



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

20 December - 1000 – 1300 hrs

Attendees:

Simon Foster	:	Police and Crime Commissioner
Nicky Brennan	:	Victims Commissioner
Charmaine Burton	:	Board Member
Dr. Cath Hannon	:	Board Member
Paul Drover	:	Chief Superintendent
Bhupinder Gakhal	:	Board Member
Craig Guildford	:	Chief Constable
Sarah Hammond	:	Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor – Crown Court Unit, CPS
Andrew Hill	:	Assistant Chief Constable
Jonathan Jardine	:	Chief Executive
Vanessa Jardine	:	Deputy Chief Constable
Charlotte Killeen	:	Staff Officer
Matt Ward	:	Assistant Chief Constable

Plus, one webcaster and 6 observers.

Apologies:

Tom McNeil	:	Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
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1. *The meeting was recorded, and a webcast of the entire discussion can be viewed here: https://westmidspcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/683293*
2. *The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/strategic-policing-and-crime-board/agendas-minutes-reports/>*
3. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text.*

112/22	Apologies and PCC Update
The Commissioner made the following comments:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner acknowledged the devastating Babbs Mill Lake incident in Solihull on Sunday 11th December and expressed his deepest sympathy for the family and friends of the four young boys who have tragically passed away. On Friday 16th December the Commissioner attended a deeply moving remembrance service for the four young boys. This is an absolute tragedy and the Commissioner paid tribute to the emergency service workers who entered the water to rescue the boys. This is a deeply shocking incident and the boys, their families, and the community remain in the Commissioner's thoughts. • On Wednesday 14th December the government announced the Annual Police Financial settlement, effectively mandating an increase in the council tax policing precept in the middle of a cost of living crisis. The government has provided a stark choice of increasing the council tax precept or see us face further cuts to policing that would see the loss of equivalent to 260 front line officers. By 2023 the West Midlands will still have 1000 fewer police officers than we had in 2010 and the West Midlands will receive the fifth worst financial settlement of any Force in the country. The Commissioner continues with the pledge to rebuild community policing in the West Midlands and would encourage residents of the West Midlands to respond to the consultation launched on 14th December in relation to the West Midlands Police budget. • On Monday 5th December Craig Guildford commenced his tenure as the new Chief Constable of West Midlands Police. The Commissioner took the opportunity to formally welcome Chief Constable Craig Guildford to West Midlands Police and also to his first Strategic Policing and Crime Board. The Commissioner looks forward to working with the new Chief Constable to deliver on the key aims set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The Chief Constable shares the Commissioner's dedication and commitment to prevent crime, protect the public, help those in need and to ensure justice, safety and security for the people of the West Midlands.
113/22	<p>Notes of the Last Meeting</p> <p>The notes of the Board meeting held on 22nd November 2022 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.</p>
114/22	<p>Questions from Members of the Public</p> <p>There are no questions from members of the public.</p>
115/22	<p>Questions from Members of the Board</p> <p>1. We and West Midlands Police won a national award for 'Offender to Rehab', a community rehabilitation programme that successfully reduces crime by steering offenders with long term addictions to rehabilitation.</p> <p>How will the Chief Constable ensure West Midlands Police's frontline officers in communities and in custody consistently divert suitable candidates to programmes like these?</p> <p>How will the Chief Constable build on the success of these programmes? (Asked by Simon Foster on behalf of Tom McNeil)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention is better than cure and costs less in the long term than cure. • The most important part is that WMP support the programme and the message is consistently understood.

- The Chief Constable's stance is to trust the front line to make the right decisions to ensure that the systems are in place across custody which is a centralised system so that we ensure some consistency
- The main issue is to review how this scheme is being managed on a local basis and what the outcomes are, and to be able to do this publicly with regards to progress.
- There's a considerable financial pressure upon the organisation, but the resources to deliver this programme are resources which are mainstream and in place so there are currently no issues from a resource perspective.
- The evaluation will have some independence wrapped around this, and the **report will be coming back to the board.**

2. How has West Midlands Police responded to the needs of neurodivergent people within the criminal justice system - neurodivergent being an umbrella term used to describe an inclusive list of difficulties, differences, conditions and disorders including, but not exclusive to, learning disabilities, learning difficulties, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism and Acquired Brain Injury?

(Asked by Cath Hannon)

- There are two strands to this: internal and external strands.
- The external strand is around witnesses and victims and the support WMP can offer in addition to the mainstream support that an officer would be able to facilitate.
- The internal strand is very much learning from other police forces and organisations. There is an Inspector that was responsible for this area of policing that did suffer from this condition. Inspector sits on a local group for our employees, they are a rich source of information by which we can make decisions. Some things that effect people in the work place are the same factors that can affect victims and witnesses.
- We have an opportunity to bespoke a service to a particular victim to apply an intermediary which is new and different in policing in 2022. When Victims Needs Assessments are undertaken, this also extends into PSD. If there is a complainant that may need an intermediary or an advocate, this service can be facilitated.
- Importance of listening to internal staff's feedback which contributes to external delivery.

Follow up – is there any additional assessments or support for offenders that come from Custody into the Criminal Justice System?

- Every offender is risk assessed, this is a national risk assessment tool where questions are drop down set within the computer system.
- Once questions have been asked this triggers a further understanding by the Custody Sergeant
- In our custody suites there is access to a nurse, appropriate adults and mental health assessments within the suites. Predominantly the initial decision maker is trained to ensure they make a good round assessment to best serve the needs of the investigation and the detainee.

3. Can the Chief Constable please inform the Board if West Midlands Police will be running an anti-drink driving campaign for this festive period including the run up to the new year.

Can the Chief Constable also share any data from previous campaigns?

(Asked by Bhupinder Gakhal)

- Over time, there has been movement from the traditional drink drive campaign to drug driving. Drug driving is prevalent and prosecutions for drug driving have increased exponentially.
- Data from 2021 (last campaign ran) show 824 tests conducted both breath and drug tests, 755 breath tests, 38 positive or refused and 69 drug tests which led to 24 positives or refused.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chief Constable confirmed his commitment to involvement on an annual basis and stated that preventing road death is a key priority within the Road Harm Prevention Team. <p>4. Chief Constable, I would like to start by welcoming you to the West Midlands. As Victims' Commissioner can you reassure residents of the West Midlands that their needs will be put at the heart of investigations and they will be supported to ensure they get the best possible outcome?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Asked by Nicky Brennan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes absolutely, in a lot of the work commenced the key focus is increasing police visibility and presence on a local footprint. Victims needs are at the heart of investigations and it's important to be open, transparent and candid with regards to lines of investigation. If there are good viable lines of enquiry these must be pursued appropriately to ensure the best possible outcome for the victim.
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Police and Crime Plan

116/22	<p>Rebuilding Community Policing - Part One ACC Ward presented the paper and the following items were discussed:</p> <p><i>The PPU and FCID deal with complex and traumatic investigations and are generally under resourced. What sort of duties are specials and volunteers asked to do? What training and support is provided to these individuals, and what is in place to ensure there is not an over reliance on their time and skills?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For a long time, Specials only worked on local policing. Worked hard over recent years to get them into specialist areas, including PPU and FCID. We only use Specials who have the skills, experience and attitude to be able to do that work. Specials have access to all of the courses that would be available to regular officer's subject to their time commitments outside of being a Special Constable. Welfare support is provided at the same level to all colleagues. <p><i>Would that include interviewing suspects?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very rare for Specials to interview suspects, the interviewing course particularly around complicated cases require a level of training that most Specials won't have. Retired Officers can come back as Specials and these skills are utilised. <p><i>What's the plan to tackle the future challenges to the Cadet Scheme identified in paragraph 58?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to moving towards the 750 number. Trying to resist charging cadets for subscriptions and this has broadened the reach of the Scheme. This is an option that would have to be considered to continue to grow the Cadet Scheme. <p><i>What's the plan to support the junior PCSO Scheme?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working really close with schools struggling with curriculum capacity to demonstrate the wider benefits to investing teaching time into the scheme. Teachers giving up their own voluntary time to support the junior PCSO scheme have shown the most success. <p><i>The table 2 in paragraph 9 talks about use of absence or suspensions. What are some of the reasons for suspensions or some examples?</i></p>
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- Volunteers are going above and beyond what they are asked to do. Some people who join feel they can't make that level of commitment or can't make regular continued professional development training which is required. If they don't do their 16 hours a month or don't make their regular CPD then there is no way to be sure that they are confident, safe and capable so those will be suspended whilst their commitment to the Special Constabulary and training and development is reviewed in order to redeploy safely.

