



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 22 January 2019
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

Present:

Ashley BERTIE : Senior Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
 Neil CHAMBERLAIN : WMP, Director of Commercial Services
 Brendan CONNER : Board Member
 Phil DOLBY : WMP, Superintendent
 Dr Cath HANNON : Board Member
 Ernie HENDRICKS : Board Member
 Alexandra GIBSON : Policy Assistant, OPCC
 David JAMIESON : Police and Crime Commissioner
 Jonathan JARDINE : Chief Executive, OPCC
 Gurinder SINGH JOSAN: Board Member
 Cllr Dr Lynnette KELLY: Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
 Mark KENYON : Chief Finance Officer, OPCC
 Dr Sarah MARWICK : Board Member
 Tom McNEIL : Board Member
 Louisa ROLFE : WMP Deputy Chief Constable
 Waheed SALEEM : Board Member
 Sue SOUTHERN : WMP Assistant Chief Constable
 Alison SPENCE : Performance Manager, OPCC
 David THOMPSON : WMP Chief Constable

6 observers, a note taker and 2 x webcasters.

Please note:

1. *The meeting was recorded, and a webcast of the entire discussion can be viewed here: [Jan 2019 SPCB webcast](#)*
2. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text*

001/19	The Commissioner opened the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
002/19	Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest There were none.
003/19	Item 2 – Apologies Apologies were received from ACC Boycott, ACC Cann and ACC Johnson
004/19	Item 3 – Notes of last meeting – 18 December 2018 It was reported that all outstanding actions from the December meeting have been dealt with and information has been circulated to Board members. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.
005/19	Item 4 – PCC Update This item was deferred until later in proceedings.

	EMERGING ITEMS
006/19	<p>Item 5 – Brexit and Policing (Report) <i>Presented by Supt Phil Dolby</i></p> <p>The Chief Constable said a few words before the report was presented. He agreed that this important issue should be brought to the Board on a regular basis as it is in the public interest. Points covered in brief included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There's a huge amount of work being undertaken nationally with police chiefs - The Chief Constables' Council was in the West Mids last week and Brexit was discussed. - Some areas of planning may have to be discussed in private - Some Forces are having to plan to make big decisions which include restrictions on leave eg Kent Chief Constable has Port Dover to consider. WMP is not in that position but will be supporting others. <p>Supt Dolby explained his role as Dep Head of Operations and Silver tactical lead for Operation Panea (Brexit planning). As he is also one of the leads in the general working group of the resilience forum looking at the same issues, he is a bridge between the two. The Gold Commander is ACC Chris Johnson. Debate has been ongoing since before Christmas but, as of today, there are no concrete ideas of what might happen which means that plans can only be made that can be adjusted to fit the circumstance. Various desktop exercises have taken place but planning is just hypothesis. In terms of strategy, WMP are linked in with the NPCC and the Home Office but they have not been able to advise other than to plan in general terms for what might happen. With regard to intelligence, weekly reporting is taking place through various frameworks. To date there has been no intelligence around protests or disorders, other than in London. There are some concerns around the ability to engage with European Courts and Intelligence but that appears to be a diminishing threat as a common-sense approach prevails. In terms of the Local Resilience Forum, there were 23 organisations engaged in bespoke meetings and arrangements since before Christmas. This is a healthy partnership approach with a good buy-in from local authorities although everyone is in the same position of planning for 'what if'.</p> <p>The Commissioner asked for clarification of what it would mean for policing if the 'May deal' was agreed and if there was 'no deal'. The Chief Constable responded and the Commissioner subsequently summarised as -something that closely approximates to the Prime Minister's deal would mean business as usual but in 2020 the transitional arrangements would end and a new agreement would have to be found. In the 'no deal' scenario, the arrangements with the 27 EU countries regarding extradition and sharing of information on 29 March the legal framework would end and with it all the current arrangements. He asked if that were the case, what would be the quantity of communication with the other 27 countries and the amount of information shared. The Chief Constable advised that a 'no deal' arrangement does not create transitional arrangements and so all the national work being done is on the assumption of the reasonable worst-case scenario. Activity such as European arrest warrants, checks on foreign nationals and more, would be lost. However, he did not feel that it would be impossible to bring people to justice who may escape to Europe as there is a huge interest from European countries given extradition is a 2-way deal.</p> <p>A question was asked if the additional work that is being done around Brexit planning by the Force is being paid for by the Government. The Chief Constable confirmed that there was no cost to WMP as the work was being funded by money released by the Chancellor for 'no deal' planning. The cost impact would be felt locally if there is no deal and the Force has to lose officers to supporting other Forces. In addition, the transactions that will be necessary in order to access information will be more time</p>

