

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2018 AT 1400 HOURS, WOLVERHAMPTON

PRESENT:-

Cllr Ken Hawkins (Vice- Chair) Solihull – in the Chair
Cllr Paul Bradley - Dudley
Cllr Elaine Costigan - Sandwell
Cllr Peter Douglas Osborn – Birmingham
Cllr Diana Holl-Allen – Solihull
Cllr David Hosell – Sandwell
Cllr John O’Shea – Birmingham
Cllr Paul Sweet – Wolverhampton
Cllr Dave Tyler - Dudley
Lionel Walker – Independent Member

ALSO PRESENT:-

David Jamieson – West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
Ashley Bertie – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Lynnette Kelly – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Jonathan Jones – Chief Executive, OPCC
Mark Kenyon – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC
Sarah Norman – Panel Lead Chief Executive
Emma Williamson – Lead Officer
Sarah Fradgley– Panel Support Officer

CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENT – APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

368 The Chair announced the following Panel appointments and welcomed new and returning members.

Councillor Paul Bradley (Dudley - ABCA appointment) replacing Cllr Les Jones

Councillor David Tyler (Dudley Named substitute) replacing Cllr Melvin Motram

APOLOGIES

369 Apologies for non-attendance were received from:-

Cllr Coughlan, Cllr Bayton, Cllr Khan, Cllr Akhtar, and Cllr Russell, Cllr Francis, Cllr Webb and Kristine Murphy.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

370 None declared.

MINUTES

- 371 Hunting knives and crossbows - The PCC advised he had written to the Home Office following the report at the last Panel meeting about the import of hunting knives and crossbows ordered from overseas websites.

Police uniforms - Further to Minute 365, the PCC and APCC reported continued problems with the supply of uniforms, particularly stab vests, for the current cohort of trainees. Whilst they understood this would have a no direct operational impact and had not prevented officers from being deployed, it was not a satisfactory situation and they would continue to monitor this. Members were reassured that WMP would not place officers on duty without the appropriate kit. The Chair thanked the PCC and APCC for their honesty in reporting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 November 2017 were then confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 372 The Chair advised that no public questions had been submitted.
-

PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND PRECEPT CONSIDERATIONS

- 373 The following report setting out the provisional Police Grant Settlement and the preliminary revenue budget, capital programme and precept proposals for 2018/19 was submitted:-

(See document No.1)

The PCC informed Members he had consulted widely on the proposals. The public consultation was open until 2 February 2018 and 274 responses had been submitted to date.

Setting out the funding position, the PCC explained the Police Grant Settlement has been frozen at £444.1million. He had calculated the settlement amounted to a grant cut in real terms and an additional £22million was required to stand still. In addition the existing formula damping arrangements remain unchanged that penalised the West Midlands by £40million per annum.

The PCC proposed a precept increase of £12 for a band D property which would generate £9.5 million in 2018/19. He proposed using £14.3 million of reserves to support the 2018/19 revenue budget. Further details would be presented to the next Panel meeting on 5 February 2018.

The PCC and Mark Kenyon then responded to questions from Members. The Panel acknowledged the demands on policing and the reduction in resources, but questioned how the precept increase could be justified to residents who saw fewer officers on the street and rising crime levels, and when money was held in reserves. Further questions were asked as to

how budget plans had changed since the announcement of precept increase of £12 and the cost of policing business crime. Members requested more details about the planned use of reserves beyond 2018/19 asked to see budget outturn reports and the updated medium term financial plan that was expected in Spring 2018.

The PCC and Mark Kenyon outlined the budgetary pressures and how operating reserves would be held by 2020. The PCC reported that despite the commitment to recruit 800 officers, 2000 had left or retired. He warned there would be further reductions if funding was not raised through the precept. He assured Members he was committed to provide quality policing within budget and keep people safe. However policing resources were deployed differently as the nature of crime had shifted to the 'private domain'.

Drawing the discussion to a close the Chair reminded Members that the Panel would formally review the precept at its next meeting, a statutory task of the Panel.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the key provisions in the 2018/19 budget, including the Commissioner proposal to set a precept increase of £12 on Band D properties and the associated increase on all other properties in 2018/19, be noted; and
- ii) The updated Medium Term Financial Plan and future budget outturn reports be added to the Police and Crime Panel work programme.

TACKLING KNIFE AND VIOLENT CRIME

374 The summary report of the Gangs and Violence Commission report was submitted:

(See document No. 2)

Introducing the report the PCC advised that gun crime and weapon seizures had risen across the Region and more high powered weapons were being recovered. Most gun crime was associated with drugs crime. The profile of knife crime had changed in the last two years and had a greater geographical and age spread. It was now heavily associated with mental health.

