



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Tuesday 26 September 2023
1000 – 1300 hrs

AGENDA

1.	10.00	Apologies and PCC Update The Commissioner will provide a general update.	Verbal
2.	10:10	Notes of the Last Meeting The notes of the Board meeting held on 23 May 2023 are attached to this agenda. The notes include actions in bold, with the steps taken to address those actions included in italics. The notes carry forward any outstanding actions from previous Board meetings to ensure that the Board is regularly updated on progress.	
3.	10:15	Questions from Members of the Public The Commissioner will consider questions from members of the public (other than police officers and staff) who live, work or study in the West Midlands relating to the duties and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any questions have to be submitted in writing to the Commissioner at least seven working days before the meeting. Members of the public may submit one question per meeting. Members of the public are reminded that it is also possible to ask questions of West Midlands Police and Crime Panel whose role is to support and review the work of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner. For further information go to the Panel's website http://westmidlandspcc.co.uk	
4.	10:20	Questions from Members of the Board This item is for Board Members to ask particular questions on matters that have arisen between Board meetings and which are not connected with the reports on this agenda. A copy of the questions will be circulated at the meeting and will be made available on the Commissioner's website at www.westmidlandspcc.gov.uk .	
Partnership Presentation			

5.	10:45	Violence Reduction To be presented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Roach – Director, Violence Reduction Partnership • Hannah Pawley – Community Safety Manager, City of Wolverhampton Council • Di Rhoden – Director of Nursing, Birmingham and Solihull ICB 	Verbal Update
Police and Crime Plan			
6.	11:25	Preventing and Reducing Crime: Reducing Serious Youth Violence To be presented by: C/Supt Kim Madill (supported by A/CI Tony Eustace and Sara Roach)	Written Report
7.	11:50	Increased Confidence in WMP – Access to police services To be presented by: C/Supt Ian Parnell	Written Report
Regular Items			
8.	12:10	Performance Update To be presented by: C/Supt Joyce	Written Report
9.	12:30	Period 5 Finance Report To be presented by: Lynn Joyce and Pete Gillet	Written Report
10.	12:45	Chief Constable Update The Chief Constable will give a verbal update on operational policing matters which can be discussed in the public domain.	Verbal Update
11.	12:55	SPCB Workplan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. SPCB workplan for noting b. SPCB Actions and Further Lines of Inquiry 	Written Report
12.	12:59	Date of the next meeting: 24th October 2023	For Noting



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Tuesday 25 July 2023 1000 – 1300 hrs

Attendees:

Al Titterington	:	Operations Director, Birmingham Airport
Alethea Fuller	:	Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Bhupinder Gakhal	:	Board Member
Craig Guildford	:	Chief Constable
Colin Brown	:	Member of the Public
Colin Gallier	:	Inspector, Airport Policing Unit (APU)
Gareth Mason	:	Head of Central Motorway Policing Group (CMPG)
Jonathan Jardine	:	Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Lynn Joyce	:	Interim Chief Finance Officer
Mary Jacobs	:	Partnership and Engagement Officer
Mike O'Hara	:	Assistant Chief Constable
Sam Batey	:	Chief Inspector
Scott Green	:	Deputy Chief Constable
Simon Foster	:	Police and Crime Commissioner
Sue Davis	:	Joint Audit Committee Chair
Tom McNeil	:	Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Tony Alexander	:	Youth Commissioner
Wasim Ali	:	Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Wasi Arshad	:	Youth Commissioner

Plus, one webcaster and three observers.

Apologies

Dr Cath Hannon	:	Board Member
Charmaine Burton	:	Board Member

1. The meeting was recorded on Teams, and a recording of the entire discussion can be viewed here: [SPCB July 2023 – YouTube](#)
2. The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here: [Agendas, Minutes & Reports - West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner \(westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)
3. Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text.

