



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 7 June 2016
in Committee Room 2, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham

Present: Jamieson, David – Police and Crime Commissioner
Bertie, Ashley – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Foster, Cllr Judy – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Ainsworth, Robert – Board Member
Cannon, Cath – Board Member
Hendricks, Ernie – Board Member
Josan, Gurinder – Board Member
Marwick, Sarah – Board Member
Preece, Cllr Liam – Board Member
Saleem, Waheed – Board Member

In attendance: Jardine, Jonathan – Chief Executive
Kenyon, Mark – Chief Finance Officer
Thompson, David – Chief Constable
Rolfe, Louisa – Deputy Chief Constable
Foulkes, Carl – Assistance Chief Constable
Chamberlain, Neil - Head of Finance and Shared Services

Observers: 10

039/16 Opening Remarks

039/16

The Commissioner welcomed members of the public to the meeting and asked each board member to introduce themselves. It was the first Board meeting since the Commissioner had been re-elected and a first for his newly appointed Board, some of whom were new to the post.

The Commissioner made reference to the Birmingham Pub bombings in which new developments had emerged and had been reported in the media. The Birmingham Coroner, Louise Hunt had ruled that the inquest into the deaths of the 21 people would be re-opened. The Commissioner commented that the bombings had been a terrible act of violence and that West Midlands Police, at the time had failed in its response. The Commissioner expressed his support for the Coroner's decision and sincerely hoped that the inquest would provide the much needed answers to the families of the victims. He continued by saying that the Chief Constable had provided assurances that West Midlands Police would co-operate with the inquest.

The Chief Constable added that there was a considerable amount of information that West Midlands Police had provided to the Coroner which had informed her decision. He confirmed that the Force would work with the Coroner and other interested parties in regards to the inquest.

040/16 Conflicts of Interest 040/16

None.

041/16 Apologies 041/16

Apologies had been received from Brendan Connor.

042/16 Notes of the Last Meeting 042/16

The Board approved the notes of the meeting held in public on 1 March 2016.

043/16 Public Questions and Petitions 043/16

There were no questions from the public or petitions received.

044/16 Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda 044/16

Due to the newly appointed Board being recently formed, there were no questions from the Board.

045/16 Financial Update – Provisional Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 045/16

The Chief Finance Officer together with the Head of Finance and Shared Services introduced the report which presented the provisional outturn position for Revenue and Capital expenditure for the financial year 2015/16, prior to scrutiny by the external auditors.

The Board considered the report and during the discussion noted the following points:

- The underspend by the Force was explained in context, at the time of budgeting huge final cuts had been expected for the financial year of 2015/16. In future, it was proposed to bring a financial budget for 2016/17 to the Board in line with the Police and Crime Plan, setting out areas of intended expenditure.
- Further information will be provided and discussed during the preparation of the Police and Crime Plan with regard to future workforce options.
- The Force is part of a buying group for the purchase of vehicles, which has led to a reduction in costs. About £0.5 million has been saved by being part of the procurement, with more work being done around whether Fleet could be run nationally.

- The overspend on Body Worn Cameras was due to the project criteria and the affect it had on the project. There had been an underestimate on the timescale of implementing infrastructure and tendering of equipment.
- The Change Programme has been subject to external audit and also examined by HMIC. The infrastructure to deliver the Change Programme was considered robust. However, it was unfortunate that there was a loss of funding for Body Worn Cameras.
- The Force confirmed that fines had been imposed on the contractor for delays in delivering the new Custody Blocks at Oldbury and Perry Barr sites.
- Progress had been made around the recruitment of the 450 officers. More thought would be given to best use of the Apprenticeship levy. Sustaining the current levels of PCSOs' was considered achievable.
- The Force had made progress in terms of recruitment in BME numbers although it was acknowledged that they were still behind in certain areas (Black British, Chinese and Muslim women) with work still to be done. The Force would continue to look at options to help encourage diversity.
- Significant amounts of money had been spent on dog kennelling for dangerous dogs in an attempt to protect the public but also due to long lasting legal cases. More work needed to be done with the Magistrates as the money being spent so far was not justifiable.

The Commissioner added, that when faced with threats of financial cuts from Government, this justifiably led to caution in financial expenditure. He was disappointed to see an underspend but agreed that a cautious line of caution had to be adopted. It was important that the Government need provide certainty over funding so that budgets could be planned and managed accordingly. The Commissioner hoped that the funding formula would not change substantially, as this again would create uncertainty about future finances.

The Commissioner concluded that the Government needed to give thought to legislation for both dangerous dogs and the future budget for forces.

