

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON
15 OCTOBER 2018 14:00 HOURS, WOLVERHAMPTON**

PRESENT:-

Cllr John O'Shea – Birmingham
Cllr Pervez Akhtar – Coventry
Cllr Elaine Costigan - Sandwell
Cllr Ken Hawkins – Solihull
Cllr Abdul Khan - Coventry
Cllr Narinder Kaur Kooner - Birmingham
Cllr Hazel Malcolm – Wolverhampton
Cllr Suky Samra – Walsall
Kristina Murphy – 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
Jonathon Jardine – Chief Executive, OPCC
Mark Kenyon – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC
Jamie Scott - OPCC
Sarah Norman – Panel Chief Executive
Emma Williamson – Lead Officer
Sarah Fradgley– Panel Support Officer

APOLOGIES

- 414 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Cllrs Mike Bird, David Hosell and John Lines.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 415 None declared.

MINUTES

- 416 The minutes of the Panel meeting held on 23 July 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 417 The Chair advised that no public questions had been submitted. Officers undertook to provide members with data on recent panel website traffic.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL BUDGET SUB-GROUP

- 418 The following report setting out the terms of reference for the proposed Panel Budget Sub-Group was received. Councillor Ken Hawkins volunteered to join the group and the Chair encouraged other members and named substitutes to do so.

(See document No.1 - *Establishment of the Police And Crime Panel Budget Sub-Group*)

RESOLVED:-

- i. That the terms of reference for the Police and Crime Panel Budget Sub-Group be agreed; and
- ii. The Secretariat contact Police and Crime Panel Members and Named Substitutes for further volunteers to join the group.

REVIEW OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

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

(See document No. 2 – *Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report 2017/18*)

Jamie Scott, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the report. The Police and Crime Commissioner then highlighted the financial pressures affecting the force and the efficiencies already made. He spoke of his campaigns to tackle violent crime and vehicle crime, his drugs strategy, the Active Citizens fund, work to review stop and search and collaboration on unauthorised encampments. He also updated Members on the relaunch of the Police Cadets Scheme, the recruitment of 100 police officers this year and the introduction of the Living Wage for WMP staff.

The PCC then responded to questions from Panel Members. During the course of the debate the following points were made:-

Concern was expressed at the increase in crime. It was recognised that the nature of crime was changing and cuts to other local public bodies, for example local council provision for youth work, had an impact. Members suggested it would be helpful to have more narrative in the Annual Report to explain why some targets had not been met.

Members noted the Annual Report identified a small drop in confidence in the police. It was explained how data was collected by the independent Crime Survey of England and Wales, however many Panel Members felt this did not reflect their experience and cited examples of crimes where there had been no or limited police follow up and the impact this had on public confidence in the police. Whilst car crime and burglaries were classed as low level, it was noted they affect many more people than the more serious, high impact - low incidence crimes and are what shaped views of the police. Whilst visits from the Police may not always be necessary following a crime; feedback to victims on action taken was critical. The increasing use of social media channels to reassure communities was praised. The PCC referred to the preventative and anti-terrorism work the force undertook that was not visible and acknowledged that funding was an issue. Serious crimes, including increase in homicide rates took significant officer time and resources and the Chief Constable had to prioritise the police response within available resources.

It was clarified that reoffending figures contained in the report were from 2016/17 as there was a time lag with data collection. The rise was attributed to the increase in acquisitive, drug related and vehicle crime, that tend to attract shorter sentences and so quicker release. The

PCC acknowledged that further work was needed with criminal justice partners around management of shorter sentences and also sentencing of habitual drug users.

Members welcomed the style of the Annual Report but asked that more detail be included to provide context and narrative and a fuller picture, for example the data on recorded crimes was useful, but it would also be helpful to have data on arrests, charges brought and conviction rates.

It was also suggested that sections of the report would benefit from more detail on impact, for example, the data on public participation showed an encouraging increase in participation, but no information on the impact or any positive outcome. It was also unclear how the achievements set out on page 29 linked back to the Police and Crime Plan targets. A clear statement of progress made against each target/measure would be helpful in future years.

The PCC undertook to look at how such detail could be included.