Partnership Presentation	
067/23	<p>Airport Policing</p> <p>Al Titterington, Inspector Colin Gallier, and Assistant Chief Constable Mike O'Hara presented and the following points were discussed:</p>

How does the Airport Policing Unit (APU) support activity to prevent forced marriages? Are individuals leaving the country? Are there trends in the times individuals leave the country? How can we monitor this?

- The APU confirmed that data around individuals leaving the country for forced marriages exists and is collected.
- Vulnerability markers are placed on police national data computers which alerts the APU when individuals present themselves at an airport. The APU confirmed that all marker alerts are responded to 100% of the time.
- When vulnerable markers are flagged the APU will undertake comprehensive screenings with the individual to understand their reason for travel, conduct welfare checks, and ascertain who they are travelling with. At this stage intervention/ safeguarding can be implemented.
- Airport teams are trained to identify and appropriately handle these situations. Training has been specifically targeted at ground handlers and staff with primary travel companies.
- W/C 17 July 2023 the APU conducted a large-scale collaborative operation called Operation Limelight. Operation Limelight was conducted with regional partners in the public protection service and social services, with the intention of raising awareness and identifying opportunities to safeguard at the airport in relation to forced marriages.
- The force highlighted that they are keen to improve proactivity in regards to vulnerability and exploitation at airports.
- The force highlighted the periods before and after term-times as areas of high activity. Resultantly, the force heighten activity in these periods.

The force to compile a selection of data reviewing vulnerability and exploitation (Specifically forced marriages) at Birmingham airport and comparative data from other airports in the country.

Assistant PCC Tom McNeil raised concerns over fears over cyber activity and asked how confident airport policing are in Birmingham airport's cyber security?

- The APU is very confident in their cyber security systems and structure.
- Airport Policing identified an incident from last week in which Birmingham, Bristol, and London City underwent a cyber-attack on their websites. During this incident all risks were mitigated.
- It was confirmed that Airport Policing has an in-house information security team which works with all teams to review infrastructure, identify risks both on the website and in systems such as smart lanes.
- Potential attacks are extremely common.
- Airport Policing use security agencies within the UK, however, this is regulated by cyber regulations and must be in accordance with regulation authority
- The force confirmed that cyber security is listed as a risk at the resilience forum. What is more, APU is invited to attend this forum.

How does the West Midlands Police APU ensure close working with British Transport Police at BHX?

- The APU confirmed that they have a good working relationship with British Transport Police partners, and utilise operations to work collectively with this service.
- Operation Servator is a high visibility policing presence in Birmingham Airport. Officers use behavioural detection tactics as a preventative and detective

method in regards to identifying and managing individuals in airports with potentially hostile and/or unwanted behaviours.

- The APU often share resources with British Transport Police and commonly identify key areas of risk/concern with British Transport to limit risks entering the airport and/or leaving the airport.

How do the force and BHX work together to agree an appropriate level of firearms officer provision to BHX?

- The APU assess risk, analyse the level of coverage that is required and deploy firearms provisions accordingly. The APU follow a criteria identified in the Police Service Agreement.
- It was confirmed that the firearms provision is reviewed annually, at the beginning of the year, and monthly meetings are held to review the service.
- The force confirmed that firearms are present at Birmingham airport every day. Due to the nature of their response, Firearms are prepared for provision at any given moment. To mitigate risk the force review counterterrorism, intelligence and crowded space criteria to inform the deployment of firearms.

Is the regulatory regime associated with drones fit for purpose to ensure the safe operation of BHX and what work does APU and the force take to mitigate this risk?

- The APU confirmed that the regulation is reactionary and has not kept pace with technology. It is common for the technology to advance and regulations to then catch up with these technological updates.
- The APU currently has drones as high priority on operational risk assessment and Birmingham is currently going through an upgrade.
- The APU acknowledged that more work needs to be completed to integrate this drone technology into normal flight operations for co-existence.
- The force view drones as a growing risk due to the updates in technology and the growth in use.
- The force highlighted concern for the use of drones as a disruptive force, for example in protests.
- Additionally, the force identified that domestic use of drones causes the majority of incidents as members of the public are not aware of safe practice and rules regarding the use of drones by airports. Resultantly, APU is utilising the force and neighbourhood teams to outreach the community and raise awareness of the risk/ implications of using domestic drones around airports.

