



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD
4 March 2014

<p>DECISION</p> <p>VARIATIONS TO POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</p>
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to ask members of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board to consider the Variations to the Police and Crime Plan for the West Midlands.

BACKGROUND

2. The Commissioner has indicated that he will seek the views of the Board on any decisions that he intends to make. Attached to this report at **Annex A** is a copy of the draft decision report which includes the variations to the Police and Crime Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Board is asked to comment on the contents of this report.

Author: Mark Wentzell, Policy Manager, West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE
AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

**NON-CONFIDENTIAL
NOTICE OF DECISION
0XX/2014**

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Title: West Midlands Safer Travel Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commissioner, under the terms of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 is required to issue a police and crime plan which covers the term of his office.

The Commissioner has stated his intention to review the Plan each year to ensure that it benefits from the work of partners and other stakeholders to ensure that the Plan's milestones and deliverables meet the ongoing needs of the public that live and work in the West Midlands.

This Report outlines the process undertaken to produce variations to the Plan and attaches the Plan for decision.

DECISION

That the Police and Crime Plan as drafted, which is attached to this report, is approved, with Local Policing and Crime Plans and Summit Actions Plans to be appended when agreed.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature.....

Date.....

NON - CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

1. The report and supporting documentation form the basis of the decision.

INTRODUCTION AND 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. The approach to this process of varying the Plan was considered by the Strategic Police and Crime Board on 7 January 2014 and is summarised below.
5. 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.
6. The Commissioner also stated his commitment to develop the Plan to a timetable which complements that required to set the precept for 2014-15.

DEVELOPMENT OF VARIATIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

7. 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
8. The police and crime strategic framework, included within the Plan, 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 requested 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
9. The Commissioner and the Chief Constable continue to believe that the Plan should also reflect the development of the Force and this is reflected in the updated plan, including the recruitment of police officers and police staff.
10. The Commissioner and Chief Constable 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 SPR aspect of the plan will detail how the Commissioner will ensure that the Chief Constable can meet this national requirement.
11. The Plan has been 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 the action plans arising from the various summits held by the Commissioner throughout the year will be added as appendices to the Plan.

12. The Panel considered the draft variations to the Plan on 3 February 2014. The response from the Panel to the draft Plan is attached at **Appendix A**. Attached at **Appendix B** is the response from the Commissioner to the Panel.
13. The Strategic Police and Crime Board considered the same draft on 4 February 2014 along with an oral update of the comments made by the Panel.
14. The draft Plan, attached at **Appendix C**, incorporates the feedback from both the Panel and the Board.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. The Plan has been drawn in the context of the budget and precept set by the Commissioner. Details of this are included in decision 002 2014.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. As stated earlier in this decision report the statutory requirements for the Plan, and its consideration by the Police and Crime Panel, are laid out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

17. The Plan has been prepared to ensure equality of service provision for all members and equality of treatment for officers and staff of the Force and the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime. The Commissioner will, through the work of his Strategic Policing and Crime Board, monitor and scrutinise, the achievement of the objectives, deliverables and milestones contained within the Plan.

Schedule of Background Papers

18. Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
19. Decision WMPCC 002 2014 Revenue Budget 2014-15

Public Access to Information

20. Information contained in this decision is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. This decision will be made available on the Commissioner's website.

Appendix A



WMPCP West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

WMPCP
Scrutiny Office
Birmingham Council House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
B1 1BB

Mr Bob Jones
West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner
Lloyd House
Colmore Circus
Birmingham
B4 6NQ

cc. Jacky Courtney,
Chief Executive, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

14th February, 2014

Dear Bob

Variations to the West Midland Police and Crime Plan 2014

On behalf of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel I would like to thank you and the Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Sharon Rowe for your attendance at the Panel Meeting on 3rd February 2014 to present and discuss your proposed changes to the West Midlands Police and Crime Plan.

Please find attached the Panel's statutory report. We hope you find our comments helpful in updating your Plan.

Whilst we fully understand the pressure you were under for producing the Plan, late papers make it more difficult for Panel Members to undertake their work. We sincerely hope the Panel's statutory requirement for publishing meeting papers 5 clear working days before meetings will be taken into account in the timetable for any future variations of the Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Phillips'.

Councillor Jess Phillips
Vice-Chair West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Report of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

To the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

14th February 2014

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

Introduction

In accordance with section 28 (3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Panel must review any changes to the Police and Crime Plan and make a report to the PCC. The PCC must consider the Panel's report prior to publication of the Plan.