Paragraph 17 talks about increasing diversity in leadership. What are some of the numbers for ethnicities?

- There is a diverse cohort of undergraduates who are joining the Specials, work is still being completed to further increase diversity.

In terms of training and some people not being able to access sessions, do you do evening courses? Can you explain more about the structure to be as inclusive as possible?

- A lot of training is based around weekends, the general feedback has been that planning around weekends allows us the vast majority to attend training.

Paragraph 42 talks about the aims to recruit 25% of police cadets from disadvantaged backgrounds and discussed pathways. What different would you do for that target group that you wouldn't do for general target group?

- The cadet units have been set up in impact areas which are areas in the West Midlands with high levels of deprivation, crime and disorder. Working hard to use local community groups as a way to raise awareness of the cadet scheme and encourage people to sign up.

Paragraph 23 states an additional 24 metal detecting volunteers? Is this some special skills that we have recruited for?

- This was volunteers who support WMP when doing open air researchers. There are clubs within the West Midlands that will support with these activities. This is a very niche, unique skill that is very beneficial.

Junior PCSOs and working with schools – is this an understanding that we are talking about junior PCSOs that are mainly working with teachers with regards to parking issues outside schools or something different?

- There's a whole programme to go through and this is for 8–11-year-olds.
- Regular PCSOs have a programme of activity where they share basic crime and legislation and how to keep safe, online work.
- Junior PCSOs will then learn how to keep communities safe; this lasts a course of a year and at the end of the year they qualify as a junior PCSO and receive a graduation ceremony.

A potential deterrent to people becoming Special Constables is the payment of federation fees. Can you give a statement in relation to the Force's policy in relation to this issue?

- The Chief Constable is not minded to pay any fees for Special Constables to join. The principles of looking after the Specials are first and foremost, but don't believe public funding should extend to cover Special Constables in the way that the Federation has suggested. The Chief Constable will not be committing any budget to that.

One of the key areas that has come up nationally is the police being able to make use of specialist skills in relation to fraud and economic crime. How is this structured and what efforts are being made to encourage a greater use of volunteers in support of activity to prevent fraud?

- Close working partnership with a number of local universities. Postgraduates often undertake IT courses, this gives us a greater insight of the ever-growing changes in the cyber space.
- Continue to attract specialists coming in from the outside and using them as support can bring great dividends.

What thinking is there for an evaluation of the effectiveness of the cadet scheme? What sort of metrics might be used? If there is a potential challenge around the cost of the scheme and demonstrating value for money, how might this be evaluated for return on investment?

- Haven't commissioned any evaluation at this stage, this is something certainly to be considered. The evaluation should reflect communities and how communities with the highest levels of crime and deprivation within the region can be supported.

There is a suggestion that we are looking at ways to increase the attraction of older career specials who are settled in their non-policing career path. What initiatives and thoughts are in process in connection with that strategy?

- To attract those settled in non-policing careers, looking at presence at careers fairs. Covid has also had an impact of reflection where people are open to volunteering opportunities.

What is WMP's position in connection to routinely providing Special Constables with equipment?

- Whenever Special Constables are deployed, they will always have a radio with them, whether this is utilised is fairly cost inefficient. Special Constables should have access to everything they need to do their job safe and effectively when deployed.

Paragraph 29 refers to the small Citizens in Policing Team that co-ordinates WMP's response to police support volunteers in line with Citizens in Policing Strategy 2022-2025. Could you elaborate on what this team does and its functions?

- Sam Booth is the lead of this team supported by a number of police staff colleagues. They support Special Chief Officers, Street Watch, the wider volunteers. They oversee the vetting process of all volunteers and ensure volunteers feel valued and supported.

Please could you provide further information about the future opportunities to develop the online forum used by Street Watch groups, and how this is being utilised in terms of raising awareness in other policing departments?

- Social media must be used in a positive way to value Street Watch Volunteers and the difference they are making to communities and getting this as far and wide as possible.

The Commissioner expressed his thanks to ACC Matt Ward for presenting the report and made the following comments:

- The public supporting the police is a crucial part of community policing, including the Specials, volunteers, and the junior PCSO scheme.
- The Commissioner placed his thanks to all volunteers and would urge people to sign up to help in their local area if they are able to do so.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Watch and Street Watch are important examples of how the public can get involved in supporting the safety of their own neighbourhoods. • Last Friday the Commissioner joined the Tame Bridge Street Watch which was an excellent example of how Street Watch works to prevent crime, promote partnership working and build community resilience. • The Commissioner also placed thanks to Police Cadet Leaders for their vital work helping hundreds of young people every week and promoted the opportunity of becoming a Cadet Leader to support young people within the local area.
<p>117/22</p>	<p>Preventing and Reducing Crime T/Assistant Chief Constable Andrew Hill and C/Supt Paul Drover presented the paper, and the following items were discussed:</p> <p><i>The NFIB90 code which looks like it's restricting intelligence assessments. What are the challenges to developing a more detailed code to support assessment of trends, risk, threat and vulnerability and what's been done to resolve that difficulty?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being unable to categorise around 10% of some offences can be difficult. Currently working with City of London colleagues to get the detail that sits behind this, and these extracts are sent to WMP. • In the meantime, ECU and DCI have been looking at this area, ensuring local oversight over trends or issues and can signposting to victim care units or complex teams where needed. <p><i>70% of fraud offences are committed from overseas, how are trends identified disseminated and what prevention measures are available?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locating offenders overseas can be difficult. The key priority is education and prevention and identifying trends to raise awareness of these offences. <p><i>What's the level of resourcing within the Victim Care Unit and how are they trained? What are the operational constraints?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 colleagues in the care unit that are dedicated at looking at those offences, this is not an investigative function and is part of the ECU. Fraud offences are generally high volume and relatively low harm, having contact with victims is adding value and making victims aware of the time this takes to come to court. • There is a dedicated supervisor plus additional resource, there is a one week national protect course around cybercrime. <p><i>There is the impression that vehicle crime has benefitted from resources that previously focused on outstanding arrests of domestic abuse offenders. Can you provide reassurance that reducing the number of outstanding DA offenders is still a priority and that their arrest numbers have increased not decreased?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are far fewer outstanding domestic abuse suspects than two years ago. Although there has been increasing significance in the vehicle crime taskforce, this is not at the cost of domestic abuse. If numbers started to look concerning there would be a number of local interventions and the ability to pitch into the Force Contingency Budget. <p><i>Has the Crime Free Programme been running since 2017?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been running since November 2017.

Could we get a report that looks at the outcomes of the Crime Free Programme which gives a fuller impression of the programme?

- **A report to be created in relation to the Crime Free Programme with further information.**

Does WMP work with any romance companies such as Tinder to raise awareness of romance fraud?

- This is picked up nationally through Action Fraud and NFIB. If trends are identified within the West Midlands, the Victim Care Unit within the ECU would pick this up.

Would WMP think about any campaigns about early signs of romance fraud?

- Pushing communications and educations is crucial. Working within the EMVAWG Alliance on this.

What happens if an offender finishes the Crime Free Programme, and then re-offends?

- Once offenders have successfully completed the process, that becomes the end of it. The process results in admitting offences, if there was further reoffending this would be subject to scrutiny of the court and further sentencing.

If stop and search is involved in the process of managing prolific offenders, how is it balanced with prevention with the perception of harassment?

- Section 1 of PACE is Force power to search in connection with stolen property. Very rare to stop and search for acquisitive neighbourhood crimes without it being subject to intelligence.

What's the process for victims if there isn't success in recovering vehicles?

- This is the point at which the insurance industry become involved after WMP have completed inquiries and the vehicle cannot be located. The insurance company and victim work out the replacement of the vehicle.
- WMP are beating the national trend for increase in recovery vehicles.

Are there any campaigns for how people can keep their cars safe?

- Lots of being generated by corporate communications. This is a force tactical priority and includes targeted social media campaigns around prevention in crime hotspots to raise awareness.

There is currently no formal process to complete the Equality Impact Assessment for specific crimes. Why isn't there a formal process in itself?

- T/ACC Hill chairs one of the Fairness and Equality Boards where this is a focus. This has not been a traditional requirement but looking to develop a process for ensuring these assessments are undertaken.

Does the link between the central function and Neighbourhood Policing Team mean that when an individual in the West Midlands is a victim of fraud, the Neighbourhood Team make a visit and offer advice? What does this tasking mechanism look like?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A victim of fraud should not automatically expect a visit from Neighbourhood Policing. <p><i>Nationally there have been reports about the challenge fraud and economic crime poses for policing. What would help WMP in terms of responding to those challenges?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of where the offences are committed is key and the capability of WMP to proactively attack the locus of where the crime is committed. • Each case is treated on its own merit, a tailored service to the victims' vulnerability. Offences are triaged and responded to accordingly. <p><i>Whilst there isn't a duty to visit every victim of fraud, there is a duty to visit every victim of a burglary. What's the current position regarding performance against the nationally required attendance standard and what assessment is being made of the operational consequences associated with the attendance of burglaries?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be examining this in further detail at Performance Panel that the Deputy Chief Constable chairs. The new policy has been live for a few weeks, the data says that WMP are at 64-66% attendance rate but there are technical issues with the data. This will be examined further. <p><i>The report discusses some of the demand relating to theft of motor vehicles where there is a shortage of spare parts and new vehicles. Some of this demand seems to be driven by the supply of stolen parts within the mainstream economy, is that sense of risk justified and what steps can be taken to help unwitting garages who may be purchasing stolen parts?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There has been a force wide operation which has been specifically targeting some chop shops, have seen an increase in pursuit activity.</i> • <i>With regard to advising the motor trade, traders will be subject to a Theft Act Warrant if taking in stolen parts.</i> <p>The Commissioner thanked T/ACC Andrew Hill and C Supt Paul Drover for attending and presenting their report and made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood crime remains a significant concern within the West Midlands. Since November 2017 the Crime Free programme has resolved 950 burglaries and has helped identify and return lots of stolen property, all with 6 members of staff which is a remarkable achievement. • The Crime Free Programme provides prolific, non-violent, adult residential burglary offenders the opportunity to change their behaviour as opposed to serving a custodial sentence.
Partnership Presentation	
118/22	<p>Victims</p> <p>The Commissioner introduced the item and those presenting. Presentations were provided by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicky Brennan – Victims Commissioner • Andrew Hill – T/Assistant Chief Constable • Sarah Hammond - Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor – Crown Court Unit, CPS <p><i>Cost of living is affecting many people across the country. Are we seeing a small increase in low level crime from women and girls that have not committed crimes before?</i></p>

- **T/ACC Andrew Hill will take this away and return with more information.**

The recommendations are focused on a very strategic governmental response. What's the plan to help our local commissioned services manage the challenges identified in the report?

- There are ongoing conversations with Victims Commission about funding requirements, how they are coping. This has been a long-term piece of work and regular conversations are taking place around the overall picture in the West Midlands.
- Meeting with the MOJ in January to discuss support services receiving additional funding to help with the increasing demand.

