



**west midlands
police and crime
commissioner**

STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 02 July 2013
in the Main Committee Room, Lloyd House**

- Present:** Jones, Bob – Police and Crime Commissioner
Connor, Brendan – Non-executive
Foster, Cllr Judy – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Hendricks, Cllr Ernie – Non-executive
Mosquito, Cllr Yvonne – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Nazir, Cllr Mohammed – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Sawdon, Cllr Tim – Non-executive
- In attendance:** Barnett, Chief Supt Emma – Birmingham South LPU Commander
Blamire-Brown, Michael – Legal Adviser
Fuller, Alethea – Policy Manager
Hickman, Fiona – Committee Manager
Jardine, Jonathan – Policy Manager
Rowson, Chris – Head of Human Resources
Sims, Chris – Chief Constable
Thompson, David – Deputy Chief Constable
Wentzell, Mark – Policy Manager
Wilkin, David – Director of Resources
Williams, Mike – Chief Finance Officer
- Observers:** Approximately 2 members of the public

035/13 Conflicts of Interest 035/13

No conflicts of interest were declared.

036/13 Apologies 036/13

Apologies had been received from Cllr Faye Abbott, Cath Hannon, the Chief Executive and ACC Garry Forsyth.

037/13 Notes of the Last Meeting

037/13

The Board approved the notes of:

- a) the meeting held on 11 June 2013 in public
- b) the meeting held on 11 June 2013 in private

038/13 Public Questions

038/13

No questions from the public had been received.

039/13 Finance: Revenue and Capital Monitoring – May 2013

039/13

The Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Resources introduced the report which provided the revenue and capital monitoring position as at May 2013.

The Board considered the report and during the discussion noted:

- The Home Secretary had written to firm up the funding position for 2013-14 at a national level.
- The actual cash reduction in total policing grant was 3.3% in 2014-15 and 3.2% in 2015-16.
- The requirement for the West Midlands Police to make savings of £126m over four years was now more likely to be £152m over five years.
- The Office of Budget Management referred to an average rise in council tax of 2.9%. To raise the sums set out in the Home Office assumptions the West Midlands Police would need to increase the precept by 15%. However, the Commissioner wished to assure the public that he was committed to keeping the precept as low as possible and did not wish to raise it by more than inflation. **ACTION The Commissioner would issue a press release on the matter of the precept and his response to the funding announcement more generally.** *A press release was issued on 2 July 2013 and can be found on the Commissioner's website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk*
- The overall financial position meant that the point at which a review of the Pension Regulation A19 was likely to be later than expected.
- Restarting recruitment of police officers was one of the highest priorities. It could only be done when the financial position could support it. This was unlikely to be before 2014-15. In the meantime, the Force was looking at how it would recruit when the time was right because there had been many changes in this area such as pre-entry training.

- Whatever the position with A19 and recruitment (which needed to be decoupled financially and legally), the Force would inevitably be a smaller organisation than it had been before the period of austerity began.
- **ACTION The Commissioner and the Chief Constable would discuss the financial situation in more detail in September.** *A meeting has been scheduled for 9 September and will include the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Director of Resources.*

The Commissioner commended officers on the excellent control of the budget.

040/13 Performance against the 2013-14 Milestones and Deliverable in the Police and Crime Plan

040/13

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which outlined performance against the milestones and deliverables set out in the 2013/14 Police and Crime Plan.

The Board considered the report and noted:

- A number of sections of the report were addressed in the separate report on the agenda from the ACC Local Policing and Service Improvement.
- It was not possible to report in detail in a public paper on counter terrorism performance. However, it was important to assure the public that the Force's counter terrorism activities were being scrutinised, carried out within the law and with the sole purpose of ensuring public safety. There was a good news story, for example, in the recent terrorism trials that could perhaps be promoted. **ACTION The Deputy Commissioner would discuss with the Force how she might promote the good work of the Counter Terrorism Unit in ensuring public safety.** In the meantime, the public should take assurance from the fact that counter terrorism activities were scrutinised at a national level by a board led by a government minister with three police and crime commissioners present.
- As noted at the last meeting, it was important to monitor the marginal increase in total recorded crime.

The Commissioner congratulated the Force on its performance, particularly the work of the Economic Crime Unit.

041/13 Human Resources Department Update

041/13

The Head of Human Resources introduced the report which provided information on the structure and activities of the Force's Corporate Human Resources function.

The Board considered the reported and during the discussion noted:

- The Force was running a joint assessment centre this month with British Transport Police to recruit PCSOs for the safer travel team.
- Some LPUs were below their establishment on Specials and the Force would aim to address this when recruiting.
- The recruitment of PCSOs and Specials would be across the whole range of ages.
- 70 police officers would be released for other duties once the contact hubs were up and running.
- Attendance figures were broadly comparable with other areas of the public sector but the Force was actively working on how to improve performance in this area. Reasons for absence could be broken down by categories such as stress.
- The HR department was involved in the Stage 2 Transfer process, particularly around timelines and the consultation process.
- The Force was in the process of seconding an officer to support the work that it was doing in respect of BME police officers and staff. As agreed at the previous meeting, the Force would provide a report at the September meeting outlining its initiatives in this area.
- The Force had provided guidance on the fitness test on its intranet. If a participant were to fail the test, the emphasis would be on supporting them to improve their fitness levels in order to re-take and successfully pass the test. If improvement were not made, then continued failure might result in formal action under the unsatisfactory performance procedures.

The Commissioner commended the Force on the collaborative work it was doing with Birmingham City Council and the Fire Service.

