



## STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

### Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 03 December 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  
Hannon, Cath – Non-executive  
Hendricks, Cllr Ernie – Non-executive  
Mosquito, Cllr Yvonne – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner  
Nazir, Cllr Mohammad – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
Sawdon, Cllr Tim – Non-executive
- In attendance: Cann, Gary – Assistant Chief Constable  
Courtney, Jacky – Chief Executive  
Gabbitas, Andrea – Policy Manager  
Goosen, Chief Supt Sharon – Head of Professional Standards  
Hickman, Fiona – Committee Manager  
Meffen, Richard – T/Assistant Director of Resources  
Price, Chris – Chief Information Officer  
Stephen Rimmer – seconded from the Home Office  
Rowe, Sharon – T/Deputy Chief Constable  
Sims, Chris – Chief Constable  
Thompson, David – Deputy Chief Constable  
Wilkin, David – Director of Resources  
Williams, Mike – Chief Finance Officer
- Observers: Approximately 8

Before the meeting started all those present stood in silent tribute to those who had lost their lives in the recent police helicopter crash in Glasgow.

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|---------------|--|---------------|
| <b>101/13</b> | <b>Conflicts of Interest</b>                       | <b>101/13</b> |
|               | None.  |               |
| <b>102/13</b> | <b>Apologies</b>                                   | <b>102/13</b> |
|               | Apologies had been received from Cllr Faye Abbott. |               |

**103/13 Notes of the Last Meeting 103/13**

The Board approved the notes of:

- a) the meeting held on 05 November 2013 in public
- b) the meeting held on 05 November 2013 in private

**104/13 Public Questions 104/13**

No questions from the public had been received.

**105/13 Finance: October Revenue Monitoring and Budget Review Update 105/13**

The Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Resources introduced the report which provided the forecast financial outturn based on the position as at the end of October 2013.

The Board considered the report and noted its contents. During the discussion, the Board also noted the following.

- Additional external income had been received, the details of which were currently being considered;
- Commissioners and forces had been given very short notice about the £20M Precursor Innovation Fund. Bids had to be submitted by 6 December 2013 by Commissioners. There were three bids which the Force were proposing to make through the Commissioner which related to:
  1. the work that Stephen Rimmer was doing with the Force and the seven local authorities around information sharing. Mr Rimmer had been seconded from the Home Office to carry out this work;
  2. liaison between the Regional Organised Crime Unit and Europe;
  3. the Chief Constable's national portfolio on forensic science. The bid would be around the specification and implementation, hopefully, of a national forensic service.

**106/13 Performance against the 2013-14 Milestones and Deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan 106/13**

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

During the discussion, the Board noted that:

- the volatility in the crime figures for the Force related to a small

number of offences;

- although a recent article in *The Times* identified a new phenomenon of poverty crime, the Force had not yet discerned that that was the position in the West Midlands but would look into it;
- in the Chief Constable's view, looking at crime figures month on month was probably not the best way of understanding what was happening. Crime figures for the Force in July 2012 were remarkably good but in July 2013 they were, by contrast, high. The longer trend however showed a levelling out of crime. That was what the Force needed to address;
- the Force was putting a great deal of resources into policing in priority areas and was alive to issues that might arise from abstractions from other areas. The matter was kept under continuous review;
- the Force was working with local partners in relation to priority areas. Recent engagement with the health service indicated that their priority areas matched those of the Force;
- there would need to be a discussion about variations to the Police and Crime Plan in respect of priorities, milestones and such like and how they could best be articulated. The Chief Constable considered that the focus should be on 'doing the right things' rather than on numbers. It was the actions to deliver the maximum amount of safety to the public of the West Midlands that were important.

**107/13 Professional Standards**

**107/13**

ACC Cann introduced the report which provided an overview of the recent work of the Professional Standards Department. Chief Supt Sharon Goosen was available to answer questions.

The Board considered the report and the discussion focused on what could be done to improve public and police officer confidence in the police complaints system. Greater transparency was perhaps just one step; something more radical such as a redrawing of the whole complaints systems might be needed. **ACTION. Brendan Connor and ACC Cann would discuss outside the meeting what might be done within the Force.**

**108/13 West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime Casework**

**108/13**

Andrea Gabbitas introduced the report which provided an update on the casework and correspondence received and managed by the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime (WMOPC).

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

- the Board had previously enquired if it might be possible to

categorise complaints using the same categories as those used by the Force. WMOPC had considered this request and noted that very few complaints received by WMOPC fitted into such categories;

- it would be useful to seek the public's view of the service they received. **ACTION. The Chief Executive would consider how this could best be achieved.**

**109/13 Temporary Assistant Director of Resources Portfolio Update 109/13**

The Temporary Assistant Director of Resources introduced the report which provided an overview of his portfolio.

The Board considered the report and noted that Brendan Connor wished to put on record his appreciation of the work carried out by David Wilkin and Andy Kelly on the electric vehicles trial. Thanks were due to them for taking the risk and making the project a success. Mr Connor had shared a report on the project with other forces and they had expressed great interest in the project.

