



**Strategic Police and Crime Board
7 January 2014**

Variations to the Police and Crime Plan

Report of the Chief Executive

PURPOSE

1. This report sets out the approach being taken by the Commissioner to the making of variations to the Police and Crime Plan which he approved on 28 March 2013.

BACKGROUND

2. Under section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Commissioner is required to issue a police and crime plan (the Plan) within the financial year in which the election is held i.e. 31 March 2013. The plan is required to cover the:
 - Commissioner's police and crime objectives
 - policing which the Chief Constable is to provide
 - financial and other resources which the Commissioner will provide to the Chief Constable
 - means by which the Chief Constable will report to the Commissioner on the provision of policing
 - means by which the Chief Constable's performance will be measured
 - crime and disorder reduction grants which the Commissioner is to make and the conditions to which such grants are to be made
3. The Plan is required to cover the term of office of the Commissioner, although it is possible to vary the Plan during this period. In approving the Plan the Commissioner indicated that he expected to revisit the Plan annually to take account of future financial settlements and ensure that the Plan continues to reflect the needs of local people.
4. Before varying a police and crime plan the Commissioner must:
 - prepare a draft of the variation
 - consult the relevant chief constable in preparing the variation
 - send the variation to West Midlands Police and Crime Panel (the Panel)
 - have regard to any report or recommendation by the panel in relation to the variation

- give the Panel a response to any report or recommendations, and
 - publish any such response
5. The Commissioner has stated his commitment to develop the Plan to a timetable which complements that required to set the precept for 2014-15. There is a separate paper on this agenda covering the budget and precept. The Commissioner is required to notify the Panel of his proposed precept by 1 February. The Panel is required to review the precept by 8 February. The Panel does have a power to veto the proposed level and if exercised the Commissioner would need to submit a revised precept by 15 February for review by the Panel by 22 February. This timetable has been established to allow the Precept to be settled by the end of February. The Panel's schedule of meetings in January and February of this year accommodate this timetable should it be needed.

DEVELOPMENT OF VARIATIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

6. The Commissioner continues with his commitment to a Plan that captures the voice of the public in how it is set and develops. The Plan is intended to enable effective local working, building upon the strong sense of civic identity in each of the seven local authority areas and their neighbourhoods. For this reason the Plan will be built upon local policing and crime priorities together with West Midlands' wide outcomes and measures. Local policing and crime boards have been asked to identify key local priorities. In addition the Force conducted an online survey seeking the identification of priorities. These were reported to the Commissioner at his Partnership Summit held on 29 November 2013. The areas identified were:
- Antisocial behaviour
 - Speeding
 - Inconsiderate parking
 - Off road motorbikes
 - Drugs
 - Vehicle crime and burglary
7. The police and crime strategic framework at **Annex A** set by the Commissioner in the West Midlands' wide plan in March 2013 is intended to be relevant for the Plan's duration. It has been reviewed informally by the Strategic Policing and Crime Board who support its continuance with proposals for differing emphases on the objectives and priorities which form the substantive content of the plan. The issues raised included:
- a need to reflect the local priorities identified above
 - the need for greater reference to the significance of and the need for partnership working with health colleagues
 - that while creating stronger partnerships remains a key element of the framework, the pervasive nature of partnership working should be reflected throughout the plan, for example with reference to the National Crime Agency and Action Fraud in the Force's contribution to national policing
 - greater emphasis to be placed on the achievement of the Plan's vision through the inclusion of a section on 'Pride in our Police'.
 - the need for a more granular narrative on measures associated with crime. The Board would wish to see a return to the lowest level of recorded crime but acknowledged that for some crime types, particularly those associated with vulnerability, increased reporting would be

viewed positively. For example for crimes such as child sexual exploitation and domestic violence where there is known under-reporting.

- support for areas identified through the Force's own strategic assessment which include:
 - Harm and vulnerability, particularly violent crime where injury is caused
 - Property related crime, in particular Burglary, Robbery, Thefts relating to vehicles and theft from businesses
 - Locations and people that contribute the highest crime levels and demands on public services
 - The Force would welcome the inclusion of work to develop greater understanding of confidence, particularly to understand how national and major local incidents impact on confidence at force and neighbourhood level
 - The approach to the setting of milestones should consider making use of some or all of comparisons with 'most similar forces' (West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside), numeric targets, including 'per 1000 population' and narrative. This issue will be explored further by the Board at its informal meeting to be held on 24 January 2014.
8. The Commissioner and the Chief Constable continue to believe that the Plan should also reflect the development of the Force. This will be reflected in the updated plan, including the proposed recruitment of police officers and police staff.
9. The Commissioner and Chief Constable will continue with their statutory duty to have regard to the strategic policing requirement (SPR). As the largest force outside of London, West Midlands Police contributes heavily to the safety of the whole country not just the West Midlands. The Force provides national counter terrorism capability and a large proportion of operational assets that support UK policing at times of need. The Strategic Policing Requirement aspect of the plan will detail how the Commissioner will ensure that the Chief Constable can meet this national requirement.
10. The Plan will be varied to make reference to the individual local police and crime plans which are being developed based on the priorities identified by local people. In addition reference will also be made to the action plans arising from the various summits held by the Commissioner throughout the year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. As stated earlier in this report the agenda for the meeting includes a separate paper dealing with the budget and precept for 2014-15. The budget and precept proposals are made in the knowledge of the proposed approach to the variations to the Plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The legal position of making variations to the Plan and the consideration of those variations by the Police and Crime Panel are covered in the background section to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The Board is asked to consider the report and support the approach it outlines in respect of variations to the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.



West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Strategic Outcomes Framework

Annex A