How do the force and BHX work together to ensure that intelligence generated by the checks on air side personnel is managed appropriately and fairly, without the risk of disproportionality?

- An Operation is recognised nationally as an innovative and impactful way to join intelligence and mitigate risk of insider threats to airport security.
- The Operation is currently paused due to concerns over the use capacity of Police National Database (PND) and how this approach can be made sustainable.

- Coventry University have been commissioned by the force to provide data including a cost-benefit analysis. Work is also being completed with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Chief Constable for PND to ensure that all the force work is joined up and sustainable.
- The force grateful to Coventry University which have been commissioned to complete research on cost data analysis.

Has the increasing construction work associated with HS2 affected policing and joint working at the airport?

- The APU and the force reiterated that HS2 is coming and it is an important part of our future due to its connectivity.
- Work on site is due to continue 2025/26.
- Legal agreements have been worked through with the government, and security is forming a large proportion of the planning.

The force confirmed that a series of regular meetings are being scheduled regarding this ongoing construction.

**068/
23**

Apologies and PCC Update

Apologies were received from:

- Dr Cath Hannon
- Charmaine Burton

The Commissioner provided a general update.

- The Commissioner placed on record his profound gratitude to the 14 brave men and women of the force for their courage in the line of duty attempting to save the lives of the 4 children who fell through the surface of a frozen water at Babbs Mill lake in December 2022. Officers made a human chain to attempt save the lives of others, using their hands and batons to break through the ice. Despite the heroic efforts of these officers the children could not be saved. All officers involved were honoured in the Police Bravery Awards receiving recognition both regionally and nationally. It was an honour and a privilege for the Commissioner to attend the awards alongside the Chief Constable, and witness the officers being presented with their awards. The Commissioner expressed his appreciation and gratitude to these officers on behalf of the West Midlands.
- The Commissioner was pleased to report securing an extra £1 million from the Home Office to prevent, tackle, and reduce anti-social behaviour in the West Midlands. The Commissioner is concerned over the high number of incidents of anti-social behaviour that can cause sever harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance and annoyance to the public. The funding will be used to pay for extra police officer time, PCSOs, youth workers, and council officers in areas badly affected across the region. Additionally, funds will be used to commission off-road police motorbikes and training to tackle illegal off-road bikes. The Commissioner is determined to prevent, tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour to improve the quality of live for citizens of the West Midlands.
- As a consequence of inaccurate and misleading information provided by the MP for West Bromwich West, confusion has ensued over Tipton Police Station. Following a decade of reckless cuts from the Government a decision was made by the then Chief Constable that Tipton Police Station would be closed. As a consequence of Government cuts the force lost 2221 Police Officers, hundreds of police staff, and community policing was dismantled. The Estates strategy was