042/13 ACC Local Policing and Service Improvement Portfolio Update

042/13

Chief Supt Emma Barnett, on behalf of ACC Forsyth, introduced the report which provided an overview of the portfolio of the ACC Local Policing and Service Improvement.

The Board considered the report and the discussion focused on:

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

- The Board considered that the re-offending figures were very encouraging and it was delighted to see that all seven of the West Midlands local authority areas featured in the top 21 nationally.

- The Board drew the Force's attention to the Commissioner's recent mental health summit. There might be issues emerging from that which might have relevance to IOM.
- The discussion about mental health prompted the Chief Finance Officer to declare an interest as he was a non-executive director of a mental health provider in the West Midlands.
- The discussion about mental health also prompted the Commissioner to mention the community psychiatric nurse pilot in Smethwick which was about to come to an end. An evaluation report would be produced by the health service and was eagerly awaited.
- The Board suggested that it might be useful to give some publicity to IOM at the Commissioner's forthcoming criminal justice summit.

Single patrolling

- The Board noted that single patrolling was now embedded in the Force. The Force took a risk-based approach to single patrolling and where it was not appropriate it would not be used. It was always subject to review.

Force contact - 5Ci

- The Board expressed an interest in having a more detailed overview of the 5Ci project at a future meeting. The Chief Constable agreed that it would be a timely way of putting some of this work in the public domain. **ACTION The Force would provide a report in the autumn.**
The item has been added to the work plan for the October meeting.

043/13 Deputy Chief Constable Portfolio Update

043/13

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which provided an update on his portfolio.

The Board considered the report and noted the following.

- The Force would be doing some work to communicate a restatement of the progress of the change process.
- **ACTION A civil litigation update would be provided in the next report which was scheduled for the November meeting.**
A note has been made to include the information in the next report.
- The Deputy Chief Constable would ensure that the Force Corporate Communications department was more involved in the ICT projects such as mobile access.

044/13 West Midlands Safer Travel Plan

044/13

Mark Wentzell introduced the report which provided information on the work being undertaken to produce a Safer Travel Plan for the West Midlands.

The Board considered the report and supported the work being undertaken, noting that the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel would be issuing a report following their consideration of the draft plan at the Panel meeting on 24 June 2013. A draft note of the expected areas for recommendations was shared with Board members.

ACTION Board members would let the Commissioner have any comments on the draft Safer Travel Plan and the Panel's areas for recommendations.

No comments had been received.

ACTION The Commissioner would respond to the Police and Crime Panel as soon as the report was received.

The final recommendations from the Police and Crime Panel were received on 16 July 2013 which the Commissioner has discussed with partners. The Safer Travel Plan will be considered again at the September meeting prior to final approval by the ITA at their 10 September meeting.

045/13 Collaboration Update

045/13

Jonathan Jardine introduced the report which provided an update on the current position of the bilateral collaboration with Staffordshire Police; other collaborations with West Midlands regional forces; other police collaboration activity; and potential future collaborative activity.

The Board considered the report and noted the following.

- There were no further details yet about the £50m innovation funding mentioned in the Comprehensive Spending Review statement. **ACTION The Board would be updated on the innovation funding once the details had been received.**
- That there were still concerns being raised about the National Police Air Service (NPAS), particularly about it already being over budget and the speed of deployment (as noted in paragraph 45 of the report). **ACTION The Force would prepare a report to be discussed at a future informal Group meeting of Board members on its views of the service.**
A note has been made to discuss this matter at the Group meeting on 15 November 2013.

046/13 Outcomes from the Victims' Consultation

046/13

Alethea Fuller introduced the report which provided an update on the results of the consultation on the establishment of structures to engage

with victims and allocate future funding.

The Board considered the report and supported option 1 which was to set up a West Midlands-wide structure, led by Victims Support, working with other voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations. **ACTION The Commissioner and Cath Hannon would explore this option further taking into account the concerns raised by some of VCSE organisations.**

047/13 **Decision**

047/13

There were three draft decision for discussion:

**a) West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner –
Redaction Policy**

The Commissioner introduced the report which sought the Board's comments on the Commissioner's proposed redaction policy. The purpose of the policy was to establish the general approach and principles to be applied in the redaction of information required under the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2012.

The Board considered the report and supported the policy.

ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to approve the policy.

The Commissioner made the decision on 3 July 2013. Decision WMPCC 025 2013 Redaction Policy can be found on the Commissioner's website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk

b) Youth Consultation Structures

The Commissioner introduced the report which sought the Board's comments on the draft process for youth consultation structures.

The Board considered the report and supported the proposed process.

ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to approve the policy.

The Commissioner made the decision on 3 July 2013. Decision WMPCC 026 2013 Youth Consultation Structures can be found on the Commissioner's website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk

c) Disposal of Property

The Commissioner introduced the report which sought the Board's comment on the draft decision to dispose of nine houses.

The Board considered the report and supported the decision to dispose of the properties set out in the report.

ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to dispose of the properties.

The Commissioner made the decision on 3 July 2013. Decision WMPCC 027 2013 Disposal of Property Decision can be found on the Commissioner's website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk

048/13 Referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, Police and Crime Panel and partner bodies 048/13

There were no referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, the Police and Crime Panel or partner bodies. No thematic issues had yet been raised by any members of the Board.

	Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings	
007/13	Force Performance 2012-13	007/13
	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.	
016/13	Professional Standards Department, Quality of Service	016/13
	West Midlands Police Working Group on disproportionality. The Board welcome the work being done on disproportionality. ACTION The Force would circulate the action plan to members of the Board.	