On 3rd February 2014 the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel considered the Commissioner's proposed changes to the Police and Crime Plan.

Members Present:

Councillors Alden, Bains, Hosell, Jamieson, Meeson, Phillips, Rowley, Smith, Tyler Nick Drew and Lionel Walker

Panel Decision

The Police and Crime Plan is an important document that will set out the criteria by which the Panel will be holding the Commissioner to account in the coming year.

Below are some areas which the Panel would like the Commissioner to consider when finalising and delivering the Plan.

Targets and Measures

The Panel noted that perception figures can be difficult to interpret because it is generally unclear as to how interventions change perceptions.

The Panel accepts the concerns you raised about how target setting can distort policing priorities and would not like to see that in the West Midlands.

The Panel notes the work of Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Sharon Rowe is carrying out to better understand confidence in local neighbourhoods.

Crime Solving / Detection rates

The Panel asked if you could include targets relating to prosecutions around areas such as domestic violence (such as referrals to the Crown Prosecution Service and convictions as a result).

The Panel understands that you are learning from restorative justice projects and victims' views.

You agreed to share information on the level of prosecutions with the Panel.

Harm

The Panel was concerned that there was no mention of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASHs) being set up. There was little additional information on children's safeguarding in this version of the Plan than last year when the Panel also raised concerns about this.

However, you noted that MASHs are being embedded and that Stephen Rimmer has been employed as a regional lead on child safeguarding and his work is ongoing.

The Panel would, therefore, expect significantly more detail in the 2015-16 Police and Crime Plan on children's safeguarding and children's sexual exploitation.

As noted above, the Panel felt the emphasis on domestic violence is important and targets should be set about referrals to the CPS.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Panel was concerned about the absence of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Plan. The suggestion was made that they could be better integrated with local Police and Crime Boards.

The Panel noted that you held a summit on this topic and your agreement that you need to find a better way to support Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

Progress on Local Police and Crime Boards

The Panel noted the section of the Plan on developing greater local identity across the West Midlands. It congratulates you on progress being made on bringing partners together in this way.

You set out the progress of the Local Police and Crime Board in Wolverhampton.

The Panel would like a formal report on progress elsewhere across the region and will add this to the work programme.

Young People

The Panel would like to see you develop a broader strategy on working with young people as victims and perpetrators.

You discussed the Youth Summit you held and the development of a Youth Action Plan.

The Panel considered that knife crime and firearms possession should have been explicitly included in the Plan.

The Panel notes that you are intending to launch a knife surrender amnesty shortly.

The Panel would like to receive an update on knife crime and firearms trends over the past five years, including information on sentencing. The Panel would be interested in evidence on the benefits of knife surrender amnesties.

Magistrates

The Panel noted the requirement of the PCC to work with local Criminal Justice Services and asked for details of how magistrates' views feed into this.

You noted a summit to be held shortly to which magistrates have been invited. The Panel would be interested in the arising action plan.

Final Comments

In conclusion and, subject to the above comments, the Panel is satisfied that the Police and Crime Plan is reflective of the current priorities across the West Midlands and that it will support the continuation of the existing work being undertaken by West Midlands Police and partner organisations to reduce crime and improve community safety.

The Panel will publish this report on www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmpcp on 17th February 2014.

The Panel looks forward to your response to this report and receipt of the final version of the amended Police and Crime Plan.

Please ask for :
Telephone Number: 0121 626 6060
wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Our reference: 2013-01



Councillor Jess Phillips
Vice-Chair
West Midlands Police and Crime Panel
Scrutiny Office
Birmingham Council House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
B1 1BB

28 February 2014

Dear Jess

Variations to West Midlands Police and Crime Plan

Thank you for your letter and statutory report on the proposed variations to the West Midlands Police and Crime Plan.

I have discussed your helpful comments with the Chief Constable and have amended the Plan to reflect these in particular references to the knife surrender, the youth action plan, the neighbourhood watch action plan and forthcoming volunteers in policing summit.

I apologise for the late submission of the draft Plan for your consideration however I do hope that appreciate the tight timescales that we are working to and the large amount of effort involved in producing the first variation to the plan. Your comments have been noted and the Office will endeavour to have future reports with you allowing for publication 5 clear working days before your meetings.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and "J".

Bob Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner