

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE
AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

NOTICE OF DECISION

022 /2015

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Title:

Annual Report 2014-15

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Production and publication of an annual report (including an opportunity for recommendations from the Police and Crime Panel to which the Police and Crime Commissioner must respond) is a statutory requirement for police and crime commissioners.

This decision approves the annual report for 2014-15 (attached) and decides the manner of its dissemination.

DECISION

To approve the annual report 2014-15, with electronic dissemination and the circulation of hard copies to central libraries in each local authority area.

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.....4. 8. 15

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

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Production of an annual report is a statutory requirement. Part 1, Chapter 3, Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 states:

"Each elected local policing body must produce a report (an "annual report") on — (a) the exercise of the body's functions in each financial year, and (b) the progress which has been made in the financial year in meeting the police and crime objectives in the body's police and crime plan"

This decision relates to the Annual Report for 2014-15. During that period there were two police and crime commissioners as Bob Jones passed away on 1 July 2014. It therefore reflects the work of Bob Jones as Commissioner and also David Jamieson. It should also be noted that the Commissioner revised the Police and Crime Plan in Spring 2015 and this will be reflected in future Annual Reports.

It is also a statutory requirement that the report is shared with the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel:

"2) As soon as practicable after producing an annual report, the elected local policing body must send the report to the relevant police and crime panel.

(3)The elected local policing body must attend before the panel at the public meeting arranged by the panel...to— (a) present the report to the panel, and (b) answer the panel's questions on the report.

(4)The elected local policing body must— (a) give the panel a response to any report or recommendations on the annual report...and (b) publish any such response"

The Police and Crime Panel considered the annual report at its meeting on 29 June 2015 and produced a report with recommendations. This is at Annex A.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's response to the Police and Crime Panel's recommendations is at Annex B.

The Annual Report, incorporating revisions arising from the Police and Crime Panel's recommendations, is attached.

Dissemination

It is a statutory requirement to publish the annual report, and it is for the Commissioner to "determine the manner" of publication. It is proposed that the annual report will be published on the Commissioner's website, and promoted via social media, news articles, and the West Midlands Police intranet. There will be direct electronic dissemination to West Midlands MPs and councillors. A limited print run will enable copies to be sent to central libraries across the West Midlands.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The annual report was designed with the assistance of WMP's Design and Print team and produced by the West Midlands Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, therefore no external costs have been incurred in its preparation. Electronic dissemination incurs no additional costs. The cost of a limited print run will be met from within existing budgets.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

A decision to approve and then publish the annual report ensures compliance with the requirements of Part 1, Chapter 3, Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Copies of the annual report in large print, other languages and alternative formats will be provided on request and the electronic version on the Commissioner's website is accessible to the screen reader adapted for the site.

Schedule of Background Papers

None.

Public Access to Information

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.

Annex A

Report of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Report of: The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Date: 29th June 2015

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report 2014-2015

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Panel must review the Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report and make a report or recommendations to the PCC.
- 1.2 On 29th June 2015, the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel considered the 2014-2015 Annual Report.

2 Members Present

- 2.1 The members in attendance were Cllrs Cooper (Chair), Arif, Burley, Hawkins, Holl-Allen, Leddy, Lucas, Mattu, Rowley, Thompson and Tyler and Lionel Walker (independent member).

3 Panel Comments

(a) Budget

- 3.1 We note the budget pressures that you are under and note the difficult decisions you may have to make if further cuts are made. We would welcome more in-depth discussion with you before final decisions are taken and would like to offer support in making the case against further reductions to the police budget to Government.
- 3.2 We understand that policing may well look different in the future as a result of the financial situation.

(b) Working with Local Authorities

- 3.3 We also agree that close working with local authorities is key to ameliorating some of the negative impacts of budget reductions. This is partly about looking to where local authorities and other agencies including the police can sensibly pool budgets, and looking at where activity can be shared, where there is common interest.
- 3.4 Three examples were discussed at the meeting:
 - Child protection – where local authorities and police could co-ordinate activity better to protect families;
 - Cyber-crime – where there is some good practice of local authorities and police working together with community organisations to get information out to people about cyber-crime and how to protect themselves;
 - Planning and building crime out – for example with regard to “bilking”, whereby the appropriate design of petrol forecourts can help eradicate this crime.

- 3.5 The Panel offers its support in exploring the ways in which closer working could result in better use of resources.

(c) Domestic Violence

- 3.6 We note the work being done to combat domestic violence, including more reporting and better recording and the use of other remedies (such as civil orders).
- 3.7 However, we would like to see that support for victims and their families (particularly when it comes to giving evidence in court) is maximised.
- 3.8 We would welcome further information on the funding and services commissioned via the Victim's Commission for victims of domestic violence and their families.

(d) Final Comments

- 3.9 Thank you for your annual report, which the Panel found to be both informative and easy to read. Members ask that thanks are passed on to your officers who helped prepare the report, and to frontline officers for the work that they do.
- 3.10 The focus on supporting a strong economy, which will help reduce crime, is welcomed, as is the focus on offenders. We were pleased to hear that both knife and gun crime are reducing, when not so long ago, both were major issues.
- 3.11 The Panel hope that you consider this feedback helpful and look forward to your response to this report.
- 3.12 The Panel will publish this report on www.westmidlandspcp.co.uk

Councillor Darren Cooper
Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

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west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

Councillor Darren Cooper
Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime
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Scrutiny Office,
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28 July 2015

Dear Councillor Cooper

Firstly thank you for considering my Annual Report and for the warm response from panel members.

I welcome the recognition that levels of gun crime and knife crime are generally falling, although I am not complacent on either issue and will continue to work hard to drive further reductions in those crimes.

I would like to thank the panel for their constructive and supportive remarks on reducing offending and in particular on the work that I am doing to support the regional economy. In this year's plan I made supporting the economy a priority of West Midlands Police for the first time and it is a theme that runs through all the work we do.

I will pass on the kind words from panel members to the report's author and to the Chief Constable on behalf of his officers for the work that they do.

I will instruct my office to publish the Annual Report on my website in the coming days and will alert yourselves once published.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David Jamieson'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Jamieson
Police and Crime Commissioner

