



## STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 1 December 2015  
in Committee Room 1, Civic Centre Suite, Solihull Council, Manor Square, Solihull, West  
Midlands B91 3QB

Present: Jamieson, David – Police and Crime Commissioner  
Mosquito, Cllr Yvonne – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner  
Foster, Cllr Judy – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
Connor, Brendan – Board Member  
Hannon, Cath – Board Member  
Hendricks, Ernie – Board Member  
Sawdon, Cllr Tim – Board Member  
Abbott, Cllr Faye – Board Member

In attendance: Thompson, David – Deputy Chief Constable  
Jardine, Jonathan – Chief Executive  
Larmour, Michelle – Assistant Chief Constable  
Wilkin, David – Director of Resources  
Kenyon, Mark – Chief Finance Officer  
White, Jared - Chief Inspector  
Blakeman, Kerry – Superintendent  
Russell, Sean - Chief Inspector  
Hamilton, Cllr Paulette – Mental Health Champion  
Matta, Sarah – Business Support Officer

Observers: 9

### 110/15 Opening Remarks

110/15

The Police and Crime Commissioner welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

The Commissioner was pleased to see the Force publish its report on Child Sexual Exploitation highlighting the work that had been done and bringing the report into the public domain. He also added that he looked forward to seeing local authorities add further information in the near future.

**111/15 Conflicts of Interest** **111/15**

Board member Brendan Connor declared an interest in the 'Closure of Berkswell and Balsall Common Police Office' petition, as he was a local resident of the area and had signed the petition.

**112/15 Apologies** **112/15**

Apologies had been received from the Chief Constable, ACC Cann and ACC Foulkes.

**113/15 Notes of the Last Meeting** **113/15**

The Chief Executive referred to actions from the previous minutes and confirmed that their outcomes would be circulated in due course.

The Board approved the notes of the meeting held in public on 3 November 2015.

**114/15 Public Questions** **114/15**

There were no questions received from the public.

**115/15 Petitions** **115/15**

There were three petitions that had been received:

1. Save Halesowen Police Station
2. Retain Neighbourhood Policing officers in Ladywood Ward
3. Closure of Berkswell and Balsall Common Police Office

The Commissioner invited Cedric Lea, volunteer coordinator to present the 'Closure of Berkswell and Balsall Common Police Office' petition.

Cedric Lea addressed the Commissioner and Board asking for the decision to close the Balsall Common police office to be reconsidered. Cedric explained that the office was manned by volunteers from 11am – 12:30pm, Monday- Saturday each week.

Other points highlighted by Cedric were:

- It had been estimated that the net cost for the Balsall Common premises would be £15,000 per annum.
- A CCTV system was also run from the premises, funded by the parish council and of which was a benefit to the village.

Cedric concluded by inviting the Commissioner to visit the Balsall Common premises to see how the scheme worked.

The Commissioner accepted the invitation, expressing his gratitude to Cedric and the volunteers for their work and thanked them for bringing the issue to his attention.

The Deputy Chief Constable thanked Cedric and said that the Force

would look at resources and estates carefully including the Ladywood Ward petition

**116/15 Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda**

**116/15**

Four questions had been submitted to the Chief Constable. The questions were as follows:

1. What steps are West Midlands Police taking to clamp down on the so called 'boy racers' and those taking part in illegal street racing and dangerous gatherings and what assessment has been made of further steps that need to be taken in the future?

*(Asked by Cllr Judy Foster)*

In response, the Deputy Chief Constable indicated that:

- The Force has been working with local authorities to publish videos of the problems and also working with the Central Motorway Police Group to enforce injunctions.
  - In Solihull a system had been used whereby a pre-warning was issued to deter people from racing vehicles.
2. Would the Chief Constable make a statement regarding the level of threat to the people of the West Midlands from cyber and internet related crime? What steps are being taken to counter this type of crime and protect people from it?

*(Asked by Yvonne Mosquito)*

In response, the Deputy Chief Constable made the following comments.

There were three types of fraud he wanted to focus on:

- Cyber dependant
- Cyber enabled crime
- Cyber enabled fraud

All were of significant concern and were treated as security attacks on individuals. There had been a considerable amount of publicity around cyber-crime, rising as the use of mobiles and social media grows.