The Alliance aims to champion and address more hidden crimes including FGM, forced marriage and honour-based violence. The reporting of these incidents is very low, how is WMP developing the engagement of communities regarding these issues?

- Operation Limelight at Birmingham International Airport is an operation where many partners agencies and outreach organisations specifically seek to increase awareness and identify safeguarding issues around forced marriage and FGM.

Elsewhere in the country there's been successful stalking investigations, what access do officers have to forensic support within the West Midlands?

- Hundreds of thousands of applications are completed to service providers every year in terms of telecommunications data, including contacts between devices and location of devices.

Sexting can sometimes involve children who don't often recognise the dangers or consequences. How are young people dealt with as labelling them as a sex offender at a young age can be damaging?

- It's recognised that at such a young age this is not helpful to the young person or to society.
- Non-criminal justice outcomes such as Outcome 22 where it's not in the best interest of the victim or suspect at that age to pursue within the criminal justice system are an option. There are safeguarding wraparounds that go with each individual case where the young person understands what they have done or received and the dangers of that and the risks of continuing to do so. This is a preventative approach.

There have been significant delays in decision making about RASSO cases. Are those delays still present and what's being done to reduce them and address those issues?

- Locally there has been investment into the rape and sexual offences unit. These delays have significantly decreased and early investigative advice from WMP has helped; this is going in the right direction.
- Conversations with the CPS to discuss RASSO have been held, lots of resource and support are wrapped around this.
- Important to ensure CPS are fully supported with early investigative advice where possible.
- The Chief Constable thanked the CPS for their work and for the positive briefing.

The Commissioner made the following comments:

- Pleased to see the information provided around issues concerning stalking clinics, RASSO, early investigative advice pilot and the scrutiny panel work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with the Victims Code, there is some concern that this has been in place in one shape for a long period of time and has not always been embedded real compliance with the Victims Code. • To ensure compliance with the Victims Code there needs to be effective communication taking place between different criminal justice agencies. <p><i>The Commissioner asked for reassurance that partnership work is extending to ensuring that criminal justice agencies are communicating with each other around compliance with Victims Code requirements. A new Victims Bill is currently in progress.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are various touchpoints where someone is entering the criminal justice system, from a WMP perspective there's a recently appointed Superintendent who leads on Victim Code. There is more work to do on compliance, there is an issue with data where some of the asks in terms of collection and compliance can be difficult as this data is not directly captured with victims. CPS colleagues and HMCTS colleagues held a recent Regional Victims Code Conference hosted by Staffordshire Police. • The CPS have a Victims Liaison Unit and timeliness in communication is carefully monitored. <p>The Commissioner made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended thanks to partners for attending to present today. Partnership working is particularly important when it comes to victims of crime. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is working hard with partners to support and safeguard victims. • The Victims' Commissioner is dedicated to ensuring the needs of all victims are met and that services are continually improved. However, the criminal justice system across the country has been failing far too many victims for far too long despite those committed to doing their very best for vulnerable victims in challenging circumstances.
	<p>Regular Items</p>
<p>119/22</p>	<p>Procurement Update Presented by: Peter Gillett, Director of Commercial Services</p> <p><i>38 apprenticeships have been created by the supply chain. Do we follow the progression of those posts and whether there's a successful outcome for those individuals?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social value targets are identified for each supplier, the monitoring arrangements ensure follow ups on each supplier. As further updates come to Strategic Contract Board there will be further updates. <p><i>Can you outline how the change of activities of the Blue Light Commercial have impacted on WMP?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMP have a close relationship Blue Light Commercial. The Company have been providing excellent support into all police forces in terms of best practice. <p><i>In relation to the green agenda, is there other learning we can take from other organisations in relation to procurement, and how have we done that?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMP's Environmental Strategy is relatively new, but research is ongoing into how best practice procurement can be used to ensure that when contracts are let, this is done from a social value perspective including environmental factors. Sustainable procurement will form a key priority of the team.