046/16 Performance against the 2015-16 milestones and deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan

046/16

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which provided the Board with an update in regards to the performance and progress made against the milestones and deliverables included within the Police and Crime Plan.

The Board considered the report and during the ensuing discussions, noted the following points:

- The national average for confidence was measured at 78%, with WMP measuring at 75.4%.
- Work around Stop and Search would help towards improving future confidence.
- Unanswered calls were being closely monitored as there was an awareness of the impact this could have on public confidence. Under the WMP2020 programme, there were plans to deal with the issue more effectively by creating a more efficient service.
- The Active Citizens' Fund comes from the Proceeds of Crime Act, money which has been seized from criminals.
- West Midlands Combined Authority – The shadow authority would become legally recognised on Friday 10 June. During the summer period there would be a consultation on the electoral Mayor role. The Commissioner was pleased that the OPCC was supporting the Combined Authority.
- Teams have been visiting the newly established Custody Blocks, which had received positive feedback. However, concerns had been raised about difficulties encountered when transporting offenders at certain times of the day. Geographical areas and staff handling were to be looked at to help resolve the issue.

The Commissioner commended the Force on the outcomes from the Post Office pilot, and was also pleased to see the reduction of crimes committed on the public transport network. This in turn would provide reassurances to members of the public that traveling by public transport was a safe option of travel.

ACTION - The Force to produce further reports on the fear of crime in Coventry and a report detailing the expenditure of the Proceeds of Crime Act.

047/16 Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020

047/16

Richard Costello introduced the report which outlined the steps and approach that would be taken to produce a new Police and Crime Plan for 2016-2020 term of office. A copy of the consultation that would help shape and form the public's input into the plan was circulated to the Board.

The Board considered the report and noted that the consultation was welcomed and would make the plan more accessible.

048/16 WMP 2020 Update

048/16

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which updated the

Board on the WMP2020 programme.

The Board considered the report with the following points noted:

- The Force was financially on track with the programme which would enable it to become more effective. New technology would help towards assisting with this.
- The Chief Constable roadshows had been well attended and similar events may be provided for Councillors and partners. It was acknowledged that the Force would face challenges; the roadshows would help put across its aims and ambitions for future policing.
- The Chief Executive explained the multi layered approach to the risk assessment applied to the programme. The use of statutory reporting in the form of SPCB meetings, external auditors, HMIC inspections and the Police and Crime Panel were used as examples.

The Chief Constable concluded by saying that the programme had started as a way of saving money, however circumstances had changed and this had an impact. The programme was more about improving services and this was now the main steer and focus. The Deputy Chief Constable was thanked for the work she had done.

049/16 Report on the hearing into delays on the M6 Motorway on Thursday 4 February 2016 049/16

Andrew Moore introduced the report which provided the outcome to the inquiry and hearing into the fatal incident which occurred on the M6 motorway on Thursday 4 February 2016.

The Board noted:

- The public felt frustration and dissatisfaction with how the incident was dealt. The Combined Authority had taken five of the eleven recommendations that resulted from the inquiry.
- Exercises have been implemented and practised for future learning.
- The Central Motorway Policing Group (CMPG) took on board 1 and 2 of the recommendations. There would be better access for Highways England in future.
- Due to public interest, there were intentions to publicise the finding of the inquiry on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website. The website in future could then be used as a platform to update the public.
- The Force provided reassurances that there would be an improved joint response in future.

The Commissioner thanked Andrew for his report and wished him well in his new job which started in July.

In addition, the Commissioner took the opportunity to express his concerns over the proposed model for the future Mayor which he felt would be difficult to work with in its current form. He continued by saying that he would be reluctant to hand over the PCC role to a Mayor who did not possess sufficient powers to be able to deal with issues such as the M6 incident which called for people/organisations to be held accountable .

050/16 SPCB Workplan

050/16

The Chief Executive, Jonathan Jardine explained that the plan was due amendments in the next coming months and encourage the Boards' input on this.

051/16 Chief Constable Update

051/16

The Chief Constable updated the Board on three main issues. They were as follows:

- Anti-Social use of bikes in Solihull - The Chief Constable commended the Solihull LPU team for working towards tackling the issue of off road bikes.
- Online risk – ‘Safe Net is a regional operation that acts as an enforcement arm but also serves to educate. There were thirty members of staff using technology to work towards identifying people who stored and distributed indecent images.
- Gun Crime – In January 2016, the Chief Constable had expressed his concerns at the increase of gun crime. The actions taken by the Force to bring justice provided a strong warning message to people who intend to be involved in such gun crimes. It remains a priority for the Force.

The Commissioner thanked the Board for their comments.

Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings		
052/16	None	052/16