



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 17 September 2019
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

Present:

- Richard BAKER : Chief Superintendent
- Ashley BERTIE : Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
- Neil CHAMBERLAIN : Director of Commercial Services
- Brendan CONNOR : Board Member
- Phil DOLBY : Superintendent
- Ernie HENDRICKS : Board Member
- David JAMIESON : Police and Crime Commissioner
- Jonathan JARDINE : Chief Executive
- Gurinder JOSAN : Board Member
- Mark KENYON : Chief Finance Officer
- Dr Sarah MARWICK : Board Member
- Tom MCNEIL : Strategic advisor/Board Member
- Jayne MEIR : Assistant Chief Constable
- Tara MUCHEMENYI : Policy Assistant
- Richard NORTH : Superintendent
- Louisa ROLFE : Deputy Chief Constable
- Waheed SALEEM : Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
- David THOMPSON : Chief Constable
- Brendan WARNER- : Policy Officer
- SOUTHWELL

4 observers, 1 note taker and a webcaster.

Please note:

1. *The meeting was recorded, and a webcast of the entire discussion can be viewed here: [LINK TO WEBCAST](#)*
2. *The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here: [LINK TO REPORTS](#)*
3. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text*

109/19	The Commissioner welcomed everybody to the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
110/19	Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest There were none.
111/19	Item 2 – Apologies Apologies were received from Assistant Chief Constable Chris Johnson, Assistant Chief Constable Vanessa Jardine, Assistant Chief Constable Sue Southern and Dr Cath Hannon

112/19	<p>Item 3 – Notes of last meeting – 23 July 2019</p> <p>The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. The Chief Constable explained that as part of Project Guardian, the Force will capture the data from young people.</p> <p>ACTION: Chief Constable will provide an update on the timescales for the above.</p>
113/19	<p>Item 4 – PCC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner wished PC Gareth Phillips well in his recovery from his serious injuries and said he understood he is making good progress. The Chief Constable said it is a timely reminder after a summer of incidents across the country of the risks officers put themselves in to protect the public. • This incident highlights why it is so necessary to tackle the major issue of vehicle crime, which is not just a police matter. The Financial Times will run a feature aimed at company investors and fleet buyers. • The OPCC was recently awarded £3.7m to set up the new Violence Reduction Unit, the second highest amount in the country, which aims to ensure a coherent systemic response to violent crime. The VRU is being officially launched on 2 October 2019. Work is already happening at pace with summer and October half-term diversionary activities. • The money for officer recruitment has not yet been received, and the number of officers the Force will receive is still unknown, but more information is anticipated this week.
114/19	<p>Item 5 – Acceptance of Petitions</p> <p>There were no petitions</p>
115/19	<p>Item 6 – Public Questions</p> <p>There were no public questions</p>
116/19	<p>Item 7 - Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</p> <p>1. Will the Chief Constable update us on the progress he is making on tackling theft of vehicles in the West Midlands, including the work underway with manufacturers to improve the security of their vehicles? (asked by David Jamieson)</p> <p>The Chief Constable reported that it is of considerable concern for the public, and it is at a higher level now than it was five years ago. Through Operation Cantil, 6,000 people have been arrested since the start of the operation. The Force has closed nearly 100 chop shops where vehicles were being dismantled. This work will continue. The Force does prevention work with the public, and looks at the approach manufacturers take to security. A National Vehicle Crime Working Group has been established and Government has been pressed on this issue, and the Force is currently leading on this.</p> <p>2. What assessment has the Chief Constable made about Criminal Behaviour Orders being used to ban young people from making Drill Music? (asked by Ernie Hendricks)</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that the Force does not want to ban or discourage the music as it is popular amongst young people. In cases where there is violence and intimidation within the music that incites feuds, the Force has used Criminal</p>

Behaviour Orders to regulate participation in the music.

3. Birmingham has been branded 'Street Racing Capital of the UK.' Could the Chief Constable inform us of the following:

- a) What actions have been taken by WMP to respond to street racing and car cruising?
- b) Whether the actions taken have resulted in fewer incidents of 'motor racing on the highway?'

