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west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

Our reference:

Councillor Bob Sleigh
Leader
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Manor Square
Solihull
B91 3QB

24/03/2016

Dear

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I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Shadow Combined Authority.

As I am sure you are aware, I held a hearing in public on Friday 18 March to look into the multi-agency response to the incident on the M6 on Thursday 4 February 2016. It was attended by the Shadow Combined Authority Vice Chair Cllr Cooper.

Following the hearing a set of 11 recommendations emerged on how the multi-agency response to an incident such as this could be improved. (see attached).

I took these recommendations to the Transport Minister, Andrew Jones MP, on Tuesday 22 March. The Minister was keen to stress that as part of the future West Midlands Combined Authority's remit for management of transport in the region, some of these recommendations could be picked up by the current Shadow Board. He also stressed that the Shadow Board had it within their power to request certain things, such as answerability from Highways England, as part of the deal that would be made later in the year.

I therefore believe that the Shadow Board of the WMCA may be best to carry forward some of these recommendations as you will undoubtedly be seeking to strengthen the ability of the local area to manage their road infrastructure in pursuit of economic development.

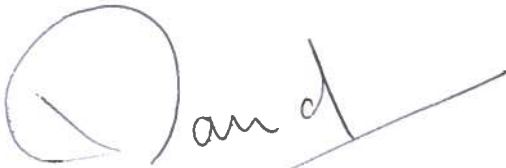
In particular, I discussed with contributors to the hearing and with the minister the need for a follow-up meeting in about 6 months to monitor progress of bringing about improvements to co-ordination of services and implementation of the recommendations. I believe this would be best managed by WMCA and would welcome your thoughts on this.

At the meeting with the Minister I also raised the idea of a Ministerial Working Group to look at transport in the West Midlands. I had been led to believe that the Shadow Board had agreed for this to be set up in the near future, however it was apparent that the Minister was not aware of this Working Group or any other plans to set up a similar body. I will shortly be raising this issue with Centro who provided me with a briefing prior to the meeting.

I will of course offer to provide any information we have gained during the process of conducting the recent hearing for your use in this matter and will co-operate in any way possible with further action initiated by WMCA.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

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David Jamieson

Police and Crime Commissioner