	<p>consuming and likely to have an impact on staffing arrangements.</p> <p>A further question was raised asking if WMP is looking at what is going on with social media regarding social discord. The response was that hate crime is reported on a daily basis and community tension monitoring systems are also in place. Various work is being undertaken internally and through local neighbourhood police colleagues.</p> <p>It was reported that the Secretary of State had placed 4,000 troops on alert as part of Operation Tempera; a question was asked if this had been at the request of the police. It was confirmed that there had been no such request from West Midlands Police but was more likely related to the exploration of opportunities to find other east coast ports which might help with ingress and egress from the country and whether or not logistical support would be required in those areas.</p> <p>Additional questions were asked on this subject:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are any of the sites identified for deployed soldiers in the West Midlands? - Has the National Co-ordinating Centre asked for officers around the time of Brexit? - With regard to UK data held on European Union platforms and databases, if a no deal position arises, is it correct that the UK will not have access to those databases but UK data will be deleted? <p>Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no planning assumption that requires the military in the West Midlands at the moment. - The Force has started to receive some requests from the NPOC around deployment and support for other Forces which directly links to the issues around Dover. Some details around forward planning would be welcomed as to how that might work. - No certainty or clear answer although it is probable that the situation as described will happen at some stage. <p>The Commissioner asked if more clarity could be sought from the Home Office or the NPCC as to the issue of data access and deletion.</p> <p>Action: The Chief Constable confirmed that a request would be submitted and a response fed back to the Board.</p>
007/19	<p>Item 4 – PCC Update <i>Presented by Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson</i></p> <p>The Commissioner provided an update on two issues, (i) theft of vehicles, and (ii) the Early Intervention Youth Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Theft of Vehicles: A task force has been set up by the Home Office, largely at the instigation of what is happening in the West Midlands. This has now been recognised as a serious issue. That task group is looking at the law around disposal of vehicles and how an MOT can carry on from a vehicle after it has been written off to be used by dishonest dealers. Other issues for consideration are air bags which may have been discharged in a crash. A car may have been put together from other cars without the airbag and the customer would not know. Additional issues are chop-shops and manufacturers still resisting that they have a responsibility to make sure their cars are not easily stolen. In the next few weeks the Commissioner’s website will contain a second version of the list of cars sold in the region which are most easily stolen. Consumers can check this list and make up their minds on their choice of vehicle. (ii) Early Intervention Youth Fund: Having done really well in successfully applying for £1.8m, the OPCC has submitted a subsidiary of £119k and hope to hear the outcome of that bid soon.
008/19	<p>Item 6 – Acceptance of Petitions There were no petitions.</p>

