

**MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL  
HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2019 14:00 HOURS, SOLIHULL**

**PRESENT:-**

Cllr John O'Shea – Birmingham  
Cllr Ken Hawkins – Solihull  
Cllr David Barrie – Birmingham  
Cllr Suky Samra – Walsall  
Cllr Abdul Khan – Coventry  
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  
Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe  
Jonathon Jardine – Chief Executive, OPCC  
Mark Kenyon – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC  
Henry Kippin - WMCA  
Tim Martin - WMCA  
Jodie Townsend - WMCA  
Emma Williamson – Lead Officer Head of Birmingham Scrutiny Services  
Sarah Fradgley– Scrutiny Officer

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**APOLOGIES**

- 443 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Cllr Elaine Costigan, Cllr Hazel Malcolm, Cllr Rose Burley, Cllr Pervez Akhtar, Cllr Paul Bradley, Cllr Ed Lawrence, Cllr Mike Bird, Cllr Dave Tyler, Lionel Walker and Sarah Norman.

The Chair noted the meeting was inquorate and would proceed as an informal meeting.

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 444 None declared.

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**MINUTES**

- 445 The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2019 were noted.

Further to Minute 438, the PCC confirmed special constable training equated to 220 hours, undertaken on a part-time basis over a period of 20 weeks.

Further to Minute 441, it was noted that the Department for Education data on local school exclusions had been circulated to Panel members.

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**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

**REVIEW OF THE POLICING PRECEPT AND BUDGET FOR 2018/19**

447 The following report was submitted:-

(See document No. 1 – *Panel Review of the Policing Budget and Precept 2019/20*)

Introducing the report the PCC highlighted the budgetary pressures of £33m, the 2019/20 Government grant settlement for the West Midlands of £15.9m, and the use of £5.3m of reserves to support the budget. He outlined his proposals to increase the police council tax precept for 2019/20 by £24 to £152.55 for a band D property and subsequent increases across all other bandings, advising that every additional £1 in precept equated to the cost of 15 police officers.

The PCC advised that his public budget consultation had received 389 responses in support, and 120 against the proposed precept increase. He reported that many respondents wished to see greater uniformed police presence and so he and the Force would ensure uniformed officers and PCSOs were a priority. His business community consultation had raised no objections to the proposed precept.

The Panel sought clarifications on specific aspects of the Capital Programme, revisions made to the 2018/19 Revenue Budget and the proposed 2019/20 Revenue Budget. The following points were made:

- Members asked about the long term financial impact of the WMP2020 programme and sought assurances that future costs such as renewal of licences and equipment were budgeted for. The PCC stressed the cost of the programme would be zero by 2020/21. It was an 'invest to save' programme that would result in substantial savings and he gave the example how new Body Worn Cameras and mobile devices had reduced officer travel and court attendance time. The Panel was advised that there was a replacement programme and funding any recurring costs was part of the ongoing and long term planning and budget setting process.
- The PCC explained that work was underway to equate the cashable and non - cashable savings of the WMP2020 Programme and identify what the cashable savings would be used for. This information would be shared with the Panel in due course.
- The Business As Usual IT and Digital capital budget increase of £4.6m in 2020/2021 was associated with the cycle of IT licence renewals. The Force had audited IT usage and licence requirements.
- Agency costs related to payments made to Government departments. The increase was due to budget realignments and the OPCC undertook to provide Panel Members with further details.
- Increases in the budget for Support Staff Pay was due to additional staffing for regional activities, over-recruitment to maintain certain services, and temporary posts associated with the WMP2020 programme.

- The forecast of 50 additional police officers, compared to the forecast of 100 made last year was a consequence of recruitment and training time following a recruitment pause when government budget cuts were anticipated.
- The phasing of Grant Expenditure had resulted in a carry forward into 2018/19. The proposed increase in the OPCC Governance budget was because the office had taken on additional statutory functions.
- Phasing of WMP2020 projects were largely in line although there had been some slippage which was expected of a programme of this type.
- The Estates Strategy Acquisitions and Refurbishment costs would be partly offset by disposal receipts. There were expected revenue savings of £5m on building maintenance and running costs. The rationale for acquisitions was outlined which included a new logistics hub. The PCC explained the programme would be funded by additional borrowing and he had raised concerns about the possibilities of a future borrowing cap with the West Midlands Mayor. It was suggested Panel Members could visit some of the sites.

The Panel was inquorate for this meeting, so a formal decision could not be reached on the proposed precept. However those present: -

**AGREED: -**

To support the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal that the Band D precept for 2019/20 should be set at £152.55, an increase of £24 compared to 2018/19.