	<p>constructed to prevent the loss of even more police officers. The Commissioner reiterated that as a consequence of the Government Tipton Police station remains at risk of closure in Autumn 2025. In 2023 the force was allocated the 5th worse police grant settlement in the country. The force was forced to make cuts of £28 million this year, and a further £28 million next year. If the MP genuinely wants to save Tipton Police station the Commissioner urges him to support the Commissioner's campaign to reform the Police Funding Formula and ensure fair funding for the force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commissioner confirmed that following a robust recruitment and vetting process a Chief Finance Officer has been appointed. Jane Heppel has extensive, wide-ranging, and relevant experience and has been approved at a confirmation hearing on the 7th July. The Commissioner is delighted to have Jane as member of the team.
<p>069/23</p>	<p>Notes of the Last Meeting</p> <p>The notes of the Board meeting held on 27 June 2023 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>
<p>070/23</p>	<p>Questions from Members of the Public</p> <p><i>The Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) is working nationally to bring the issue of motorcycle theft and related crime up the agenda. We held a public meeting to discuss the issue in Birmingham in May, with the support of the Police and Crime Commissioner.</i></p> <p><i>We are looking into concerns about the connection between motorcycle theft and road harm.</i></p> <p><i>A recent report of two individuals being injured whilst riding a stolen motorcycle in Sutton Coldfield provides anecdotal evidence of this issue.</i></p> <p>https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.birminghammail.co.uk%2Fnews%2Fmidlands-news%2Ftwo-seriously-injured-sutton-coldfield-27131105&data=05%7C01%7Cemily.gilbert%40westmidlands.police.uk%7C36fab243d4f3456f430f08db79870e53%7C2b0f1af29e024cfb982fc61fd716ee98%7C0%7C0%7C638237393177970671%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAilCjQljoiv2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=s6tdHMXXZXwxs%2Fe0T2uwAGq0SVqoEo7YuV4TXif%2BJOw%3D&reserved=0)</p> <p><i>Research commissioned by Transport for London (TfL) and carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) in 2021 revealed quantitative evidence that suggests as much as 20% of motorcycle fatalities in London involve stolen motorcycles.</i></p> <p><i>Can the Chief Constable provide quantitative data for the proportion of motorcycle KSI's in the West Midlands Police Force area that involve stolen motorcycles?</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Asked by Colin Brown)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chief Constable confirmed that 65 individuals were Killed and Seriously Injured (KSIs) in incidents involving all motorcycles in the last 6 months. 10 KSIs out of the total 65 were linked to stolen motorcycles.

- 1 of 10 KSI incidents were fatal, while the remaining 9 incidents were termed serious injury.

Colin Brown asked if the force would work with the Motorcycle Action Group and other groups to identify action to reduce these numbers

- The Chief Constable confirmed the force would like to work with the Motorcycle Action Group and others to reduce KSIs involving stolen motorcycles.
- The Chief Constable noted that the force does have a vehicle crime task force in which motorcycle incidents are considered. The force welcomes all intelligence and prevention that the motorcycle group can provide to assist with this area of policing.

Head of CMPG, Gareth Mason, to Link in with Colin Brown, as a point of contact for the Motorcycle Action Group to discuss ways the Force can work with the Group.

071/23 Questions from Members of the Board

During this item the OPCC asked questions about the oldest outstanding actions that have arisen from the Strategic Policing and Crime Board.

Minute no.	SPCB Date	Agreed Action or Future Discussion
039/22	26/04/2022	<i>Organising The Workforce:</i> page 15 of the report (April 2022) referred to the force anticipating non-cashable benefits of £124 million being delivered as a consequence of IT and Connect. (The Force has undertaken a lot of work on the benefits. Non-cashable benefits are often described as efficiency hours, and a business case has been completed). Can the Force provide further information on the non-cashable benefits of £124 million as a consequence of IT and Connect?

- The Chief Constable provided an update on the information that was collected in April 2022. Decisions were made during a time when the Force was in the process of updating old systems and merging these into one system. Connect came to the forefront of this discussion and a decision was made to stay with Connect. The force noted that Metropolitan police are still with Connect.
- Following his appointment, the Chief Constable, Craig Guildford, has reviewed Connect, the cost of upgrades, and other factors.
- Command and Control is currently with Control works and the Chief Constable noted that this service works well in a control room environment.
- The force highlighted that consideration must be given to how long after upgrading the system will be functioning, before any changes are agreed.
- The force has been disappointed by what has not been delivered by Connect and specifically flagged the lack of mobile support. Upon review, cost-efficiency is a key factor acting against connect.
- The force made it clear that they have considered the worth of Connect are planning for the future.

093/22	25/10/2022	Can the Force provide figures relating to disruptions to County Lines as a result of the new County Lines Team?
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- An answer for this item was provided ahead of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board.