009/19	<p>Item 7 – Public Questions There were no public questions</p>
010/19	<p>Item 8 - Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</p> <p>Q1: Can the Chief Constable set out the Force strategy and resources for dealing with the increase in cyber-crime? <i>[Asked by Waheed Saleem]</i></p> <p>Supplementary questions:</p> <p>i) Is there a minimum level of fraud before WMP will investigate; and ii) Is there enough national focus on this?</p> <p>In response the Chief Constable stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force has a 5-part plan which is concerned with improving skills and capabilities in the organisation; to try to ensure a well-connected tiered response at regional, national and local level, with activity focussing on prevention to protect individuals and businesses who are most vulnerable. • Also, to consider cyber security in response to operational policing issues for example when planning for the Commonwealth Games, cyber related criminality is one of the threats being dealt with. • Prevention: A lot of cyber-crime could be prevented and the Force is trying to promote a greater level of awareness. • Staff digital awareness: There is often a digital element to the crimes WMP deal with and when officers visits crime scenes their awareness of how crimes might be facilitated from a cyber perspective is important. • There is an increasing number of crimes that are cyber enabled for example in the CSE world there is on-line file sharing, cyber tools allowing access to children. The on-line sexual abuse team are very active in this area. • Denial of service attacks: There has been some high-profile cases where organised activity is used to deny service (pure cyber enabled crime). WMP has built a level of capability around this area at regional level and are working closely with the NCA. • On-line fraud: On-line fraud is more complex that traditional local crime; the footprint can be anywhere in the world and people can be subjected to multiple victimisation across the country. The scale of challenge is huge. This work is picked up by the Economic Crime Unit and WMP are part of a national programme to upgrade ability to manage the demand more effectively (includes skills, awareness and technology). There is an outcome-based plan around this piece of work. • There is a huge variation in response between organisations in relation to making themselves more resilient to fraud. The police simply cannot investigate all cases and what was previously sustainable has now been overwhelmed. • Cases that are referred to the Force by Action Fraud do have criteria. The objective is to investigate all of those cases • In terms of protection, WMP are trying to ensure there is 100% prevention advice given with targets set to monitor success. • The Chief Constable felt that in financial terms it is not resourced according to the scale of the issue but the way it is managed is complex and the Force are getting to a better place with restricted resources. <p>The Commissioner gave an example of a recent on-line scam and asked the Chief Constable to comment on how this type of crime is being tackled.</p> <p>In response, the Chief Constable provided details of the likely process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All incidents are referred to Action Fraud so that they have the bigger picture - Advice would be publicised by the Force to try to prevent others becoming

victims

- Action Fraud would then identify who would be best placed to investigate. This may be the NCA or a Force or a Regional Organised Crime Unit.
- Action Fraud provides a 'clearing house' role for those types of scams.

A question followed, asking what the levels of conviction are against the quantity of this type of crime being reported nationally or locally.

Action: The Chief Constable confirmed that there will be some of that data and he would arrange for this to be provided.

A further question was raised, asking how much prevention work is being done and is it enough?

The response stated that there is work around the digital PCSO, a lot is published through the website and through WM Live. Attempts are made to ensure that victims are more resilient in the future. The challenge is that people tend to be more receptive to messages after they have experienced crime. In summary, a lot is being done locally, nationally and through commercial providers.

Q2: Will the Chief Constable update us on progress he is making on tackling theft of vehicles in the West Midlands?

[Asked by the Commissioner]

In response, the Chief Constable commented that:

- Organised theft around vehicles is currently one of the biggest priorities for the Force. There are a high number of vehicle thefts playing their part in burglaries. Vehicles as a commodity robbery has increased. This is happening because there is a commodity value of second-hand vehicles. Organised crime groups buy scrap vehicles with cash, generating a market for stolen goods and parts. The return investments mean this is not just a crime by young people but is backed by organised criminality.
- The Force has been running Operation Cantil, led by roads policing. This has focussed on recovering vehicles and going into areas where it is thought the groups are who steal vehicles, in order to disrupt their activities and to catch them.
- 900 arrests since Cantil started in Sept 2018. 200 have been charged and others either bailed or released pending investigation. 580 stolen vehicles have been recovered. 300 pursuits have taken place.
- Having previously concentrated on the 'foot soldiers', WMP are now looking to tackle the higher level of organised crime groups.
- Finally, WMP have agitated for more national work around this area, for example, they have been working with E-bay regarding sale of parts; also with insurers about what could change. The Policing Minister has now introduced the National Vehicle Task Force which is based around the work being done in the West Midlands.
- Vehicle crime is still high; still a current large-scale problem but headway is being made.
- Prevention is key. Some suggested measures include: purchasing a Faraday pouch for car keys; use a steering-wheel lock (currently advertised on WMNow with a discount); use a garage if possible; lock the house/flat at night and if an individual thinks they are being followed in their vehicle, make contact with the police and, if possible, drive to a police station.