(asked by Ernie Hendricks)

The Chief Constable reported that it is a substantial operational focus of the Force and has been for a number of years. The main issue is general street racing which is, at best, a nuisance and, at worst, it puts people in serious danger. The Force grades weekends in terms of risk, does lots of intelligence gathering and some basic traffic disruption. If there is more of a threat, the Force mobilises substantial resources to disrupt if necessary with an intelligence gathering approach. Injunctions are due for a renewal and the Force is keen to keep those in place. Work with local authorities would design out crime in some of the areas. The Force is looking at the good practice occurring in Essex.

4. In light of the Prime Minister's commitment to increasing police officer numbers by 20,000, would the Chief Constable make a statement on the following:

- a) How many additional officers does he anticipate for WMP?
- b) What additional funding will be provided by the Home Office?
- c) What burden of funding will fall on West Midlands Council taxpayers?

(asked by Brendon Connor)

The Chief Constable said that £750m has been allocated for the first year. The remaining money will be committed as part of a government spending review and scaled over a period of time until March 2023. There will be a clearer idea of the settlement approach in the next two weeks. The Force has made some steps to mobilise, wanting to recruit a diverse and talented group of individuals to be police officers. The Force is committed to work with the VRU to take an early intervention approach. WMP is looking at improving visibility with NPU's and at preventative roles in the community. It is the intention to work the Commissioner and look at how that sits with the Police and Crime Plan.

5.

- a) What assessment has been made by local authorities in the West Midlands on the potential impact of a hard Brexit on our region, including the real threat of food and medicine shortages?
- b) What has WMP done to assess the risk of a hard Brexit on its ability to deal with suspected violent organised criminals, child sexual exploitation offenders, human traffickers and terrorists?

(asked by Tom McNeil)

The Chief Constable responded with the following:

- a) The Force has worked with local authorities but has not received requests for assistance. The Commissioner said we can predict that if we don't have sharing of information, this could disadvantage us hugely but it is hard to predict public disorder.
- b) The loss of powers such as SYS-2 presents substantial challenges. An International Crime Coordination Centre has been set up. The Force is working to make sure they are ready for the transfer.

	<p>6. Can the Chief Constable explain how WMP enforce airport byelaws and how its use is reported and scrutinised?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(asked by Ashley Bertie)</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that the airport is a different security environment to most of the West Midlands. The Force does not record and monitor all powers directly in terms of how any times they are used, but does know if they have not been complied with. It is important when officers exercise special powers that they explain what and why those powers are being used.</p> <p>ACTION: Chief Constable to provide more detail in writing on the progress being made on tackling the theft of vehicles in the West Midlands.</p>
EMERGING ITEMS	
117/19	<p>Item 8: Brexit</p> <p>The Chief Constable began by explaining that this remains a challenging issue for the Force to plan. Chief Supt. Richard Baker and Supt. Phil Dolby then went on to introduce the report. The following key points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Crime Coordination Centre has been set up for approximately seven months • In case of a no-deal Brexit, UK policing will lose access to all current law enforcement instruments within European countries. There is work to mitigate those risks. Losing SYS-2 means that police will revert back to Interpol notices, forms and diffusions which is a bureaucratic process. All SYS-2 cases are currently being reviewed. • Post-Brexit UK policing will lose access to ACRO and criminal record checks, causing a big increase in potential risk. • The Force has been well supported by the ICCC. • The Force has done an assessment around whether there will be protests and the supply of goods and services that may affect the Force. for the South East. WMP has the ability to mobilise. • There are currently twelve European arrest warrants and WMP is looking to locate those individuals as quickly as possible. There are sixty-two European arrest warrants of people wanted in the West Midlands. Those warrants will become void in the event of a no-deal Brexit, and the Force will have to refer to the expeditionary process which is more bureaucratic. • The Force is confident that the new process will be applied immediately after 31 October so wanted individuals can be arrested. • The status of Prüm will not be affected. Biometric sharing of data is ongoing and will remain regardless of a no-deal Brexit. • The ICCC is well-prepared for a no-deal Brexit and that negotiations will continue after 31 October. Many Force systems are automated and processes are there to mitigate the threat. • Planning assumptions are based on previous experiences and supply is given regionally, not as a Force. • The Force will engage normally with communities at risk of Brexit-related hate crime. • There are many unknowns, but in terms of sustainability and planning the Force is confident that worst-case scenarios are not beyond it's capabilities. <p>Action: Chief Constable to give a verbal update in the next few weeks, when there</p>