117/2 2	20/12/20 22	<i>Preventing and Reducing Crime:</i> The Force is requested to report in relation to the Crime Free Programme which looks into the outcomes and provides an overall picture of the programme.
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- The Chief Constable explained that in preparation for the role he communicated with an individual in this team for operational awareness.
- Within this programme the force work in detail with repeat offenders to address core issues and provide resolution. This project is aimed at domestic burglaries.
- A Detective Sergeant, 2 investigators, and 4 detectives work together in a dedicated team to enhance the number of outcomes, and provide a high success rate.
- The Chief Constable identified that working with the victims is key and identified the importance of identifying those who commit the crime. Knowing this information can provide great comfort/reassurance for the victim.

The force to provide a copy of the report on Crime Free Programme to be circulated to SPCB members

118/2 2	20/12/20 22	<i>Victims:</i> Force to report on whether the cost of living crisis has resulted in the increase in more women committing low level crimes as first-time offenders.
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- The Chief Constable explained that the force is not able to provide cause and effect answers on this topic. Instead the Chief Constable will identify what information is available and provide this related data.

Chief Constable to identify what information is available on the subject of the cost of living crisis and women committing low level crimes as first-time offenders. This can then be shared with SPCB.

004/2 3	24/01/20 23	Force to provide details of incidents of drink and needle spiking reported over the Christmas & New Year 2022 period
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- The Deputy Chief Constable identified themselves as the national lead for Alcohol and licensing explaining that they have national oversight on this issue.
- During the period of Christmas 2022 and New Year in 2023, 25 reports were made to West Midlands Police. 23 of these reports mentioned spiking, with 14 reporting drinks being spiked, and only 1 incident reporting injecting. A remaining 10 reports remain unclear, however imply alcohol.
- Geographically, all reports relate to Birmingham.
- The force identified that nationally, it is very difficult to identify a spiking during the incident, especially when alcohol is involved as alcohol also has an intoxicating effect.
- Without meaning to diminish the seriousness of the incidents, the Deputy Chief Constable explained that it is very difficult to spike individuals with a needle. It is far more common that individuals are spiked through drinks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The force urges all individuals to remain vigilant be wary of who is buying their drinks, and not leave drinks unattended.
	Police and Crime Plan
072/23	<p>Safer Travel</p> <p>ACC Mike O’Hara presented this paper and the following points were discussed:</p> <p><i>Paragraph 33 of the report includes a graph. Within this graph there is a significant variance in relation to the number of traffic offence reports for speeding offences witnessed by officers on patrol between January 2021 to March 2023. The Commissioner noted the significant reduction of events recorded. The Commissioner flagged the concern amongst the public of danger of excess speed and asked for an explanation for this variation and the reason for this reduction? And when can we expect to see enforcement return to previous levels?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The force confirmed that the data in this graph relates solely to handheld devices. The force assured the Commissioner that the level of enforcement remains consistent with service level agreement. <p>Assistant Chief Constable O’Hara agreed that enforcement should continue to increase on roads around the West Midlands. <i>In paragraph 3 it is noted that the Chief Constable has approved a 66% increase in staff to the Road Harm Prevention Team. What does this percentage increase mean in actual numbers?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The force confirmed that this uplift will result in 10 to 16 new officers. There are plans to create 2 Road Harm Prevention Teams with a slight variation in numbers across the West Midlands Police Road Traffic Area. Having 2 teams will allow greater coverage across the West Midlands throughout the week and link in with partners to boost impact. <p><i>Speed awareness courses are currently provided by an external provider, and the Chief Constable is keen to provide speed awareness courses in-house. What steps have been made to action this?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The force noted the commercial sensitivity of this action. The force are actively looking into options and will be presenting time scales to Force Executive Team w/c 31 July 2023. <p>Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, Tom McNeil, highlighted the excellent information included in this report and asked for more widespread communication with the public to promote this successful action.</p> <p><i>Speeding in low speed neighbourhoods is a selfish act, that is of major concern to the public and is often flagged in PCC casework. Would the force consider seizing cars and crushing them if speeding in low speed neighbourhoods persists?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The force explained that it would not consider crushing cars, and identified the closest power that it exerts is section 59, seizure of vehicles. Motorcycles and speed racing cars are often seized by section 59. This power is mostly deployed in situations where the owner of the vehicle cannot be identified. The force will only exercise powers supported legally.

