seek to increase the number of work experience placements offered by my office and by West Midlands Police to give young people further opportunities and to attract people of all backgrounds into public service.

My approach to young people is to create opportunities for them to succeed and to become more active citizens so they can help their own communities thrive.

Playing our part in responding to national threats

i. Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement requires me to ensure that the force has the capacity and capability to play our part in addressing national policing threats. Dealing with these threats generally means joint working with other forces and agencies as part of a national response, requiring standardisation and co-ordination of equipment and processes.

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary's most recent assessment of our Strategic Policing Requirement preparedness found that West Midlands Police has sufficient capacity and capability to address local requirements whilst providing vital support to other forces and meeting its national obligations. However, continued reductions in resources are having an impact. As the Chief Constable reported to me, whilst the force retains its capability to meet local and national public order responsibilities for

example, this is increasingly to the detriment of the delivery of non-emergency local policing during deployment periods. Government needs to recognise these challenges when assessing need and distributing funding. I will continue to reiterate this point to the government.

I will continue to ensure our contribution to the response to these national threats is comprehensive, effective and properly resourced, responding to any changes to the Strategic Policing Requirement.

In light of the continued threat level, I will work with West Midlands Police and government to ensure the Strategic Policing Requirement remains a comprehensive response to the threats faced.

In particular, I will closely scrutinise the uplift in armed officers announced after the 2015 Paris attacks to ensure specialisms are protected and the traditional un-armed style of policing that people receive is generally maintained.

I will look closely at the proposals around a National Infrastructure Constabulary, especially if they can support the economic development in the West Midlands.

ii. West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit

West Midlands Police hosts a Counter Terrorism Unit and continues to work closely with local authority colleagues and the community to address the threat from violent extremism. These partnerships support safeguarding work identifying and protecting those in danger of drifting into violent extremism, for example. Regional boards support enabling exercises assisting us in preparing for possible terrorist attacks. A partnership approach to violent extremism is central, and we will work together to meet the requirements of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act.

Though often tasked nationally, the consequences of counter terrorism activity are felt locally, making it important that there is local accountability and oversight. I will support the development of a collaboration agreement for the counter terrorism network, ensuring there are appropriate engagement mechanisms for all Commissioners and Chief Constables.

I remain of the view that counter-terrorism policing should be embedded in local police forces and not detached to form part of a national organisation.

I will be an active participant in the national Counter Terrorism Strategic Board.

iii. West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit

West Midlands Police works with the National Crime Agency and the three other regional forces to advance our response to organised crime. The Regional Organised Crime Unit comprises Regional Asset Recovery Team, Regional Intelligence Unit, Regional Cyber Crime Unit and other functions.

Given the significant threat from cross-border serious organised crime, it is essential the public can have confidence the Regional Organised Crime Unit is effective. I will use the collaboration agreement for the Regional Organised Crime Unit to ensure

effective performance, management and accountability. I will also work with partners to offer close scrutiny of the use of asset recovery powers, and call on Government to review the allocation of funds seized from criminals.

The National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) is hosted by West Midlands Police. I will use the collaboration agreement for NABIS to ensure effective performance, management and accountability on behalf of other Police and Crime Commissioners as well as myself.

iv. Cyber crime

Cyber crime and cyber-enabled crime (e.g. internet fraud) is a growing threat. As a result there needs to be an increased focus on reducing the number of victims of this crime, by reducing the vulnerability of people and businesses in the West Midlands.

West Midlands Police's approach will be based on the four Ps: Prepare, Protect, Prevent and Pursue, but as 85% of cyber crime is easily preventable the primary focus should be on protecting the public and businesses. The OPCC and force should work together to organise high-profile events and campaigns on the threats of cyber crime to our communities. One of the outcomes of such events and campaigns would be to develop a coherent set of actions to support the police and wider agencies in tackling cyber crime. These events should be supported by campaigns to educate people - in particular vulnerable groups - on being internet aware, how to protect themselves and how to report cyber crime. Reporting cyber crime will be supported by the force's upcoming citizen's portal. I will also commission engagement activity to support that education and campaigning. I will explore the commissioning of a 'Digital PCSO' who would help to up-skill the workforce, work with communities to protect them online and represent the force to partners.

West Midlands Police has been assessed as offering an effective response to cyber crime, however I remain concerned that the division of responsibilities between local forces, regional teams and national resources is not clear to the police service, Commissioners or the public. I will explore this issue further to ensure a consistent, victim-focussed approach is created and local, regional and national roles are clearly defined.

There is also a danger that the true extent of internet enabled fraud is being concealed behind organisational demarcations. I will seek to work with businesses, academia, other partners and the public to develop a more thorough understanding of the extent of internet fraud and the role local policing can play in preventing and responding to cyber-enabled crime. The banking industry has played a key role in protecting people and businesses, I will continue to work closely with the industry to continue that. The Counter Terrorism Unit will ensure there is a joint strategy for cyber-enabled terrorism.

To deal with the growth of cyber crime we need an improved investigatory capability and to build capacity in conjunction with the ROCU and national partners.

Recognising that most crimes now leave a digital footprint, the capability of officers and staff also needs to be improved so they are able to capture and work with digital

evidence. Officers and staff also need to be able to recognise and investigate cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes. This will be supported by a variety of new digital capabilities, digital devices and digital forensics, which need to be embedded across the organisation through training and cultural change.

I will explore the development of further offender management capabilities and pathways for fraud and cyber crime offenders. I will also seek to improve our understanding of online offending, including taking note of national work and academic studies.

I will also ensure West Midlands Police itself is prepared for the threat of cyber crime and is able to defend itself and the information it holds. The force will continue to comply with nationally recognised standards including the 'cyber essentials' standard. I expect the force to integrate that approach into the procurement chain to maintain the protection of internal systems.

As new digital capabilities come into use, I will continue to monitor measures taken so that West Midlands Police systems continue to be secure. I will pay particular attention ensuring that as the digital capabilities of West Midlands Police and their ability to obtain information increases, professional standards keep pace. I will also make sure West Midlands Police increases security to match the improvements in the mobility of technology.

To deliver on my ambition for the West Midlands to be a secure, safe and open place for the public to live and businesses to invest, I expect strategic governance on the issue and the upcoming Cyber Crime Action Plan to be embedded into the force's approach, as part of a wider Digital Strategy.