**110/13 Cyber Crime 110/13**

The Temporary Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which provided an overview of cyber crime.

The Board considered the report and the discussion focused on the need for a national debate about resources to tackle cyber crime. While the West Midlands Police would engage with young people and the business community who had technical expertise, in its efforts to tackle cyber crime, cyber crime was a wider, national issue. It had been defined as a Tier 1 national threat and, as such, needed proper resourcing from government.

In the meantime, the Commissioner congratulated the Force on the developing work that it was doing in this area.

**111/13 Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Summit 111/13**

Andrea Gabbitas introduced the report which provided a summary of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Human Trafficking (HT) Summit and the associated draft action plan.

The Board considered the report and noted that:

- many of the issues raised at the CSE and HT summit were similar to those raised at the safeguarding summit;
- Stephen Rimmer had kindly agreed to chair the Commissioner's next safeguarding summit which would be held on 22 January 2014. Stephen Rimmer had been seconded from the Home Office where he had been Director General of the Crime and Policing Group, to work with the seven local authorities and the Force to consider ways of improving

safeguarding in the West Midlands. There were a number of dimensions to this which he would discuss with the Chief Constable and the local authorities with a view to agreeing the areas of work he would take forward. He would be considering child sexual exploitation, public protection, vulnerable victims and intelligence and information sharing across the key agencies of the West Midlands and how the innovation fund might be used to help build an intelligence hub. He welcomed the opportunity to report on progress in future through the Strategic Policing and Crime Board.

The Deputy Commissioner thanked the team in the WMOPC for their work on the summit.

**112/13 Victims Funding Update**

**112/13**

The Chief Executive introduced the report which provided an update on the current situation regarding funding for victims of crime which would transfer to police and crime commissioners in October 2014. Cath Hannon provided an oral update on the work that she had been doing in this area on behalf of the Commissioner, working with Victim Support and representatives from the voluntary sector.

The Board considered the report and the update from Cath Hannon. In particular, the Board noted that the announcement of the restorative justice funding had been unexpected. It would be a challenge to make best use of the funding this financial year but work was progressing on this. The update at the next meeting on the University of Cambridge Turning Point work would show how much work the Force was doing on restorative justice.

**113/13 Decisions**

**113/13**

There were no draft decisions for discussion at the public meeting. The Board would discuss two decisions in the private meeting relating to:

- the term of the Chief Constable's appointment;
- the procurement process associated with the work of the Technology Task Force and the selection of an Innovation and Integration Partner.

The matters were to be discussed in private because of personnel and commercial considerations.

**114/13 Referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, Police and Crime Panel and partner bodies**

**114/13**

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.

The Deputy Chief Constable gave an oral update on significant operational matters including:

#### **Personnel**

- The Force was now a month into the new Command Team arrangements which had been put in place to allow sufficient capacity to deal with the intense period of activity associated with the Innovation and Integration Partner procurement exercise.
- The Chief Constable took the opportunity to thank Chris Price, the Chief Information Officer, who had come to the end of his appointment, for all that he had achieved during his time with the Force. He had had a challenging role and the Force was now in a better position to look to the future with greater confidence. The Commissioner also thanked Chris Price and wished him well for the future.

#### **Contact Centres**

- The two new contact centres had been launched on 26 November in West Bromwich and Lloyd House.
- They were working well and would be delivering a better service to the public than the previous arrangements and would save around £4m a year.
- The Chief Constable thanked the Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Sharon Rowe, the Head of Force Contact Chief Superintendent Jim Andronov and all of the staff in the contact centres for everything they had contributed to this major change.

#### **Police and Crime Commissioners**

- This was the first anniversary of the introduction of police and crime commissioners. The Chief Constable and the Commissioner were working more closely than before and pushing forward on the challenging work ahead.

#### **Glasgow police helicopter crash**

- The Chief Constable had written to the Chief Constable of Police Scotland to express his condolences about the crash. The Commissioner had also written.
- The Force had received assurance over the weekend from the National Police Air Service that the helicopters that covered the West Midlands were operating to a safe standard.

	<b>Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings</b>	
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; <b>ACTION: Chief Executive to arrange for Board to be briefed.</b>	
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. <b>ACTION The Force would circulate the action plan to members of the Board.</b>	
040/13	Performance against the 2013-14 milestones and deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan	040/13
	<b>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.</b>	
045/13	Collaboration Update	045/13
	There were no further details yet about the £50m innovation funding mentioned in the Comprehensive Spending Review statement. <b>ACTION The Board would be updated on the innovation funding once the details had been received.</b>	
046/13	Outcomes from the Victims' Consultation	046/13
	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. <b>ACTION The Commissioner and Cath Hannon would explore this option further taking into account the concerns raised by some of VCSE organisations.</b>	
064/13	ACC Operations Portfolio Update	064/13
	○ <b>ACTION. The Force and the Commissioner would explore whether it would be possible for a representative from the West Midlands Police to attend the regional NPAS board meetings as an observer.</b>	