Is there scope and action planned to support more third party reporting on matters of road policing?

- The force have spoken with the Commissioner to identify a collective approach to support third party reporting.
- The force identified that they could improve with regard to h communicating back to individuals with explanation as to why cases are not successful in spite of intelligence or third-party information.

Within the report potentially new or enhanced law regarding people driving on nitrous oxide or obscure number plates. Please elaborate on these legal changes?

- Nitrous oxide is a difficult offence to prosecute as the effects of the substance wears off swiftly. There is the potential for a new law to be passed warranting possession of nitrous oxide in a moving car to be considered in legislation.
- Number plates are commonly altered, cloned or attached to different vehicles. The penalty for altering number plates is currently minimal. The force expressed an interest in making the penalty for altering number plates more severe.

The report includes a section on modifying exhausts and the antisocial behaviour. It is believed that a modified exhaust can be ground for MOT failure. Is there potential to investigate how this is being implemented by MOT testing garages and can vehicles be referred for re-testing?

- The force issue a Vehicle Default Registration Scheme (VRDRS) when vehicles are stopped and it is believed that modifications have been made. The owner of the vehicle will have to report to a garage for vehicle review.
- The force flagged that there are MOT centres offering leniency, and these are known to perpetrators who use them to avoid failing a MOT.

Is operation Moto still functional and if not, can it be reinstated?

- The force confirmed that this is still operational but the force are limited in actioning as the majority of the force motorbikes are marked and therefore are difficult to deploy under Operation Moto.

Paragraphs 31, 34, 36 and 40 there is reference to offences related to seatbelts, phone uses, drink and drug driving, amongst others. The Commissioner asked for elaboration on how reports listed in these graphs translate to final outcomes?

- The force confirmed that the term 'report' is generically used to refer to a range of outcomes including; speeding awareness course, fixed penalties, court outcomes or others.

Paragraph 6 states that nationally there remains a stagnation in relation to road safety reduction since 2010. Why do you think that this stagnation has occurred and how can this be impacted to reduce deaths?

- This is a serious societal issue with a combination of causality.
- The force identified the following issues as contributors to the stagnation: Prior to 2010 there was a gradual degradation of KSIs alongside consistent stagnation across the country, Improved safety features in vehicles and other factors that should contribute to great safety resulting in a reduction.

- The force also attributed these findings to a change in car cultures such as street racing films changing people's perceptions, and an increase in racing vehicles on the streets.

Paragraph 32 summarised the discussions taking place about increasing level of enforcement in connection with average speed enforcement cameras. The Commissioner asked for timescales for significant increase in enforcement in this area.

- The force confirmed that work is ongoing with the 7 local authorities in negotiating a single working agreement.
- The force is aiming to have a joint working agreement finalised for September 2023.
- Assistant Chief Constable O'Hara maintained hope that steady increase in relation to enforcement will prevail.

Paragraph 37 tackling serious and organised violence on the road highlighted £15 million seized from crime. The Commissioner asked for clarification on the source of funding if it is not derived from cash or drugs.

- The force confirmed that these funds are predominantly derived from seized vehicles.

The force asked to provide insight on pathways for individuals to volunteer with the force to address road safety.

- The majority of volunteering is working with Local Policing Areas to support SpeedWatch initiatives.
- Assistant Chief Constable O'Hara highlighted the need for all volunteers to be supported and nurtured whilst in post.
- The force have 2 media students due to start and publicise the work that the force is achieving on roads policing alongside corporate comms. This will also include working with schools and reduction to promote road safety and vigilance.