Q3: Could the Chief Constable detail the numbers of reports / incidents / logs / crimes, if any, relating threats towards public figures and elected official with regard to views on Brexit? What is the Force assessment of, and approach to, such risks?

[Asked by Dr Sarah Marwick]

	<p>The Chief Constable confirmed that there were no recorded incidents. However, he assured the Board that this did not mean the Force were complacent. They do not take lightly the potential risk to those who are active and visible around the Brexit debate. National work takes place around security of MPs which is co-ordinated by the Met police. Locally elected representatives have a choice about how they interact with WMP who make their service available.</p>
	<p>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES: SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF CRIME</p>
<p>011/19</p>	<p>Senior Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner, Ashley Bertie, chaired this item.</p> <p>Item 9a – Victims’ Services (Report) <i>Presented by Alison Spence and Alexandra Gibson, OPCC</i></p> <p>The report had been circulated in advance of the Board meeting and therefore assumed as read. Alex Gibson spoke about key points to highlight the work being done on Victims’ Services and what priorities looked like going forward. Those priorities listed were not in any particular order.</p> <p>A discussion, including questions and answers, followed. This included:</p> <p>Q: What work has been done to better evenly distribute referrals onto other services – particularly mental health?</p> <p>A: The development of the Victims and Witnesses Delivery Group under the LCJB, provides a good opportunity to bring partners together to look at victims’ journeys as a whole. This should address that issue around join up with mental health and other partners. The Victims Commission are doing a lot of work on how the general services link up with specialist support services to ensure referrals happen across those different providers of victims’ services. We want to look at the victims’ general pathways and journeys throughout the criminal justice system and to develop those additional referral mechanisms where they are needed.</p> <p>Q: It is good to note that high-harm gun crime is getting a greater focus in the work of the Victims Commission. How will that link in with the Gangs and Violence Commission?</p> <p>A: The OPCC is looking at how different services mesh together. The aim is to ensure those cross referrals receive support from different services we fund which compliment rather than contradict one another.</p> <p>Q: With regard to the initial contact and referral service provision, how effective as the service been and what are the plans going forward in the next commissioning round?</p> <p>A: The health check has shown that the service is not at the stage we would want it to be yet. Key concerns are (i) how that initial contact service interacts with the specialist support services; and (ii) the drop-off rates from referral, to being contacted and having a needs assessment carried out, through to receiving support from that service. The OPCC and Victim Support are looking at how different models operate across other PCC areas. There is a lot to achieve to make some rapid improvements over the next few weeks.</p> <p>Q: Can you provide a couple of examples of what support services entail? In addition, what proportion of victims provide feedback now and how confident are you of their accuracy?</p> <p>A: Part of the improvement work between the OPCC and the Ministry of Justice is about the collection of outcomes data. Taking initial contacts as an example, a large amount of that will be people who want only a little information (ie an update on their case, info about the Victims Code) and those people are not likely to complete an outcomes assessment. We are trying to distinguish between that kind of one-off support and the more ongoing support. The challenge is the framework from the MoJ and the outcomes they want to look at. Many of the providers are specialist services with their own mechanisms. There is substantial challenge around making those two</p>

meet in the middle to get outcome data that makes sense. We are looking to learn from best practice across the providers. Some providers are for one-off support but there are some for people who need longer-term support ie Barnadoes who support children for 5 years or more. We fund anything from leaflets and information to 1:1 counselling sessions, group work and advocacy services.

Q: The grant from the MoJ is based on population data; the population of the West Midlands has increased in the last few years; has the MoJ increased the grant in line with that increase?

A: Although figures not available at the meeting, it is understood that in real terms the funding has been cut.

Q: Are you confident that the right people are on the Victims Commission and represent the people of the West Midlands who need victims' services?

A: The model has developed over 18 months / 2 years. Everyone at the table represents the service provision within the themes in the policing plan and as agencies they represent the victim's voice. Representation is being reviewed and an exercise has been run to build on community links particularly around forced marriage and honour-based violence.

Q: When will we see more support for male victims of domestic abuse?