The PCC and APCC Ashley Bertie then outlined the key findings of the Gangs and Violent Crime Report 'Uniting to Improve Safety' commissioned following a spike in gun crime. Responding to questions they confirmed the recommendations were not just specific to gun crime, or Birmingham and the PCCs Drugs Summit would also reflect on these recommendations. It was noted the PCC had pledged £2m of support over the next two years and the Commission's action plan was expected in April 2018.

Members welcomed the report and its focus on a community led, public health approach, also the proposals to support and prevent young people at risk of gang affiliation and criminal activity.

The Panel discussed to impact of school exclusion on young people and learnt the PCC was a member of the Violence Prevention Alliance that worked to tackle violence in schools. The

PCC reported the number of school exclusions from academies had risen and he undertook to report later in the year about his dialogue with academes. He urged Panel members to look and local authority exclusions and question why exclusion had occurred and what support was given to these pupils.

The APCC praised the community leaders' work in Wolverhampton to tackle gang and violence crime. He hoped the new partnership engagement officer and funding officer would help such projects to secure funding and produce the required monitoring information.

RESOLVED:-

1. That the information contained in the report be noted;
2. A further update on the implementation of the recommendations, including the PCC's discussions with academies on school exclusions, be submitted in 2018/19; and
3. A report on the work of the Violence Prevention Alliance be submitted in 2018/19.

HMICFRS CRIME DATA INTEGRITY INSPECTION 2017

375 The following report setting out the PCC's response to the HMICFRS Crime Integrity Inspection 2017 was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

The PCC advised he was confident there was not a deliberate miss recording of crimes, but under recording of crime data by the force was either due to a misunderstanding of the recording rules, such as recording one crime for the victim of rape, rather than a crime for each of the suspects involved, also not capturing all offences on a referral from MASH, and not recording all civil crimes (such as shoplifting). He reported that the Chief Constable was working actively to address the HMICFRS recommendations, and introducing measures to ensure greater consistency of recording, and he would continue to hold the Chief Constable to account.

A second recommendation by HMICFRS that more crimes should be recorded at the first point of contact had not been supported by the Chief Constable, with 900,000 incidents per annum it was not feasible to adopt this approach without a change in operating model to redirect resources from other parts of the force for this increased work. The PCC explained HMICFRS made recommendations without consideration of the resource implications.

The Panel thanked the PCC for his explanation. The point was made that whilst this item was about the technical details of crime data recording, it did have a clear link to public confidence in the police.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

376 The following list of recent decisions made by the PCC was received and noted:-

(See document No.5)

The PCC and APCCs then advised the Panel of the following:

- i. The PCC's Drugs Summit will report early summer 2018.
 - ii) The PCC had discussed unauthorised encampments with a cross-party group of MPs and was working with local authorities and the Civil Service. The PCC welcomed the transient sites opened by some districts that gave police power to move on unauthorised encampments, or leave the borough.
 - iii) The number of stop and searches had fallen and positive outcome rates were up. However racial disproportionality remained an issue. The PCC was to host the bi-annual Stop and Search Commission later this week.
 - iv) The PCC had signed off the funding package for victims services totalling £3m from the Ministry of Justice.
 - v) The PCC was to host a business summit this week, issues to be discussed included how the OPCC and WMP could support businesses with their corporate responsibilities agenda though the police cadets and gangs and crime programme.
 - vi) West Midlands had the highest level of vehicle thefts. The regional organised crime unit was involved and a summit involving manufactures was planned for March 2018. APCC Kelly highlighted the message from the force for the public to lock their vehicles.
 - vii) 669 assaults on officers had been reported under a freedom of information request. Footage from a body-worn camera of one serious attack had been shared on social media. The Chief Constable had announced he would submit a personal impact statement in future court cases to outline to the magistrate or judge and jury the effect the attack has had on the force, and its wider implications.

Panel members highlighted assaults on other emergency personnel and made clear their support of the Chief Constable's campaign.
 - viii) Responding to a request for support for speed cameras on Lee Bank Middleway, Birmingham, the PCC advised that he was looking at what could be done, noting there were factors that contributed to the fatal incident.
-

WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

- 377 The Panel received and noted the Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year. Members were reminded that a provisional meeting date of 19 February 2018 was arranged should the Panel veto the PCC's precept at the next meeting and had to consider a revised proposal.

(See document No. 5)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 378 It was confirmed the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday 5 February 2018.

The meeting ended at 1615

.....

CHAIR