Paragraph 70 and 71, traffic offence devolution across the force area. Could the force provide an update and assurance to promote trust and confidence? Additionally, the PCC reiterated a desire for this to be delivered as a joint approach across the West Midlands for greater impact and efficiency.

- ACC O'Hara noted that tranche 2 was not communicated with the PCCs office properly. Resultantly, tranche 3 will be clearly linked in with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Whilst tranche 2 have the authority to complete levels of enforcement, the force maintain consistent communication to ensure that they are working towards their commitments. The force confirmed that similar communication will be undertaken with tranche 3.

Highlighted the need to reiterate the safety of children during school pick-ups and drop-offs. There is a need for the focus of all school-based efforts to be the safety of the children.

The Commissioner closed this item by commemorating the 18th anniversary of the Safer Travel Partnership on the 19 July 2023. The Safer Travel Partnership is key to reduce crime and improve community safety on the public transport network. The partnership brings together a host of organisations with the shared vision to prevent, tackle, and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour on the public transport network. In addition to

	<p>Police Officers, PCSOs, and access to more than 2,500 CCTV cameras there are also dedicated transport safety officers. The partnership leads on a series of incremental campaigns including <i>Project in Power</i> which aims to prevent and tackle unwanted sexual behaviour on transport networks and how to report it. The Commissioner highlighted the issue of e-scooters involved in incidents and anti-social activity. The Commissioner raised his dissatisfaction at the failure of the government's regulate legislation on e-scooters. The Commissioner made it clear that it is not acceptable for the government to drag its feet on this matter any longer.</p>
	<p>Emerging Items</p>
073/23	<p>Youth Commissioners</p> <p>Partnership and Engagement Officer Mary Jacobs presented this paper with Wasi Arshad (Youth Commissioner) and Tony Alexander (Youth Commissioner). The following points were discussed:</p> <p>Youth Commissioners explained a highlight and an item that might improve trust and confidence in policing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of living crisis can be the cause of the first interaction people have with police the force. These interactions are predominantly negative and therefore there should be a focus on promoting positive relationships with the police. • The Youth Commissioners highlighted that talking to the police can be extremely difficult and many choose alternative severe actions. • Both Youth Commissioners praised their whole experience with the scheme, and valued the opportunities that they received and the networking that they were able to achieve both internally and with external individuals/ partners. <p>The Commissioner placed on record his gratitude and thanks to the current 16 Youth Commissioners. The Youth Commissioners have been an excellent and valuable asset to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Commissioner urged any young person who wishes to make a positive difference to their community and assist the Commissioner in holding the force to account to apply to the new cohort of Youth Commissioners.</p>
074/23	<p>Verbal Update on Policing Governance Presented by: Chief Executive Jonathan Jardine</p> <p>Chief Executive Jonathan Jardine presented this update and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Levelling Up regeneration bill is currently in the House of Lords stage and undergoing a detailed line-by-line consideration. This stage allows for final amendments to be made before the item becomes law. • One key, relevant, amendment refers to both the removal of constituent members of the combined authority from the process via which policing governance transfer can take place, and the removal of the role of constituent members of the combined authority from decisions to add new members to the combined authority. • In the current report stage the section of the Bill has been amended by Lords and approved by a 5-vote majority, subsequently reinstating the requirement of existing members to have a say in new additions to a combined authority.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate was held regarding the causes concerning the transference of the police governance. These were not voted on, however, there may be more consideration on this in the future. • The House of Lords stage is not complete, 3 days have been scheduled for September 2023. This will impact the timings of the completion of this Bill. What is more, there may be an extended period after the 13th September which may require amendments to the Bill. • Considerations should be given to the Gould Principle which states that there should not be any changes to elections or planned elections within 6 months. Whilst this is not mandatory, it is common for this to be adhered to. • Parallel to the Bill, Warwickshire’s cabinet considered a report in public, in which it was agreed that a governance review would be undertaken for Warwickshire County Council to, potentially, join the Combined Authority. • Warwickshire will review the governance and report back to cabinet with a proposal. It is reported that there was disquiet upon this revelation. • It was noted that if Warwickshire were to join the Combined Authority as a constituent member, the Combined Authority would no longer be within the boundary of the West Midlands and therefore the transfer of the policing governance function would not be permitted to transfer to the Combined Authority. • In preparation for the outcome that the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner is transferred to the Combined Authority the OPCC is preparing to ensure that continuity of service is provided. This includes communicating with areas that are in the process of transitioning to the Combined Authority and with the Home Office. <p>The Commissioner explained his belief in the need for democratically elected police and crime commissioners, directly accountable to the people. The Commissioner highlighted his concern over the Mayor dispensing with the democratic rights of the people of the West Midlands.</p> <p>An additional comment was raised by Chair of the Joint Audit Committee, Sue Davis. Sue Davis explained that the last time this issue was under consideration, the Joint Audit Committee provided a report on the issue and provided a paper criticising the lack of proper scrutiny and democracy.</p>
	<p>Regular Items</p>
<p>075/23</p>	<p>Joint Audit Committee Annual Report</p> <p>Chair of Joint Audit Committee, Sue Davis, presented this report and the following points were discussed:</p> <p><i>Is there more that can we can do to filter the outcome of Joint Audit Committee (JAC) to victims, etc. and embed learning in a concerted way?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JAC do engage with Policy staff at the start of an audit and towards the end with core outcomes. • JAC have governance arrangements where information is received by the Force and then fed into the committee. However, there is scope to share that learning with the wider Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was noted that a balance needs to be fine-tuned.