A: Hopefully soon. There is support but it is currently provided through Women's Aid and CRASAC, and men are reluctant to go to services that are seen to be for women.

Q: The report mentions an overspend; why did this occur and is it now under control?

A: The overspend was largely due to a delay in getting some projects off the ground. The Victims Fund applications process has been brought forward to try to avoid those problems in the next financial year.

The Chief Executive commented that this is a key area of work for the OPCC; one of the statutory responsibilities picked up in 2012. The approach adopted differs to others in that it is more collaborative and works with a range of providers. His points covered:

- The OPCC is responsible for a spend in excess of £11m directly on 'non-policing' services of which Commissioning services for victims is a significant part.
- There is a new single management structure in place within the OPCC with increased management capacity for that particular area of work. It is reasonable to expect there will be good visibility on the total scope of the programme – what is being funded and what is not. It follows that it should be possible to identify any risks and gaps in service.
- Local commissioning and local accountability for the commissioning services for victims has led to a wider range of services available than before.
- The OPCC's mixed economy model has meant that there are capabilities in place that would not have previously existed.
- The provider market has been preserved and the OPCC has not become involved in putting some providers out of business.
- MoJ are starting to impose performance reporting requirements which are much greater than what was in place when they held the contract. This is frustrating.

Q: Referring to the table showing funding variations and allocations, is there anything that stands out that we need to do more work on, to make more funding available for, and more partners to work with?

A: There is confidence that priorities are addressed. There has been scoping exercises with communities and organisations especially around honour-based violence and there will be something similar around modern slavery.

Q: What work is being done proactively to engage with communities and organisations that might be harder to reach?

A: In respect of outreach, the team did a lot of work around the opening of the last

	<p>Victims Fund; detailed events were arranged working through the voluntary sector and various organisations to get people in to upskill in writing bids as well as understanding what is required for monitoring and evaluation. The events were well attended across the Force area.</p> <p>Q: Would the Chief Constable say this is a good use of money and how does the Force engage with the OPCC on pursuing these objectives.</p> <p>A: It is a very good use of money. WMP is grateful that services are professionally commissioned. There has been so much work done in this space and it is probably a good time to ask what it feels like for the recipient and how vulnerabilities are being balanced across areas and whether victims' needs are being met. The Force wants to be an active partner in that review.</p> <p>The Commissioner stated that 9,000 victims have been helped this year which is commendable. He thanked everyone concerned.</p>
	<p>Break: 1130 – 1138 hrs</p>
<p>012/19</p>	<p>Item 9b – Victims' Code (Report) <i>Presented by ACC Sue Southern</i></p> <p>This report had been circulated earlier and it was assumed that it had been read in advance of the meeting. ACC Southern highlighted key areas and invited questions. A discussion followed which included a variety of questions and answers:</p> <p>Q: Given the reduction in budgets over the last few years and the resulting change of service to the public, should the Victims' Code be reviewed and if so, how?</p> <p>A: It is being reviewed by a national commission and WMP will contribute next month. It will be necessary to look at greater consistency around accountability, how success is measured and how outcomes are delivered.</p> <p>Q: Do you think it is a good thing that the CPS has withdrawn from participating in support of the Witness Care Unit and is it a breach of their public body responsibility, particularly as they report to the MoJ who are the authors of the Victims' Code? In addition, WMP are taking on all of the financial responsibility of the process; should CPS not be contributing?</p> <p>A: This is a transference of resource responsibility; the service is not less as a result. There is still within the code, clear accountability for the CPS as far as victims are concerned. The new arrangement is that witness care units are now located in local hubs where police staff have a better idea of local services for signposting. They work alongside case progression officers and have put in place pre-trial case reviews to ensure that cases are absolutely ready and nothing has been missed. A much better experience for all concerned. Whilst the Force has been adversely affected by austerity, the CPS are even worse off financially. WMP are very reliant on the speedy prosecution response from CPS who are very stretched in a few areas. The Force would rather see CPS concentrate on a core role rather than an overlapping role as before.</p> <p>A Board member commented that given the amount of work done in the OPCC and by WMP in changing processes and managing demand, it would be timely to review what the victim's journey looks like. Due to having to manage resources, Victims Support are looking at communicating more by text than through phone calls and letters. In reality this means that victims may never actually speak to anyone. It is important to remember that victims are people and should be treated appropriately. The Chief Constable agreed, stating that this is timely and a good area to start looking at using Customer Insight. ACC Southern confirmed that she has already commissioned work through the SME lead.</p> <p>It was stated that the Victims and Witnesses Delivery Working Group, which includes representatives from the Force, CPS, HMP Birmingham, CAB, the Witness Service</p>