It was further noted that there had been a decrease in the number of complaints but an increase in the time taken to resolve these and that performance was far worse than other police areas. Members recalled the introduction of body-worn cameras had been expected to reduce both. The reasons for this were explained, including lack of staff and the fact that very straightforward complaints were resolved before recording and therefore those recorded are more difficult and so took longer. Also the dataset included some longstanding complaints which skewed the figures. It was felt more information in the Annual Report on this would help set the figures in context.

The PCC was congratulated on the Office for PCC staffing reflecting the local community. An update was given as to how the force was working towards this. Members asked about the structure of the force and asked for a breakdown of the number, rank and type of personnel in each of the WMP units.

The opportunities that data sharing across the public sector could provide for policing purposes and targeting local other services was also highlighted.

A member agreed to speak to APCC Kelly outside the meeting about concerns expressed by involvement of smaller charities on the PCC's Victims Commission.

Another member also agreed to refer a complaint about a particular Active Citizen grant to the OPCC to examine.

RESOLVED:-

- i. That the Police and Crime Panel prepare a report for the Police and Crime Commissioner on his Annual Report 2017/18
- ii. The Panel Report and the Police and Crime Commissioner's response be published on the Panel website.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2018/19 TO 2011/23

420 The following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was received:-

(See document No.3 – *Police and Crime Commissioner Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 To 2011/23*)

The PCC welcomed the establishment of the Panel Budget Sub-Group and undertook to provide what information it required.

The PCC then reported that the recent Treasury Police Pensions Review announcement affecting police force contributions posed a very serious financial challenge for police forces. This would cost West Midlands Police an extra £8.6m in 2019/2020, and £13.6m in 2020/2021. Forces had not been consulted on this change and given very little notice. He explained the increased pensions cost would have to be funded from existing budgets and so would impact on police recruitment. The PCC was making representations to Government and the Panel undertook to also write to the Treasury.

Referring to the report the PCC confirmed the Living Wage would be given to apprentices. WMP would receive funding for policing the Commonwealth Game, but the details had yet to be agreed. The PCC would pursue a no deficit position for the Force; highlighting policing of the recent Conservative Conference had cost the Force £430k in pre-planning.

RESOLVED:-

- i. The report be noted; and
- ii. The Panel Chair write to the Treasury on behalf of the Police and Crime Panel to express its concern regarding the budget implications of the police pensions review announcement.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE

421 The following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was received:-

(See document No.4 – *Police and Crime Commissioner Recent Decisions*)

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

- i. The success of the Sandwell MBC transit site was highlighted – estimated that annual clean-up costs of unauthorised encampments in the borough had fallen from £250k to £10k.
- ii. Youth Commissioner elections were to take place shortly.
- iii. The PCC was concerned recent WM Combined Authority reports were short on evidence that the proposed amalgamation of the WM Mayor and PCC roles would deliver better policing and police governance than existing arrangements. He suggested the Panel speak to their counterparts on the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel.

- iv. There had been 70 volunteer drug tests at the Made Festival. It was hoped the initiative could be rolled out to other local festivals and the night-time economy.
- v. The PCC encouraged councillor panel members to ask questions about the number of pupils taken off roll in year 10 so they would not to impact on school exam results. In the West Midlands in 2009/10 380 pupils were taken off roll, in 2016/17 it was 727. He believed this practice, as well as the limited education provision for excluded pupils, to be a major feeder for crime.
- vi. West Mercia force had withdrawn from its alliance with Warwickshire. The PCC clarified that West Midlands Police had no ambition to merge but he had offered to give support to Warwickshire if it was mutually beneficial to the West Midlands.
- vii. Delays to vehicle recovery was being looked into, but it was not appropriate to report at this stage.
- viii. The PCC agreed to look into a matter about uniforms for special constables for the Southside Bid.

ANNUAL COMPLAINTS MONITORING

- 422 The following report updating the Panel on complaint handling undertaken by the Monitoring Officer on its behalf was received and noted:-

(See document No. 5 - Police and Crime Panel Annual Complaints Monitoring)

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2018/19

- 423 The following report setting out the proposed work programme for the remainder of the 2018/19 Municipal Year was received and noted:-

(See document No. 6 – Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2018/19)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 424 2pm, Monday 26 November 2018, Dudley Council House

The meeting ended at 16:20

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CHAIR