

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON
23 JULY 2018 15.30 HOURS, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:-

Cllr John O'Shea – Birmingham
Cllr Narinder Kaur Kooner - Birmingham
Cllr John Lines – Birmingham
Cllr Paul Bradley – Dudley
Cllr Pervez Akhtar – Coventry
Cllr Kindy Sandhu – Coventry
Cllr Elaine Costigan - Sandwell
Cllr Ken Hawkins – Solihull
Cllr Hazel Malcolm – Wolverhampton
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal – Wolverhampton
Lionel Walker – Independent Member

NAMED SUBSTITUTE OBSERVERS:-

Cllr Ed Lawrence – Dudley
Cllr Faye Abbott – Coventry
Cllr Suky Samra – Walsall
Cllr Stephen Simkins – 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
Jonathon Jardine – Chief Executive, OPCC
Mark Kenyon – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC
Sarah Norman – Panel Chief Executive
Emma Williamson – Lead Officer
Sarah Fradgley – Panel Support Officer

ELECTION OF CHAIR

- 400 Nominations were invited by Emma Williamson, Panel Lead Officer, for the position of Chair of the Panel. It was proposed, seconded and:-

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor John O'Shea (Birmingham) be appointed Chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the period ending with the Annual Meeting in 2019.

COUNCILLOR JOHN O'SHEA IN THE CHAIR

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

- 401 Nominations were invited by Cllr O'Shea for the position of Vice-Chair of the Panel. It was proposed, seconded and:-

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Ken Hawkins (Solihull) be appointed Vice-Chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the period ending with the Annual Meeting in 2019.

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2018- 2019

- 402 It was noted that the following Members and their named substitutes had been appointed to the Panel for 2018-2019. The Chair encouraged substitute members to attend and participate at meetings, noting however they would be unable to vote unless officially substituting for their Panel member:-

	Panel Member	Named Substitute
Birmingham	ClIr John O’Shea	ClIr Shabrana Hussain
Birmingham	ClIr Narinder Kaur Kooner	ClIr Fred Grindrod
Birmingham	ClIr John Lines	ClIr David Barrie
Dudley	ClIr Paul Bradley	ClIr Ed Lawrence
Coventry	ClIr Abdul Salam Khan	ClIr Kindy Sandhu
Coventry	ClIr Pervez Akhtar	ClIr Faye Abbott
Sandwell	ClIr Elaine Costigan	ClIr Julie Webb
Solihull	ClIr Ken Hawkins	ClIr Diana Holl-Allen MBE
Walsall	ClIr Mike Bird	ClIr Suky Samra
Wolverhampton	ClIr Hazel Malcolm	ClIr Stephen Simkins
Association of Black Country Authorities	ClIr Chris Jones (Walsall)	ClIr Cathryn Bayton (Dudley)
Association of Black Country Authorities	ClIr Bhupinder Gakhal (Wolverhampton)	ClIr David Hosell (Sandwell)
Independent Member	Kristina Murphy	No substitute
Independent Member	Lionel Walker	No substitute

APOLOGIES

- 403 Apologies for non-attendance were received from ClIrs Mike Bird, Abdul Khan and Chris Jones, Fred Grindrod, Shabrana Hussain, Cathy Bayton and Kristina Murphy Independent Member

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 404 None declared.

MINUTES

- 405 The notes of the informal Panel meeting held on 18 March 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Further to minute no. 394, the PCC advised that no communication had been received from Andrew Mitchell MP.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

- 406 The Chair welcomed members, stating that he believed the Panel was an important body for the West Midlands; an opportunity to question and hold up to scrutiny the PCC who had a significant budget to spend on keeping residents safe. He went on to highlight that the Panel was a scrutiny body and so should not be a political forum.
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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 407 The Chair advised that no public questions had been submitted.
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WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL BUDGET 2017/18 AND 2018/19

- 408 The following report updating members on the Panel's 2017/18 expenditure from the Home Office grant, and the Panel's proposed budget for 2018/19 was received and noted:-

(See document No.1 - *Police and Crime Panel Budget 2017/18 and 2018/19*)

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER PROVISIONAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2017/18

- 409 The following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted:-

(See document No. 2 - *Police and Crime Commissioner Provisional Revenue and Capital Outturn 2017/18*)

The Police and Crime Commissioner and Mark Kenyon, OPCC Chief Finance Officer presented the report and responded to questions from Panel Members. During the course of the debate the following points were made:

Referring to spending on Force Contact, it was noted Members continued to receive complaints about 101 call answering times. The PCC explained that a new department lead had been appointed and staff levels increased, he and his Strategic Board kept a regular check on call answering times. Until recently 101 calls handling had consistently improved and 999 were generally at a high standard. However, recent fine weather and the World Cup had led to a sharp increase in calls, impacting on answering times. The PCC reassured members the situation was now improving but call levels were unpredictable and there continued to be a number of spurious emergency calls. New non-urgent online reporting was working well and analysis had shown a high level of satisfaction with this method.

The PCC further advised that all calls were recorded, and if there was a complaint about call handling, action could be taken if necessary. The PCC was asked to provide the cost of the 101 system.

Referring to the £3.1m Office for PCC underspend, the PCC explained that £2.3m underspend related to the phasing of the Gangs and Violence programme, money was committed and would be carried forward to 2018/19. He was disappointed at the £0.8m Active Citizens fund underspend and the pace of this spending and his office was actively looking at how to improve this.

