



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 2 February 2016
in Committee Room 2, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham**

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

In attendance: Thompson, David – Chief Constable
Rolfe, Louisa – Deputy Chief Constable
Beale, Marcus – Assistant Chief Constable
Kenyon, Mark – Chief Finance Officer (OPCC)
Bell, Kenny – Det Chief Supt

Observers: 6

013/16 Opening Remarks 013/16

The Commissioner formally welcomed David Thompson and Louisa Rolfe to their new roles of Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable respectively.

014/16 Conflicts of Interest 014/16

None.

015/16 Apologies 015/16

Apologies were received from the Chief Executive, Jonathon Jardine.

016/16 Notes of the Last Meeting 016/16

The Board approved the notes of the meeting dated, 5 January 2016.

In relation to the question regarding Police Information Notices the Chief Constable clarified that such notices were not attached to individual records. A subsequent DBS search carried out would have a proportional

approach including a relevance test.

017/16 Public Questions

017/16

No questions were received.

018/16 Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda

018/16

Two questions had been submitted to the Chief Constable and a copy of the questions was circulated. The questions were as follows.

1. What reassurances can the Chief Constable provide that internal police processes, appropriately trained police personnel and relationships with partners are in place to prevent child abuse cases happening in the West Midlands?

(Asked by Cath Hannon)

In response, the Chief Constable indicated that:

- The force was subject to an independent inspection by HMIC. This had identified areas which required further examination and improvement. It had also identified good and improving standards with the force striving for excellence.
 - The Public Protection Board had a documented two year improvement plan and robust audit arrangements in place.
 - Resourcing of staff was very high with a commitment for training and development.
2. Further to the briefing presented to the Strategic Policing and Crime Board on 3 November 2015, what progress has been made towards the completion of the Western and Central custody facilities, and what other issues have arisen? What steps have been taken to protect the public purse during this process.

(Asked by David Jamieson)

In response, the Chief Constable indicated that:

- Concern was raised at the time being taken to complete the new custody sites. The handover timetable would be managed robustly with costs recovered appropriately.
- The Lloyd House refurbishment programme was in line with planning and good progress was being made with the first departments due to be relocated in September 2016.
- The current custody provision posed some challenges whilst waiting for the new sites to become operational.

019/16 Strategic Policing Requirement

019/16

The report from Assistant Chief Constable Beale informed the Board of the response of West Midlands Police to the Home Secretary's Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). The SPR was refreshed in 2015, when the following were designated as the current national threats:-

- Child Sexual Abuse
- National Cyber Security Incident
- Public Order
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Civil Emergencies
- Terrorism

The SPR would again be refreshed in May.

ACC Beale stated that there was a high level of assurance in the West Midlands with regard to potential terrorism events. Staff are well trained and prepared. A recent multi agency exercise demonstrated that the force delivered well when tested with only a few recommended improvements identified.

ACC Beale informed the Board that the Force had reviewed recent incidents internationally and the core doctrine was deemed very good. The number of Armed Response Vehicles had been increased across the UK which helped to ensure that key targets had robust coverage available.

It was stated that the Force was working with partnership organisations to support proportionate steps to keep people safe in the event of a terrorist attack.

Regarding Cyber Crime a more coherent strategy was required both regionally and nationally to tackle this evolving area of work.

There were two big areas of mutual aid where West Midlands police gave and received support. These were public order and counter terrorism support. The need for mutual aid fluctuates between forces but overall the balance was right and it was felt that the force was not over stretched. In addition it was noted that in respect of a forthcoming rally the Force had the duty to protect and allow peaceful protest whilst reducing disruption to communities. A number of officers would be taken out of normal duty to assist with events such as this but this would only have a small impact on local policing provision.

020/16 Health and Safety

020/16

Assistant Chief Constable Beale presented the annual Health and Safety report which provided information about strategic health and safety issues and performance over the 2014/2015 period.

Whilst the accident rate was similar to the previous year assaults had risen by 21%. This in the main related to arrest or restraint. This prompted

a review of safety training.

In order to monitor the progress of developments relating to health and safety, the force had produced a development plan that included a range of actions. The development plan would be circulated to members of the Board.

In addition to reviewing the welfare arrangements implemented following an assault it was stated that specialist officers were supported separately regarding attendance at horrific crime scenes or investigations.

In response to a request for a further report to be submitted for wider reassurance it was decided that more in depth discussions would be held at a future performance workshop.

021/16 Operation Captiva

021/16

Detective Chief Superintendent Bell presented the report which summarised the West Midlands Police position in relation to the current firearms threat and articulated the force's approach regarding the criminal use and supply of firearms. The firearms threat is a force priority and although the recent focus had been on the increased discharges in Birmingham, it was now time to expand the vision and activity force wide.

Whilst investigations were at the front end of the policing role a lot of intelligence work revolved around the identification and prioritisation of offenders. The reduction of the threat was a joint effort with other partnership agencies together with communities.

The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that communities should take the lead and to enable them to do so he will develop and set up a Commission on gangs and violence.

022/16 Consultation update 2016/2017 Revenue Budget and Precept Capital Programme 2016/17-2019/20

022/16

Mark Kenyon, Chief Finance Officer, presented the report which provided feedback on the consultation that had been undertaken by the Commissioner for the 2016/17 revenue budget, precept and capital programme.

66% of respondents who took part in the public consultation supported a £5 increase in Council Tax. In addition the Police and Crime Panel unanimously supported the increase. A consultation with business rate payers also supported the increase.

023/16 Work Plan

023/16

The work plan for the Strategic Policing and Crime Board was noted.

024/16 Chief Constable Update

024/16

David Thompson, Chief Constable, updated the SPCB on the following issues

- In relation to recent bomb threats to schools good advice was issued locally which supported and informed head teachers.
- Following a critical media report regarding arrests for burglary it was stated that there had been a 7,700 reduction in offences over the previous four years. During the previous 12 months the force performed better than the national trend. The prevention of burglary was an important strategy as well as bringing offenders to justice.
- The case of Tereena Shakil who was jailed after being found guilty of being a member of ISIS and of encouraging acts of terrorism sent a powerful message to communities of the dangers of travelling to Syria.

Meeting ended at 11.55am.