	is more information. WMP to feed back the work being done with third-party reporting centres.
	Police and Crime Plan Priorities: Supporting Victims of Hidden Crime (Assistant PCC Waheed Saleem Chaired this item) and Strengthening Communities and Building the Economy (Deputy PCC Ashley Bertie Chaired this item)
118/19	<p>Item 9a - Supporting Victims of Hidden Crime - PPU The report was introduced by ACC Jayne Meir and was then presented in more detail by Supt Richard North. ACC Meir said both papers 9a and b will be grouped together. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PPU model was redesigned and began in February this year. • In December, there will be a full review of how the model is now operating to see if the benefits and outcomes have been delivered. • 70% of reported cases are taken forward for further investigation. • PPU uses out of court disposals and specialised detectives are managing the investigation of complex cases. • The Central Bureau is looking to see how the Force can minimise the demand on PPU staff. There is engagement with staff to manage stress and pressure. Mobility devices and improved technology as well as the remodelling and centralised assessment and allocation process should improve things. • DARA is a strong evidence-based system developed through the College of Policing and is shown to be more effective at identifying hidden crimes and risks. This has ensured there is an academic basis for the tools and that it was easy for officers to use regardless of their skills and knowledge.. <p>Action: WMP to overlay the data on the categorisation of risk and provide it in more detailed analysis to the Board.</p>
119/19	<p>Item 9b - Supporting Victims of Hidden Crime - Increasing reporting and recording of hidden crime The report was presented by ACC Jayne Meir. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All frontline officers are trained in the risk assessment model RARA. • A seven-week training programme for all frontline officers called DA Matters run by Safer Lives charity will look at the culture of policing to ensure officers understand the victims' point of view so they can deliver a more empathetic and supportive process. • Force improvements means crimes recorded has increased by 27%. This has an impact on positive judicial outcome rates. • Currently only 10% of crimes reported to police result in a positive outcome for the victim. This is largely due to lack of evidence or where the victim is unwilling to support a prosecution. • The Force has made the DV and Disclosure scheme easier to access through an online process for victims. • Staff are being trained to improve currently under-identified and under-recorded coercive and controlling behaviour. <p>Action: WMP to provide data on where applications for the DV and Disclosure scheme are made.</p>
120/19	<p>Item 9c - Supporting Victims of Hidden Crime - OPCC services for victims of hidden crime The report was presented by Tara Muchemenyi, Policy Assistant. The following points were discussed:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OPCC receives funding from the Ministry of Justice, and there was an overspend of £10,000 due to the contribution made to the slavery helpline. • Currently 38,000 new referrals have been made, and 13,000 victims supported. • The OPCC receives weekly updates from Victim Support, and the new development aims to achieve better results and support for victims. 400 backlogged cases are now down to 100. • There will be a live chat so agents can support victims online. • Victims of hate crime are under-represented in terms of support offered regionally. The OPCC is continuing to work with local agencies but, due to stipulations made by the Ministry of Justice, lots of applications did not meet criteria of strictly funding victims. Work is being done with the Victims Commission to identify support services • A 24-hour helpline for forced marriage and honour-based abuse went live on 21 August 2019 and targets male and female victims aged 13+. The helpline provides support and signposts to services and agencies. • In March, a Victims Summit will address hate crime, online harassment etc. and the OPCC is working on an educational and awareness piece for this. • Victims fund will open to smaller, specialist organisations in December 2019 so the OPCC can build stronger links within communities which identify hidden crime within the region.
121/19	<p>Item 10a - Strengthening Communities and Building the Economy - Economic strategy</p> <p>The report was presented by Brendan Warner-Southwell, Policy Officer. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCC is working with the Force to lock investment in the West Midlands area, with £4.2m locked into the region through Force procuring locally. • Collaborative work done on social value with Force procurement. • £123,000 specifically for victims of modern slavery. • There have been great successes, such as the Wolverhampton Crime Reduction Group which has seen a 50% reduction in crime. • £2m in Gangs and Violence Commission, £2.1m in Early Youth Intervention Fund. • The OPCC has invested £229k in the Black Country talent match, which is now transitioned into young people with offending history. There is £267k funding for New Chance for women who are early entrants into the criminal justice system. • WMPCC is the first in the country to sign up to Ban the Box, run by businesses in the community. • 3,700 people have been reached as part of the commissioned current outreach solutions as part of responding to national threats, with more to be reached over the next twelve months. • The Commissioner is considering a Cyber-Prevent Summit aimed at engaging people most at risks of committing cyber-crime in the future, and will be as co-produced as possible. • The Chief Constable explained that there is more that the Force can do on fraud strategy. The Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner explained that there is comprehensive work from OPCCs that oversees Action Fraud to ensure that they are held to account. • The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner explained that this report demonstrates the work the OPCC is putting in to ensure a more prosperous economy in the West Midlands, and that creating opportunities for employment