	<p>team and others, are also looking at the Victims Code and asking if some things need to change. They are measuring compliance with systems and also looking at the victim's journey with a view to developing an action plan so that different agencies can learn from each other to smooth out some of the transitions.</p>
	REGULAR ITEMS
013/19	<p>Assistant PCC, Dr Cllr Lynnette Kelly chaired this item:</p> <p>Item 10A Finance – Budget Monitoring (NEEDS LINK) <i>Presented by Mark Kenyon, OPCC Chief Finance Officer</i></p> <p>This report is an analysis of the 2019/20 settlement for the West Midlands PCC based on the announcement by the Government in December 2018, of what the provisional settlement was to be. It was summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional pension liabilities and other inflationary pressures around police officer and staff pay are estimated at approximately £32m. • The settlement provides a standstill position based on those future liabilities by providing an additional pensions' grant of just under £16m and the ability to raise the precept by up to £24 (based on Band D property). In the West Midlands this would generate approximately £18m. • This is a one-year settlement. A Comprehensive Spending Review is expected this year which will affect future financial settlements. • If the proposed increase in precept is taken up, this is estimated at £5.96 per head, compared to the Force with the biggest increase, at £10.29 per head. West Midlands will still be the second lowest precept in the country. • The Commissioner is currently consulting on the proposed increase until the end of January. At present, the majority of people who have taken part, are in support of the increase. • The next stage in that process would be to take proposals to the Police and Crime Panel on 4 February 2019. • Still relying on reserves. In 2020 all reserves used to balance the books will have gone; so the position is critical. <p>Q: Can you explain why employers' contributions have increased so much when police force numbers have reduced considerably? A: Future pension liabilities of officers now and going forward, is based on a number of assumptions and those assumptions have changed. This is known as the discount rate factor (a projection of interest rates). It means contributions have to go up now so that there is enough money in the future to pay for those pensions' costs of officers. Q: How much is the borrowing likely to be, at what point will it be required and from whom? A: The Estates Programme which relates to that borrowing is being implemented over the next 6 years and borrowing will be taken out on a phased approach as and when needed. An estimated £50-70m additional borrowing will be necessary depending on the level of capital receipts. The Public Works Loan Board offer preferential rates to organisations like the Force. Q: What is the likely impact on police in terms of numbers? A: If the increased precept of £24 goes ahead, WMP will have marginally less money per head than policing in Surrey. The West Mids has the most deprived population, the youngest population and is one of the most challenged areas. The Force has been working hard around the 2020 programme to achieve most efficiency and productivity and the Commissioner has invested in the Force. The Chief Constable's aim is to deliver what he can in terms of operational capability. He recognised that the public</p>

