

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON 05  
SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 1400 HOURS, WALSALL**

**PRESENT:-**

Cllr Sean Coughlan (Chair) – Walsall  
Cllr Ken Hawkins – Solihull  
Cllr John O’Shea – Birmingham  
Cllr Peter Douglas-Osborn – Birmingham  
Cllr Fiona Williams – Birmingham  
Cllr Abdul Salam Khan – Coventry  
Cllr Dave Tyler – Dudley  
Cllr Gary Clarke – Walsall  
Cllr Paul Sweet – Wolverhampton  
Cllr Wendy Thompson – Wolverhampton  
Lionel Walker – Independent Member  
Kristina Murphy – Independent Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

David Jamieson – West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner  
Ashley Bertie – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
Judy Foster – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
Mark Kenyon – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC  
Richard Costello – OPCC  
Liz Joyce – OPCC  
Sarah Norman – Panel Secretary  
Emma Williamson – Panel Officer  
Baseema Begum – Research and Policy Officer

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**APOLOGIES**

- 279 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors George Duggins, Mike Bird and Preet Kaur Gill; and substitute members Councillors Pervez Akhtar, Julie Webb, Cathryn Bayton and Waseem Zaffar. Jonathan Jardine also sent apologies.

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**MINUTES**

(See document No. 1)

- 280 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 281 None.
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**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

282 No public questions were submitted.

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**REVIEW OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

283 The Chair explained that one of the Panel's statutory duties is to review the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report.

(See document No. 2)

The Police and Crime Commissioner presented his annual report, including plans to increase the number of black and minority ethnic police officers, the campaign against zombie knives and an update on work to combat FGM. Assistant Police Commissioner, Ashley Bertie, outlined the recent Outstanding Citizens awards.

In questioning the PCC, Panel members raised a number of issues:

- With regards to estates management and other campaigns, it was emphasised that the voluntary and third sector could play a role;
- The PCC explained that the pilot of the business crime support service may be externally evaluated, and will be expanded if successful;
- The preparation of cases by the Police for successful prosecutions is sometimes lacking (e.g. discs used not matching the equipment) and cases fail, which costs money. The PCC was aware that that happens but did not know how many. He undertook to look into it and to hear from other parties. This is something that he can hold the Chief Constable to account for.
- Peak hours for deaths in custody tend to be early in the morning and late at night, yet very few custody visits take place at this time – is this a thorough investigation? The PCC responded that custody visitors were volunteers and could visit any custody suite at any time. Whilst they do visit in the early hours it is difficult as detainees may be asleep. It was also noted that the majority of visits are under five minutes as detainees are asked specific yes/no questions to check if they are being properly treated (e.g. warm enough, food to eat, toilet working etc). Sometimes visitors do not see the detainee and this is because the detainee has chosen not to meet with the visitor.
- Performance figures show that burglary has increase, following a long decrease. The PCC has asked that a focus be put on those areas where there are large numbers of burglaries. Some figures reflect greater reporting rather than an increase in crime, though more likely in violence cases.
- There is little in the annual report about the impact of the different interventions.
- The need to fund major events was raised, and a comparison was made with the cost of the refurbishment of Lloyd House. The PCC responded that the refurbishment of Lloyd House was commenced by the Police Authority and was necessary to ensure the building was fit for purpose, and was good value for money for the tax payer. With regards to

major events, and in particular the Conservative Party conference in October, will be planned for 12 months in advance.

- A question was asked about the delegation to the Home Office on the Birmingham Pub bombings. The PCC said that he will co-operate in the fullest way with the inquiry.

At this point, Cllrs Hawkins and Tyler declared interests as serving officers at the time of the bombing.

**RESOLVED:-**

- i) That the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2015/16 be noted; and
- ii) The Panel submit a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner on his Annual Report in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

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**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – REVIEW OF DRAFT**

- 284 The Police and Crime Commissioner presented his annual report and outlined the background to the current plan. He revised the plan fairly substantially, and there is opportunity to make further revision if necessary.

(See document No. 3)

In response to earlier Panel comments, there is a greater emphasis on hidden crimes and FGM, substance abuse and police cadets. The points raised under the "Medium Term Financial Plan" were election pledges and are all going ahead.

In the consultation, road safety, burglary and safeguarding were the top three concerns. Ashley Bertie outlined the increased emphasis in the plan on young people. He also told the Panel that stop and search had reduced and it has been made evident in the plan that clear information should come forward.

Panel members questioned where we can learn from other forces, and the PCC stated that he wanted WMP to be a learning organisation and many things done have been learned from others (nationally and internationally). Others do learn from us, e.g. on mental health and stop and search. PCCs across the country work together on a cross party basis.

On contacting the police, people are more likely to call 101 especially older people; the website is more user-friendly. There are now more people using 101 to contact the police than front desks. There will be more ability to report non-urgent crime on-line. Therefore, communication is improving.

Regarding confidence in policing, we need to be clear that officers will conduct themselves in an open and transparent way. Not doing that e.g. in the forthcoming inquiry, could undermine all the other good work being done. There needs to be a perception that sufficient change had

taken place. The PCC acknowledged the reputational risk, but would also take care to ensure the past did not have a disproportionate effect on what we see now.

The work regarding zombie knives was welcomed, as was work to increase the diversity of the police force. The use of body worn cameras has been a success, e.g. in getting earlier guilty pleas and the number of complaints against frontline officers also dropped. It was noted that this matter should have been tackled earlier. Response officers will get the body cameras by the end of this month. Use of the cameras will not be compulsory but officers are very willing to use them. The point was made that police work in schools has reduced due to budget cuts.

With regards to performance, it would be helpful to have comparisons with similar forces (e.g. Greater Manchester Police). Richard Costello told the Panel that the headline measures in the plan were chosen to be deliverable but also high quality. It was also noted that this was a plan for the four year term of the PCC (until 2020), not just this current year.

Motorway police and armed response could become national forces, the PCC is opposed to that as a high level of scrutiny at a local level is necessary.

Consultation with the Chief constable was undertaken via a roundtable discussion to test the viability of the proposals.

The matter of fraud was discussed – a very difficult area as can be committed from anywhere. It is growing exponentially and can have very a serious impact on small businesses in particular.

One of the objectives is to reduce crime, but is that in real terms or in comparison to other forces? The PCC acknowledged that one of the conundrums is that where reporting is encouraged – e.g. domestic violence or sexual offences – so figures will increase. The West Midlands Police were recently found to be relatively good at correctly categorising crime. The increase in burglary this year it is not yet clear if that is a temporary rise or the start of a new trend.

**RESOLVED:-**

- i) That the Police and Crime Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan be noted; and
- ii) The Panel submit a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner on his Annual Report in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

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**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2017/18 TO 2019/20**

285 The PCC presented the report.

(See document No.4)

Potential threats to the funding include potential changes to the national funding formula; the current formula is not being paid correctly and West Midlands Police are being underpaid. This has not been addressed.

A question was asked on the different options around staffing, and the final proposal was outlined: staffing of 800 police officers and 200 staff. It was questioned whether the announcement to recruit 450 officers was misleading, as this was not over and above the overall figure. The PCC noted that the ability to recruit as many as this was due to the efficiency savings made.

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**WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17 AND RECENT DECISIONS BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

286 The following report setting out proposals for shaping the Panel's work programme for 2016/17 was submitted:-

(See document No.5)

The following suggestions were made:-

- That further reports on WMP2020
- That the PCC's role in the wider criminal justice system should be considered.

**RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted

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**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

287 Monday, 21 November 2016 at 1400 hours, Coventry Council House

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**URGENT BUSINESS**

288 None.

The meeting ended at 15:55 hours

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CHAIR