Members questioned the PCC on how the Active Citizens Fund spending and project outcomes were monitored, the profile of those benefitting, and the accessibility of funding for groups, particularly young people, not used to submitting grant applications. The PCC explained the Fund was devolved to each police area to allocate small grants of £3-£4K. He highlighted a range of projects, including Shirley Street Watch and Alum Rock Youth Football Club, and spoke of the challenge to find more groups and to spend the funds productively. He explained that going forward the focus would be on crime reduction projects and diversionary activities for young people. Young people were his primary focus as they were most likely to be victims and perpetrators of crime, however there were also projects focused on older people, to keep them safe online and in their homes.

Members were told that projects were governed by grant conditions and financial monitoring and project achievements were monitored by the Office of the PCC. However as the administration of small scale grant schemes was a significant exercise, the commissioning approach relied on neighbourhood policing units reaching out to local groups and individuals and supporting them to submit bids.

It was suggested end of project case studies could be used as a method of small project monitoring, rather than onerous data collection, also that the PCC collaborate with local authorities in the bid writing, delivery and auditing of projects. The PCC was also asked to review the way Active Citizen's Fund Workshops were organised to ensure engagement with all areas and hard to reach groups.

The PCC acknowledged the role of local councillors to engage local people, identify needs and help people to access the Active Citizens Fund. He had appointed a bid writer as the West Midlands had a low take up of National Lottery Funding. It was noted that Birmingham City Council had also appointed a bid writer for external funding.

Responding to questions about the spending of £20m from reserves, the PCC advised some reserves had accrued when police recruitment had been paused but funds were now being used for recruitment with some spent on IT equipment for police officers. The PCC was asked if a cost-benefit analysis of the new technology on officer roles had been undertaken and he reported anecdotal evidence had found significant time savings allowing officers more time with the public.

The PCC clarified West Midlands Police has lost 2100 police officers between 2011- 2018.

The PCC was asked about spending on the Office for the PCC press and public relations and advised that full accounts were available on the PCC website.

The PCC asked the Panel how it wished to be involved in building the budget this year. The Medium-Term Financial Plan would be presented in October. The Chair suggested the Panel set up a small sub-group to look at the PCC's budget setting throughout the year as this was an approach used in other areas.

The PCC explained underspend from Connect Project was a result of a slight delay to the project. Mark Kenyon confirmed that WMP2020 projects would deliver savings within the WMP2020 programme period. Accenture's involvement on the programme was to provide management advice, rather than deliver the programme and the PCC met with Accenture regularly.

Responding to a question about the budget implications of delays to the national Airwave replacement project, the meeting was informed that WMP continued to purchase Airwave units and licenses. A Government decision on the future of the project and how costs would be covered was anticipated. However elements of the programme, such as 4G, were expected to be introduced and WMP was prepared for these developments. It may mean officers carrying Airwave terminals as well as new equipment for an extended period.

RESOLVED:-

- i. That the report be noted; and
- ii. The Police and Crime Panel notify the Police and Crime Commissioner of the level of information it required on the PCC budget.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S RECENT DECISIONS AND UPDATE

- 410 The following list of recent decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner was received and noted:-

(See document No.3 – *Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions*)

The PCC and Assistant PCCs Lynnette Kelly and Ashlie Bertie updated the Panel of the following:-

- i. WMP had never been busier. There had been a record number of 999 calls, an increase by 20% this year. Crime was increasing and an increase in violent crime.
- ii. Several hundred WMP officers had recently supported national events and there was now 1000 rest days to be met by the force.
- iii. The Chief Constable and PCC launched a school knife education programme. 150 secondary schools had taken up the programme that was delivered by teachers. There had been encouraging responses from pupils. An on-going challenge was reaching school academies.

- iv. The first drug safety testing exercise would take place at the Made Festival in Perry Park in partnership with the Loop Charity. Samples would be analysed and drugs advice available. The Made Festival was meeting the cost of this exercise.
- v. The number of cars stolen in the West Midlands had doubled. Cars are stolen for export or for parts for repair via chop shops. WMP was hosting a national event involving manufacturers to discuss how to tackle this problem. PCC would be publishing a list of most stolen cars. Drivers were advised to use traditional steering wheel locks. Possession of a key programming device was not an offence. The PCC was speaking to retailers regarding their sale and have approached Government to change legislation.
- vi. WMP drones have been launched and were becoming a valuable resource.
- vii. Work would continue to educate the public on the strain on resources of spurious emergency calls. It was an offence to make malicious calls.
- viii. The PCC has raised with the Chief Constable regarding WMP improving its feedback to communities when a crime is resolved,

DEVELOPING THE PANEL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2018/19

- 411 The Chair asked Panel members identify three possible topics to consider for the Panel work programme for 2018/19 and send them to the Panel secretariat.

MEETING DATES FOR 2018/2019

- 412 The following Panel meeting dates were agreed:

Mondays 2pm
15 October 2018 14 January 2019
26 November 2018 4 February 2019
 18 February 2019 (Provisional)
 18 March 2019

URGENT BUSINESS

- 413 It was suggested Panel look into establishing a subgroup to examine the PCC's budget. The Chair asked members if they wished to participate.

The meeting ended at 17:30

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CHAIR