	<p>would want to see added value if the precept is raised at a time when they are feeling under pressure of crime.</p> <p>The Commissioner summarised: The increase in the pension plus inflation set against the 'extra money' only just about balances out if the £24 is added to the precept. If none or less than £24 is added, more officers will be lost.</p> <p>Q: The issue of funding for WMP has been a consistent problem for years; is there any indication that a new model might be introduced which takes need into account? Alternatively, could the existing floors and/or ceilings in the existing model be relaxed?</p> <p>A: The funding formula and the way the grant is distributed is out of date. It does not take into account the considerable increase of population. There are no transitional arrangements in the current model and so the floors and ceilings are locked in. The Government has indicated that the Spending Review will be followed by a review of the core grant and it will be done in that sequence. If the Spending Review is next year, it is unlikely that a new formula for police grants will be seen until 2021 with implementation possibly into 2021/22.</p> <p>Q: When does the Commonwealth Games funding start to appear?</p> <p>A: The Force are starting to draw on that money now.</p> <p>APCC Lynnette Kelly thanked the authors of the report and the Board for their contribution to the discussion. She reminded everyone that consultation on the precept would end on 31 January 2019.</p>
014/19	<p>Item 10B – Strategic Policing and Crime Board work plan (Work Plan) <i>Presented by Jonathan Jardine, OPCC Chief Executive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on the Strategic Policing requirements will be taken to next month's meeting. This is a statutory function/duty of the PCC and the Chief Constable. • There had been a report programmed which related to a particular case concerning a particular crime and the lessons learned from it. This has been re-scheduled and confirmation is awaited with regard to what time would be appropriate to take it to the Board. Further information is available to members if so wished. • Two possible additions to the plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) An overview of the strategy and implementation of recruitment for the Special Constabulary; as agreed at an earlier SPCB by relevant ACC for April/May (ii) SPCB Group are due to meet on 5 Feb when there will be a presentation regarding the Heritage Centre. It may be appropriate to consider whether an item then needs to be added to the workplan on that.
016/19	<p>Item 10c– Chief Constable Update <i>Presented by WMP Chief Constable Dave Thompson</i></p> <p>The Chief Constable highlighted three items:</p> <p>Walsall and Custody Facilities: There had been an unfortunate article in a newspaper two weekends ago, referring to Walsall as the town without a custody block. The Chief Constable felt that this did not represent the position well around WMP. He wanted to make it clear that whilst austerity is a factor in decision-making, it is not the only factor. The decision made around reducing the number of custody sites and to build more optimum facilities was based on a number of facts. In 2009, there were 22 custody sites, many not fit for purpose now when expectations of safe handling of detainees and safe cells, is a priority. A great many people who used to be arrested are now not; some are dealt with by voluntary interview and that is a more proportionate way of dealing. In addition, it is important to ensure that detainees are housed in a safe</p>

	<p>environment and to build 22 such sites is not possible. Since the decision was taken to move to reduced sites, detainees who suffer health and other challenges are managed in a safe and considerate way by the Force whilst not putting staff/officers at risk. The facilities in terms of interventions and pathways, referrals and medical treatment on site is far more effective now than it ever was.</p> <p>WMP run a modern custody estate that is fit for purpose with sufficient space needed for detainees. Possibly not so convenient in terms of being local, but definitely more efficient. Choices are not always driven by austerity; sometimes there is a need for change to affect a modern efficient service.</p> <p>Serious anti-social behaviour/nuisance activity which affects the public: A lot of work being undertaken by the Force in this area particularly in Operation Park Safe. This is an effective scheme which enables WMP to prosecute people who are breaching parking laws, based on information and imagery received from the public. The Force is also dealing with huge challenges around vehicle related nuisance and the last few weekends have seen officers tackling vehicle cruising taking place in Nechells (Birmingham). This activity is an organised dangerous use of vehicles; it is dangerous to the public and breaches injunctions. The Force used new drones' capability to produce evidence and will continue to utilise.</p> <p>The whole issue of vehicle-based nuisance, from self-help the public can do, Park Safe, Community Speed Watch and serious organised vehicle nuisance, add up to a huge amount of work for the Force.</p> <p>Speed Watch: One of the objectives of the Force, through its neighbourhood policing is to build social capital in communities through involving the public more directly. This Force has a history of inviting the public to partner with their local neighbourhood teams to be active eyes and ears, to wear tabards to identify that partnership, and to report on nuisance or crime issues in their areas. There are currently 47 active Street Watches in the West Midlands which include 460 members of the public. There are few Forces in the country that can point to that level of active citizenship. The rate at which the Watches are growing is fantastic and their enthusiasm is inspiring. The Chief Constable wanted to commend and praise the support from the public which is making a huge difference on the ground.</p>
	<p>The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable, his officers and the panel, for their detailed reports and discussion. The meeting was closed at 1234 hrs.</p>