The paper references payment of supplier invoices. The chart appears to be showing a downward trend in terms of payments of invoices within 30 days. Can you offer commentary on this and assurance that process is in place to ensure that the highest possible level of payment is achieved?

- A number of invoices within this category were subsequently moved to being under dispute rather than being payable within this period. If there is a disputed invoice, Shared Services will ensure they are putting this in the correct category at the earliest date.

Can you outline the real living wage requirements on suppliers of WMP?

- This is considered as part of each negotiation.
- If contracts involve employees directly involved in service provision on WMP's behalf, e.g., health and custody services, it is an essential requirement that the supplier pays real living wage and those that are not paying real living wage do not qualify.
- Contracts where there isn't a direct service provision, real living wage is highly desirable.

Have WMP budgeted for next year's increase in the real living wage?

- The budget takes account of prevailing contracts. Many contracts ask suppliers to fulfil a requirement for the full Living Wage.
- Pressure on suppliers is recognised but expectations remain the same and discussions will be held with all suppliers. Many of the contracts are linked to CPI and are reaching renewal point.

The Commissioner thanked Peter Gillett for attending and presenting the report and made the following comments:

- This is an important paper that raises key issues around interaction between joint procurement strategy and the new environment strategy which is a developing area that has potential for future interesting work.
- Around half of all contracts let by WMP are local firms and this is over £30m each year invested in the West Midlands.
- The Commissioner would like to see improvement and wherever possible increase the number of local firms who are successful in obtaining contracts, to support local jobs, local economy, and will support our communities during these difficult times.
- WMP contracts have directly created 38 apprenticeships, which creates an added value which will ultimately be of a greater good for all.

120/22

Extended Update from New Chief Constable

As this meeting is the Chief Constable's first Strategic Policing and Crime Board, the Chief Constable provided an extended update:

- The Chief Constable paid respects to the main operational impact upon the organisation and the awful impact for families from the tragic event in Solihull. Emergency services were shown in a positive light in terms of all efforts undertaken to save the children and the Chief Constable expressed his sorrow for the outcome for families.
- There is a live investigation ongoing with human remains found in a garden, this is not related to the homeowner and **the Chief Constable will provide a further update on the investigation at the next meeting.**
- Recent operation around a 6-year-old missing person, this required a huge emergency response. The 6-year-old has been located and all systems were in place to elevate risk and considerable resources were involved whilst keeping operational policing going.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Constable had a key day of briefing around ROCU and serious organised crime. Particular interest around criminal use of firearms and how proactive West Midlands Police are in perusing every line of inquiry to recover these from the streets. • Whilst Christmas Markets are in Birmingham, important to ensure other parts of the region are equally policed and have their own operations. • There is a large operation with regards to upcoming and anticipated strikes. • Significant changes will be made in the new year with regard to resourcing and demand across the Force, including call handling and 999/101 resourcing. • The Deputy Chief Constable has been successfully appointed as Chief Constable for Northumbria. The Chief Constable will be recruiting for a new Deputy Chief Constable in addition to two Assistant Chief Constable's in the early part of January. • A big operation is currently running around vehicle crime, focusing on a chop shop approach. A burglary operation is also running, focusing on a local response to burglary and vehicle crime burglaries. • The Chief Constable has been consulting Senior Leadership of the Force with regards to future structure and moving towards a local neighbourhood-based model of policing and response. • West Midlands Police are on track with the national Police uplift programme. Hoping to extend West Midlands offer around the national uplift. • The Chief Constable has visited procurement this week, payment of invoices is on time and other processes appear to be running correctly. • Finally, West Midlands Police is a huge employer with around 12,000 individuals. There are challenging financial decisions to be made in the future, which will be made with good thinking and a strong focus on front line policing delivery.
121/22	<p>SPCB Workplan & SPCB Actions and Further Lines of Inquiry</p> <p>There are currently 12 outstanding actions.</p>
122/22	<p>Date of the next meeting: The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 24th January 2023.</p>