The Deputy expressed his support for a national led approach to cyber-crime.

Before asking question three, the Commissioner declared an interest as he is a GMB trade union member.

3. What assessment has the Chief Constable made of the current cost of administering 'check off' for employees' trade union contributions?

(Asked by David Jamieson)

The Deputy Chief Constable replied with the following comments:

- WMP administers approximately 8,000 payroll deductions a month
- Only a proportion of these relate to the payment of Trade Union subscriptions via 'check off'
- Other deductions include payments for staff association membership, and other employee benefits schemes for example
- There is no recognised additional administrative cost associated with the deduction of Trade Union subscriptions via "check off"
- The Trade Union Bill will change the rules and make it illegal to "check off" Trade Union subscriptions

The Commissioner commented that it was highly regrettable that the government is persisting with this approach, which could be said to discriminate against Trade Union members.

4. Following the changes to the police misconduct process, and the appointment of legally qualified chairs, what assessment has the Chief Constable made of the value of the development of Misconduct Sentencing Guidelines as a means of ensuring consistency and fairness in the application of penalties for misconduct?

(Asked by Brendan Connor)

The Deputy Chief Constable noted the legally qualified chairs would preside over police misconduct hearing and create greater confidence in the process.

Alan Goodwin, ACPO national policing lead for complaints and misconduct is currently producing draft national guidelines. Once finalised and approved these guidelines can be used in the West Midlands.

## **117/15 Performance**

**117/15**

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which updated the Board on the performance and progress against the milestones and deliverables included within the Police and Crime Plan.

The DCC explained that while recorded crime had decreased, a concern was the small increase in burglary which was thought to be seasonal, although overall burglary was generally down compared to past years.

In summary, crime figures were generally low however the challenge for the Force going forward was to continue to drive crime down even lower.

The Chief Executive drew attention to the development of a West Midlands Combined Authority and the devolution agreement which had been drawn up between Government and the shadow Combined Authority board. The agreement included a proposal for an elected West

Midlands Mayor.

The Board considered the report and noted the following points.

- Hate Crime had not been recorded in the report but was included under the Force's Gold Group for Counter Terrorism. **Action - The Force to provide an update to the OPCC on this.**
- It had been noted that the Force had done well in regards to confidence in policing.
- The Commissioner and Force were working together on projects relating to reducing re-offending in 2016/17.

The Commissioner was pleased with the overall Force performance.

## 118/15 Mental Health

118/15

ACC Michelle Larmour introduced the report to update the Board on the latest work done by the Force on mental health. Cllr Paulette Hamilton provided an update on the work she has done as Mental Health Champion.

The Board considered the report and noted the following points.

- Cllr Hamilton had concentrated on the different partnerships that work within mental health, focusing on the seven Health and Wellbeing Boards across the West Midlands.
- Reference was made to Norman Lamb who had been selected to chair the new mental health commission created by the shadow West Midlands Combined Authority.
- It was recognised that mental health impacted on the economy by an estimated £28 billion a year.
- Cllr Hamilton proposed to hold an event to bring together different partners to discuss offender health and offender mental health.
- ACC Larmour commented on the Force's commitment to partnership working and early intervention, referring to the Mental Health Street Triage as an example.
- Chief Inspector Sean Russell then updated the Board on Force activity, including the work done by the Street Triage Team.
- There are relatively high levels of BME people with mental illness and this disproportionality needs to be addressed. It was suggested that this may be in part due to culture/attitude towards mental health.
- "300 Voices" is a pilot project run in the West Midlands that brings together the community and mental health professionals.

- 50% of prisoners suffer from mental health problems.

In summary, the Force were demonstrating good partnership working and this in turn was creating substantial savings.

The Deputy Chief Constable acknowledged Chief Inspector Russell's work, highlighting his additional work over and above what is expected of him. He also agreed that it was good to have a Mental Health Champion. Both the Deputy and the Commissioner thanked Chief Inspector Sean Russell, Cllr Hamilton and ACC Larmour for their work.

#### **119/15 WMP Estates Strategy Update**

**119/15**

The Director of Resources introduced the report which provided an update to the Board on the paper submitted in October 2015.