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**WMP2020 CHANGE PROGRAMME UPDATE**

448 The following update report was submitted:-

(See document No.2- WMP2020 Change Programme)

The PCC introduced the report explaining that the West Midlands was the only force in country to undertake such a detailed root and branch review of every force activity. The next phase of work beyond 2020 was also underway.

The Deputy Chief Constable, responsible for the WMP2020 programme delivery, outlined a number of projects and associated efficiency savings and benefits.

Responding to earlier questions about the WMP2020 budget and programme slippage, the DCC advised that Accenture, the innovation partner, was responsible for developing the detailed business plans which included immediate and legacy costs. She assured Members that where a zero budget had been identified, the Force would not be spending anything and Accenture carried a financial and contractual responsibility for this.

It was clarified that some parts of the programme, such as ANPR and Taser, formed part of national programmes and the capital costs for upgrades or replacement were planned in the budget for the appropriate time.

The DCC undertook to provide data on the number of Taser trained and equipped officers.

The DCC assured Members of the detailed oversight and governance arrangements for the programme and how risk provision and margins were built into each project. The risks of non-delivery were shared with Accenture. She explained that one project had been paused to consider incorporating a technological advance that provided greater functionality. Training and live launch then had to be rescheduled to avoid anticipated peaks in police demand.

Responding to a question about challenges faced during the programme, the PCC and DCC highlighted that the wrong estimate of call centre demand had been made; the programme had found some issues masked in the old operational model that had to be addressed; and unanticipated technological advances.

The PCC confirmed there were costs associated with the ongoing delay to the national Airwave replacement programme. The Force was in active negotiation with Home Office so not to be in period of transition during the Commonwealth Games.

Responding to a comment that front line officers were unhappy with the introduction of banded shift patterns, the DCC suggested that this was a minority and not a universally held view.

Responding to a question about transport times to custody blocks, the DCC explained monitoring had found the overall time spent transporting and dealing with detainees had reduced. New arrangements for handover to an investigator officer based at custody freed response officers to return to response duty. The health and safety advantages and improved provision of medical services and mental health support in purpose built custody suites were also highlighted. The location of custody blocks had been carefully considered, and another block was planned in the East of the region.

The Panel congratulated the Deputy Chief Constable on her award of an OBE.

**RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted

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**WMCA STAGE TWO CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED TRANSFER OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER POWERS TO THE WEST MIDLANDS MAYOR**

449 The following report was submitted:-

*(See document No 3- WMCA Stage Two Consultation on Proposed Transfer of PCC Powers to the West Midlands Mayor)*

The WMCA Stage 2 Consultation Booklet was also circulated to Members.

Henry Kippin, WMCA Director for Public Sector Reform, presented the report that responded to the Panel's stage- one consultation submission, and comments and questions raised by the Panel. He explained the stage-two consultation was underway. On 22 March 2019 (the WMCA Board would consider analysis by BECG and decide whether or not it wished to continue with the process to move towards an election in May 2020 for a Mayor with PCC powers.

The Chair spoke of his concern about the delayed involvement of the Panel in this process and considered it disrespectful that the Panel had not been advised in advance of consultation Question 5, which modified the Panel.

In response the WMCA officers sought to assure the Panel that the best efforts had been made to be as open and transparent and respectful to the role Panel and the PCC. The consultation questions in both stages had been developed independently. Drafts shared with the WMM, WMCA, Panel and OPCC had made reference to composition of the Panel and comments received at that stage were fed back to BECG.

The Chair expressed concern that statements made in the West Midlands Mayor's West Midlands Renewal Plan New Update that the transfer of PCC functions would secure more money and resources for the police and save the tax payer money, had not been made in stage one of the consultation process. He suggested such statements could skew what should be a non-political consultation process. He felt it was not obvious to the general public that the document was a party political publication.

The WMCA officers confirmed it was not Combined Authority material, but were considered to be part of the legitimate campaigning process by Andy Street. It was acknowledged that there would continue to be a robust exchange of views on the process and also the intent behind the proposed transfer. The Chair acknowledged that it was not appropriate for officers to respond to the points he had raised.

PCC said it was unfortunate the status quo has not been given an airing in the consultation exercise. He noted that Manchester arrangements had not been examined in any detail, to determine whether it was good model. He also remained concerned about the borrowing cap issue, the PCC's Corporation Sole status, and whether the governance of policing would be better under the new model.

The Chair thanked the WMCA for the response to the previous questions raised by the Panel. He suggested questions remained over the additional cost of the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime position and the impact of this role.

**RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

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**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE: CRIME DATA INTEGRITY RE-INSPECTION 2018**

450 A copy of the HMICFRS re-inspection report was submitted:-

(See document No.4 – HMICFRS *Crime Data Integrity Re-Inspection 2018 Report*)

Introducing the item the PCC explained that a definitive response to HMICFRS report, that rated WMP as inadequate, would be prepared in due course, but he was happy to update the Panel at this stage.

The PCC and the Deputy Chief Constable explained the re-inspection had looked at a sample of cases over a three month period and found crime recording rules had been incorrectly followed. They gave a number of examples of the failures identified including recording the main crime but not recording other matters relating to that crime as a package at the very beginning, recording errors made when receiving crime reports from third parties, incorrectly categorising some offences as requiring investigation before recording. In other records the recording rules had been broken because they did not reconcile differences between what a victim initially reported and what was recorded at the scene.

The PCC and DCC assured the meeting that these crimes were fully investigated and all offenders dealt with. Auditing had corrected each recording failing and checked safeguarding activity had taken place. Technical recording failings would be eliminated in future with the delivery of the new crime recording system.

The PCC acknowledged there were things that should have been done better and took some responsibility for the rate progress with the force action plan developed following the 2017 inspection. He wanted to see increase activity in this area and an OPCC officer was now working closely with the WMP Crime Data Integrity Gold Group that was overseeing the process. He felt comments by HMICFRS such as investing additional resources into the control centre, were unreasonable given the lack of police resources.

The DCC advised the Panel that WMP has been assessed as outstanding in its approach to recording crime and crime data integrity in 2014 and despite making ongoing improvements, expectations had changed so dramatically its rating had since dropped. The Panel asked how such a gap between improvements and expectations could be prevented in future.

The DCC reported that overall crime reporting was 90% accurate, and WMP compared favourably with other forces.

Members expressed concern that the cases studies in the report suggested there had been failures responding to vulnerable victims and delays to victim support. The DCC assured the meeting that all the cases identified in the HMICFRS sample had received some safeguarding. She acknowledged there was more to do, and stressed the importance that the Force must get this right so victims had the confidence to report crime.

Responding to questions about the rate of progress with the Force Crime Recording Improvement Plan, the DCC told that Panel that she challenged the HMICFRS description of progress. 25 of 63 actions had been completed and signed off and significant progress made on others that were on track to be delivered within the agreed timeframe. Some actions were predicated on future technical system changes to replace legacy systems.

The point was made that inaccurate crime data caused difficulties when benchmarking WMP against other forces and representing crime levels to the public. It was acknowledged that correcting the recording data would artificially increase the level of crime and clearly explaining increases in crime recording and true crime levels would remain a challenge as the data integrity programme continued.

Responding to question about differences in recording practices across the force, the DCC explained that the force had audited and identified priority departments and their training needs. The point was made that HMICFRS was clear there was no deliberate non-recording of crime, but rather a misinterpretation or a lack of recording sufficient evidence. However rather than following the HMICFRS recommendation to invest additional resources and bureaucracy to check crime records, the Force had taken a proportionate approach to develop the understanding and confidence in crime recording rules of all officers.

**RESOLVED:-**

That the update provided by the PCC and DCC be noted.

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**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE**

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

(See document No. 4 – *Recent PCC decisions*)

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

- i. The PCC planned to hold a summit in March/April on school exclusions. The number of exclusions and 'off-rolling' was rising and there was a pattern of excluded children becoming part of the criminal system. A DfE report on the issue was due to be published.
- ii. Vehicle crime – The Home Office Task Force had visited the West Midlands to learn best practice. It had acknowledged that more vehicle safety checks and inspections would shut down the market for stolen cars. Vehicle crime was linked to organised crime and also recruitment of excluded pupils.
- iii. Minister for Policing Nick Hurd MP had praised his recent visit to the West Midlands to understand work on violent crime and gangs.
- iv. The OPCC had successfully bid for an additional £230k Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund.
- v. Responding to a question about delays installing knife bins, it was explained that knife bins were a component of tackling knife crime and were offered to local communities.
- vi. The PCC and officers were not aware of the Police Plus Schemes where local authorities could match fund police officers, but undertook to look into it and report back.

**WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme was received:-

(See document 5 – *Police and Crime Panel Work Programme*)

It was noted that the provisional 18 February meeting would not take place as the Panel had not vetoed the precept proposal

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**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

2pm, Monday 18 March 2019, Walsall

The meeting ended at 16:35

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CHAIR