<p>076/23</p>	<p>Chief Constable Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The force is currently working on a series of drug deaths that they believe are linked. The force have identified links between 3 deaths through toxicology. It is believed that the cutting agent used within these drugs has resulted in a series of deaths. Assistant Chief Constable Meir has set up a gold group to address this issue and it is believed that this issue is confined to Birmingham and not the wider West Midlands. • The Chief Constable provided an update on the operation in which a female victim was found murdered at their home address in Dudley. A male has been arrested and remains in custody. • Operation Advance, proved successful in Wolverhampton. The Force will focus this operation on Birmingham later this week. Force resources are pooled to support neighbourhood policing. • Force call handling has significantly improved with the force's 999s now the 3rd best in the country. • The force will welcome the first passing out parade for new recruits to be held on Friday 28 July, at Tally Ho. This will be the first passing out parade following COVID. • The Chief Constable highlighted success at managing a number of industrial action incidents over the last few months. The force's advanced planning should be credited for its success in these scenarios. • The Chief Constable highlighted the new football season and reassured the Board that consideration is already been generated in anticipation of this period. • Assistant Chief Constable Meir has been successfully appointed as Deputy Chief Constable in Northumbria. Resultantly, recruitment will be held in due course. • Chief Superintendent boards have successfully been completed and Chief Inspector boards are live. The Chief Constable noted that a healthy number of individuals from other forces have asked to be considered on transfer basis. • The Chief Constable and the Commissioner attended a meeting with the Mayor regarding road traffic in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands. The Chief Constable was confident that good common understating was secured around problems, funding opportunities and the need to work together to ensure the best outcome. • The force has been retained as one of the national locations for Operation Safeguard.
<p>077/23</p>	<p>SPCB Workplan:</p> <p>c. SPCB workplan for noting d. SPCB Actions and Further Lines of Inquiry</p> <p>The Commissioner reiterated that there are remaining outstanding actions. If responses are not received by the date of the next meeting these items will be posed as board member questions.</p>
<p>078/23</p>	<p>Date of the next meeting: 26 September 2023</p> <p>The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 26th September 2023.</p>