The Board noted the following:

- Community engagement had taken place regarding police estates, which demonstrated the Force being clear and transparent in its approach. There had been no suggestions made during or since the consultation which would prompt a re-think into the proposed estates reduction.
- The Force is to work with Balsall Common in the next 12 months.
- The Commissioner to engage with local communities that will be affected and to take into consideration best value when it comes to the disposal of the estates.
- Attention was drawn to the non-core buildings section of the paper as there was a query around Force estates that were also used by the public. The Force clarified that in regards to Balsall Common, it had been included in the front desk review.
- The Board asked for a review of community and/or partnership agency use of the individual facilities as exemplified in the Balsall Common facility.

#### **120/15 Finance – Comprehensive Spending Review 2015 and 2016/17 Budget Setting Process**

**120/15**

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which provided an update on the Comprehensive Spending Review 2015 (CSR) and the budget process to be followed to set the police precept for 2016/17.

The Board noted the following points.

- Police spending will be protected.
- Overall funding to decrease over the next 4 years.
- There was an opportunity to increase financial income through local tax.
- The CSR talked about investment in Counter Terrorism.
- Detail regarding the CSR would be available on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

- The estimated increase in precept would be around five pounds per household thus creating an estimated £3.5 million per annum.

The Commissioner will present proposals to the Police and Crime Panel.

#### **121/15 WMP2020 Programme of Work Update**

**121/15**

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which provided an update to the Board on the development of the Next Generation Local Policing and Risk Framework work stream within the detailed changed programme.

The Board noted the following points.

- A review of the model may have to be conducted once the funding position is clear.
- The Force is looking at risk and vulnerability within call handling
- There was a possibility that local policing would have more specialist teams to investigate certain crimes.
- Police recruitment has been re-opened internally to PCSOs and staff.
- Neighbourhood Policing will still remain but will look different in the future
- There had been positive outcomes from the Body Worn Video pilot scheme. It had been noted that evidence from the cameras worn helped speed up investigations, with officers commenting that it modified the public's attitude towards them but also importantly reminded officers of their conduct.
- It is unlikely that the public would be reassured by officers equipped with firearms.
- The Board expressed interest to see the "THRIVE+" training.

**Action- A visit to be arranged for the Board to see THRIVE+ training.**

The Commissioner welcomed comments around PCSOs, stating that they were highly valued by communities and helped contribute to providing assurances.

#### **122/15 Roads Policing and Safer Travel**

**122/15**

Chief Inspector Jared White from the Central Motorway Policing Group (CMPG) introduced the report which provided an update on progress made towards delivery of the objectives set out in the Safer Travel Plan.

The Board noted the following points.

- Road Policing aims to intercept and disrupt criminality, focusing on

organised crime groups and supporting the Force. It was also noted that it impacted on immigration, Child Sexual Exploitation and road offences.

- The Force is to launch its yearly campaign around drink driving during the Christmas period.
- It was clear that the performance from Safer Travel had made a difference from when it was first launched 10 years ago.
- Robbery on public transport is relatively low, however robbery on trains had showed a recent increase.

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner took the opportunity to thank officers who had shown her and Cllr Judy Foster Operational Trivium especially commenting on the use of Specials.

**123/15 SPCB Workplan**

**123/15**

No comments from the Board.

**124/15 Chief Constable Update**

**124/15**

The Deputy Chief Constable provided an update on the following matters.

- The Force had conducted some work in light of the recent Paris attacks.
- The visit from Her Majesty the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh was challenging but successful especially after the recent Paris attacks.
- The Force had launched its annual Diamond Awards.

	<b>Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings</b>	
<b>125/15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chief Executive to liaise with WMP regarding MASH evaluation standards</b></li> <li>• <b>Chief Executive to seek a briefing from WMP on welfare support for WMP officers engaged in public protection duties</b></li> <li>• <b>Chief Finance Officer to seek a summary of costs pertaining to transport overspend</b> <i>(Chief Finance Officer circulated a detailed breakdown of the forecast transport overspend for financial year 2015 to the Board by e-mail on 1 December 2015)</i></li> </ul>	<b>125/15</b>