	and for young people is the best offense against crime.
122/19	<p>Item 10b - Strengthening Communities and Building the Economy - Procurement strategy</p> <p>The report was presented by Neil Chamberlain, Director of Commercial Services. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been improvements in almost all key metrics each year, and financial savings that have exceeded the target year on year. • The Force is performing well and is right at the forefront of delivering the Home Office objective. • Currently, 70% of suppliers are paid within thirty days, and there is assurance that this will be up to 90% by the end of the next quarter. This is an ongoing challenge. • The Force is confident that it can achieve the target of £300,000 for this financial year. • The Commissioner said the report shows how important the ongoing work is and that getting more people in work will get them out of crime, which is setting a good example as a large organisation.
REGULAR ITEMS	
123/19	<p>Item 11 – Finance: Budget monitoring</p> <p>The report was presented by Mark Kenyon, Chief Finance Officer. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report covers the current financial forecast for this financial year, and does not reflect the impact of 20,000 officers or expenditure on the Commonwealth Games. • This year, likely to underspend by £0.1m and the impact on this means less draw on the budget reserve. • Capital programme has been realigned to take into account the previous year and is expected to overspend by £1.8m which is a managed overspend. • It will be closely monitored for remaining months and all future reports will be brought to the Board.
124/19	<p>Item 12 – Strategic Policing and Crime Board Work Plan</p> <p>Presented by Jonathan Jardine, Chief Executive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report contains the proposed work plan for the SPCB for the coming year. • There is an anticipated additional item for the November Board meeting which was delayed from earlier in the year. • After the VRU launch event, there will be a report coming both to the Combined Authority and as an emerging item to Board.
125/19	<p>Item 13 – Chief Constable Update</p> <p>The Chief Constable highlighted the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The summer is a particularly stretching period but the Force sustained the level of response that public would expect. • Lots of work has been done around the design of some units (e.g. response) to better match demand. • The Force encourages public help on reducing burglaries ensuring higher

	<p>outcome rates and people being brought to justice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been some stability around violence but it is not moving fast enough in the right direction. There are ongoing challenges around knife crime, robbery and serious violence and there are good plans in place to bear down on these problems for the rest of the year. • The Deputy Chief Constable explained that CJS has published a report of national violence against women and girls which shows that reporting has gone up due to the improved accuracy and recording of crimes, that there is complexity in securing convictions due to digital evidence and disclosure, and that there has been lots of learning from the DRIVE programme in managing the most dangerous perpetrators. • The Deputy Chief Constable explained that the Force is working with the local CPS for an action plan to address the lower outcome rates for rape and are putting experienced investigators with CPS twice a week. • The Chief Constable reinforced that rape is a major priority for the Force, which wants to continue to reassure victims. • The Chief Constable explained that he is concerned about the firearms position for the Force and the availability of firearms, not just with organised crime groups, but also with low-level disputes. The Assistant Chief Constable leads in ROCU and is looking at the regional footprint and the work done in the Force.
	<p>The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable, his officers and the Board members for their detailed reports and discussion. The meeting was closed at 13:05hrs.</p>