

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON
5 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 1400 HOURS, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:-

Cllr Sean Coughlan - Walsall
Cllr Pervez Akhtar – Coventry
Cllr Cathy Bayton – Dudley
Cllr Elaine Costigan – Sandwell
Cllr Peter Douglas Osborn – Birmingham
Cllr Ken Hawkins – Solihull
Cllr David Hosell – Sandwell
Cllr Andy Mackiewicz – Solihull
Cllr John O’Shea – Birmingham
Cllr Paul Sweet – Wolverhampton

ALSO PRESENT:-

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

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 379 The Chair announced the meeting (except confidential or exempt items) would be recorded for live or subsequent broadcast via Birmingham City Council's Internet site (<http://civico.net/birmingham>) and members of the press/public were permitted to record and take photographs.

APOLOGIES

- 380 Apologies for non-attendance were received from:-

Cllr Khan, Cllr Bradley, Cllr Holl-Allen, Kristine Murphy and Lionel Walker.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 381 None declared.
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MINUTES

- 382 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 January 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 383 The Chair advised that no public questions had been submitted.
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REVIEW OF 2018/19 REVENUE BUDGET, PRECEPT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 – 2021/22

- 384 The following report setting out the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposals for the 2018/19 Revenue Budget, Precept and Capital Programme for 2018/19-2021/22 were submitted:-

(See document No.1)

The Provisional Budget Outturn 2016/17(June 2017) and the Medium Term Financial Plan (September 2017) had also been submitted as background papers to show the build-up of the budget process, although based on different budget assumptions.

(See documents Nos. 2 and 3)

Introducing the report the PCC highlighted the loss of 2200 uniformed officers since 2010. West Midlands Police had also seen the largest reduction in budget nationally because it was more reliant on government funding than other areas. Recent crime figures showed a 14% increase in crime reporting in the West Midlands, and this was the same as the national picture. This year's total government grant remained the same in monetary terms as last year at £444.1m, but this did not take into consideration the nationally imposed police officer and staff pay increases or inflation. The PCC estimated an extra £22m was required to stand still. The budget would be propped up by the use of reserves, but by 2020 there would be no reserves, beyond an operating balance.

The PCC proposed the Band D property precept for 2018/19 should be set at £128.55, an increase of £12 compared to 2017/18. He explained the majority of properties in the West Midlands were band A-B, who would see a 15/18p a week increase. The £12 precept increase would raise £9.5m which would allow for 100 additional police officers by 2020, depending on future budgets and grants.

The PCC's consultation on proposals included the seven local authorities, local MPs, the business community and a public consultation. 849 (+40 late) public responses were received with 70% agreeing with proposals.

The PCC drew members' attention to the Revenue Budget for 2018/19, highlighting the WMP 2020 'invest to save' programme of work, the increase in the Office of the Police and Crime

Commissioner responsibilities and the efficiencies expected centralising the administration of Community Safety Funding.

The PCC and Mark Kenyon then responded to questions from Members.

The PCC was asked how the West Midlands reserve level compared with other areas and concern was expressed about the long term impact on future budgets and funding. It was noted that to bring about greater transparency all PCCs will be required to publish a reserves strategy. The PCC commented this was something the West Midlands already did, yet there remained little transparency about the Government top-slicing of police budgets.

When asked why capital spending was increasing when Lloyd House refurbishment was completed and some police stations had closed, the PCC explained that Lloyd House would be paid for in 8 years. Some of the police estate was found to be unfit for purpose and fewer buildings were needed with less officers and new technology enabling officers to spend less time in stations. The Chief Constable made operational decisions about the estate and if surplus to requirements was handed to the PCC for appropriate disposal.

The investment in additional police officers was welcomed by the Panel but the PCC was asked if these posts were sustainable in future. He explained that as a police officer was classed as a fixed asset, caution had been taken with future budget predictions and decisions had been made based on a best estimate that there would be no increase in police grant.

Responding to a question about external income, Mark Kenyon explained the level of fees and charges recovered (such as speed awareness courses and prosecution costs) were above the level budgeted.

Continuing delays to the national airwave replacement programme (listed as ESMCP on the capital programme in section 20 of the report) meant actual costs could not be quantified at the moment.

The PCC was asked to provide a more detailed breakdown of the increased costs associated with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. He advised that the office was now responsible for writing and consultation on the Police and Crime Plan, commissioning Victim Services, commissioning Restorative Justice, case work had risen to 1500 a year with more complex issues, the office administered £11m external spending, audited the Active Citizens Fund, oversaw the Appropriate Adult Scheme, was secretariat to the Local Criminal Justice Board, there were also responsibilities associated with the Gangs and Violence Commission and the Stop and Search Commission, administration of a small charity fund previously done by the force, and also collaborative work with the Combined Authority, West Midlands Mayor and the Fire Service.

The PCC confirmed the 1% Home Office support for a major incident was per incident. He went on to advise that Counter Terrorism Funding was a separate pot of national funding passported to forces. It had received £50m from Government this year, however had been overspent by £47m. The PCC highlighted that a lot of counterterrorism work was undertaken

by neighbourhood officers either through community based policing, or when backfilling other officers redirected to counterterrorism duties. These resources had to be covered locally.

Members asked if the PCC could schedule the publishing of future Medium Term Financial Plans in line with the budget setting process. The PCC agreed to supply whatever information the Panel required.

The Panel further noted the negative effect that dampening has had on the West Midlands police budget. It was estimated that under the current funding formula the West Midlands should have received an additional £44m

The Panel also agreed that Government should move to three year settlements for grant funding, to allow for sustainable, longer-term, planning.

Sarah Norman then outlined the statutory duty of the Panel in reviewing the precept and that the Panel had to decide whether to support or veto the PCC's proposal and if it supported the proposal, whether to make any recommendations.

Members voted unanimously to support the precept proposal for 2018/19, without comment. The vote was 11 to 0 in support.

RESOLVED:

- i) The Police and Crime Panel supports the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal that the Band D precept for 2018/19 should be set at £128.55, an increase of £12 compared to 2017/18;
 - ii) The negative effect that dampening has had on the West Midlands police budget be noted;
 - iii) The Panel urge the Government to move to three year settlements for grant funding, to allow for sustainable, longer-term, planning;
 - iv) The Panel formally report to the Police and Crime Commissioner; and
 - v)) The Panel report be published on its website.
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POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

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

(See document No.4)

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

- i. Vehicle thefts had risen dramatically across the West Midlands from 513 to 780 a month. Work was ongoing with West Midlands Police to understand the reasons for the rise and what action could be taken. A summit involving car manufacturers, the

police and other interested parties was planned for end March/ April. Police awareness had been raised about the involvement of serious and organised crimes, shipping overseas and money laundering associated with these vehicle thefts.

- ii) Work was ongoing to tackle the number of uninsured vehicles across the West Midlands including working with those that produce fine setting guidance for magistrates. There were about 11k prosecutions a year in the West Midlands for uninsured drivers. Members suggested extending the use of number plate recognition operations and confiscating vehicles.
- iii) The Operation Spectre Home Office programme to tackle the impact of knife crime was to start next week. Locally work was to include weapon sweeps, parcel inspections and responsible retailer test purchases. Successful work to address knife crime in Glasgow was highlighted.
- iv) The Police Cadets Scheme would be extended to Coventry and Dudley. Engagement with private sector is underway to secure future funding. A Junior Cadets scheme for primary school pupils was planned and more details will be reported soon. Members wished it to be placed on record their gratitude for the innovation of the PCC in this and other areas.
- v) The PCC's Outstanding Citizens Award is seeking nominations. More information is on the Website.
- vi) The PCC was asked to refer to the Chief Constable concerns about the rise in crime along the Rea Valley Route.
- vii) Responding to a question about officer training in evidence disclosure duties, the PCC undertook to report back to a future Panel meeting on the review of evidence disclosure procedures he had asked the Chief Constable to undertake.
- viii) The PCC was asked for data on the conviction rates for recorded rape cases. At the meeting it was understood the rape conviction rate was 10% (nationally 7%). Whilst 47% court cases led to a conviction.
- ix) The meeting discussed the importance of public reassurance about action taken by the police. The PCC advised he had asked the Chief Constable that wherever possible the police informed local communities on action taken.

WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

386 The Panel received and noted the Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

(See document No. 5)

It was suggested future PCC events and summit dates be given to Panel members and feedback from event is circulated by Panel Members attending.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

387 It was confirmed the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday 19 March 2018

The meeting ended at 15:25

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CHAIR