



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 30 April 2013 in the Main Committee Room, Lloyd House

- Present: Jones, Bob – Police and Crime Commissioner
Abbott, Cllr Faye – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Connor, Brendan – Non-executive
Hannon, Cath – Non- executive
Hendricks, Cllr Ernie – Non-executive
Mosquito, Cllr Yvonne – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Nazir, Cllr Mohammed – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
- In attendance: Courtney, Jacky – Chief Executive
Hickman, Fiona – Committee Manager
Sims, Chris – Chief Constable
Thompson, David – Deputy Chief Constable
Wilkin, David – Director of Resources
- Observers: Approximately 10 members of the public

001/13 Welcome and introductions

001/13

The Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner) welcomed members of his Strategic Policing and Crime Board to their first meeting and members of the public who had come to observe the meeting.

Those present introduced themselves.

The PCC congratulated David Wilkin on his success in his recent appointment as Director of Resources.

002/13 Conflicts of Interest

002/13

No conflicts of interest were declared.

003/13 Apologies

003/13

Apologies had been received from Cllr Tim Sawdon, Cllr Judy Foster, the Chief Financial Officer and the Legal Adviser.

004/13 Public Questions

004/13

There were no public questions.

004/13 Strategic Policing and Crime Board Rules of Procedure

004/13

The Chief Executive introduced the report which sought the views of the Board on the proposed rules of procedure under which the Board would operate.

The Board recommended that the rules be amended to include:

- provision for the Board to accept petitions;
- a sentence clarifying that public questions could not be taken about ongoing criminal or quasi-judicial investigations; and

noted that the rules could be reviewed at any time.

ACTION. The Chief Executive would amend the rules to include the Board's recommendation and the Commissioner would make a formal decision approving the rules in due course. The rules would then be made available on the Commissioner's website.

Subsequent to the meeting the Commissioner approved the amended Rules of Procedure (WMPCC 020 13 Strategic Policing and Crime Board Rules of Procedure) and they were published on the Commissioner's website.

The Board noted that the Commissioner intended to bring all future decisions, other than those that were urgent, through the Board.

005/13 Police and Crime Plan

005/13

The Commissioner introduced the report which outlined the Board's work programme and to which the Police and Crime Plan was annexed. Although the Plan had already been issued, the Commissioner considered this occasion to be the launch of the Plan.

The Board considered the report and during the discussion noted that:

- this year, the Plan and the budget had been developed in a very short timescale, necessitated by statute;
- in future years, the Commissioner intended the setting of the Plan to be a 'bottom up' process;
- in future years, the intention would be to set the budget after the the Plan had been developed so that resources were deployed to reflect priorities in the Plan;
- diagram 1 in the Plan represented the new governance arrangements for policing. The Commissioner 'owned' the top half of the diagram and the Chief Constable the bottom half. Together

they would work to achieve the driving aim of the Plan which was that the people of the West Midlands would have pride in their police;

- there would be differences between local policing plans and there would, inevitably, be tensions between local policing plans and the central, strategic Plan. The Deputy Chief Constable would have a moderating role in this regard;
- the Plan would be monitored throughout the year. Local plans would be subject to intensive reporting.

Other matters touched on during the discussion included:

- the possibility of ranking the priorities in future Plans and aligning them with the budget;
- the possibility of highlighting in future Plans engagement with local residents;
- the possibility of organising a summit on Safeguarding;
- the possibility of introducing a victims commission or some other structure for victims.

The Commissioner commended all those who had been involved in developing the Plan in such a short timescale.

006/13 Financial Reporting

006/13

The Director of Resources introduced the report which set out the proposed approach for regular financial update reports to the Board.

The Board considered the report and during the discussion noted that:

- while this report focused on monitoring budgets, there would be another stream of activity focused on developing budgets;
- **ACTION. dates for Joint Audit Committee meetings would be disseminated once they had been discussed with the newly-appointed independent Chair;**
Subsequent to the meeting, it has been agreed with the newly-appointed Chair of the Joint Audit Committee that the first meeting will be held on 26 June 2013.
- the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime had taken a reduction in its budget which was proportionately greater than that taken by the Force.

007/13 Force Performance 2012-13

007/13

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which outlined performance against milestone in 2012-13.

The Board considered the report and during the discussion noted that:

- the data that the Force could now track at neighbourhood level was very good. It would be worth the Board having a full presentation on this; **ACTION: Chief Executive to arrange for Board to be briefed.**
- although crime had significantly been reduced, public perception of crime figures was often different. When communicating the figures to the public, it would be helpful to provide some narrative around them;
- the Chief Constable was supportive of the use of community resolutions and the Force had been monitoring and evaluating its use. The Government had recently run a consultation on Community Remedy;
- the Force was working with the University of Cambridge researching evidence-based policing. The research also included restorative justice/use of community resolutions;
- the Force was embarking on a big project using Continuous Improvement to look at the way that the investigative process operated both centrally and locally. The Force was confident that it could find better and more efficient ways of working;
- it was important to have milestones that did not distort activity;
- there would be monthly reports on performance at future Board meetings and possibly a more in-depth seminar at an informal meeting;
- the Board would explore the Commissioner's 'tipping points' theory at a future meeting.

The Commissioner congratulated the Force on the good performance figures.

008/13 West Midlands Police current change programmes and progress

008/13

The Chief Constable introduced the report which provided an update on the delivery of the Force change portfolio.

The Board considered the report and during the discussion noted that:

- the Priority Based Budgeting exercise had been a very creative process which had delivered an enormous amount for the Force. The Commissioner was very supportive of PBB and defended the use of consultants for this exercise, noting that KPMG and the West Midlands Police had won an award for the most innovative work in the public sector;
- the Force would consider how members of the Board could provide input into the next stage of the change programme. The

new Boards taking programme forward had yet to be set up;

- the next stage of the programme was more about professional change, as well as organisational change. It will be more participative in the way that it will be delivered. There would be greater involvement by police officers and staff and a greater sense of ownership. The Force hoped that this would balance out any staff fatigue issues with the change programme;
- **ACTION. there were areas where the additional capacity and capability for the Force would still be necessary, particularly with the next stage of the Technology Task Force work which would be taken forward at the next meeting.**

There is an item on the agenda for the 14 June Board meeting on the Commissioner's forthcoming decision on the next stage of the Technology Task Force.

009/13 Decisions

009/13

There were no decision reports to consider.

010/13 Referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, Police and Crime Panel and partner bodies

010/13

There were no referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, the Police and Crime Panel or partner bodies. The Commissioner hoped that at future meetings members of the Board would raise thematic issues that they encountered in the course of their activities for the Commissioner.