

**AT THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS
POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD AT SANDWELL
COUNCIL HOUSE, OLDBURY ON MONDAY 21
JANUARY 2013 AT 1430 HOURS**

PRESENT:-

Birmingham

Councillor Jess Phillips
Councillor Mike Whitby

Dudley

Councillor D Sparks

Sandwell

Councillor D Cooper (Chairman)

Solihull

Councillor K Meeson

Wolverhampton

Councillor R Lawrence
Councillor E Mattu (Alternate)

Co-opted Independent Members

Mr N Drew
Mr L Walker

ALSO PRESENT:-

Bob Jones, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
Jacky Courtney, Chief Executive, West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime
Mike Williams, Treasurer, West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime

APOLOGIES

9 Apologies were submitted on behalf of the following: -

Councillor Safeena Arshad - Dudley
Councillor S Bains - Coventry
Councillor G Duggins - Coventry
Councillor J Mutton – Coventry
Councillor R Sleigh - Solihull

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

10 There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

11 The public section of the Minutes of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 26 November 2012, having been previously circulated, was confirmed as a correct record.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AT THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

The following report of the Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No.1)

12 **RESOLVED:-**

That the objectives for public question time (set out in Section 1 of the procedure) and the criteria for questions (set out in Section 2) be approved.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1 Lisa Thompson, Chief Executive Officer, Rape and Violence Project

“The current West Midlands Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) (where people affected by sexual violence can report and receive support) has not met Government minimum service standards since at least 2009. How will the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel ensure that the new SARC provider, G4S, brings the SARC up to minimum standards and beyond when they take over the running of the SARCs this month?”

In reply, Councillor Jess Phillips explained that the SARC contract with G4S had been commissioned through the Birmingham and Solihull NHS cluster and therefore the Joint Commissioning Board was responsible for monitoring the contract. However, there was an operational and strategic element to the police role in the SARC, and therefore in the future, if responsibility for the contract transferred to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), it would be within the Panel’s remit to scrutinize it.

Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, confirmed that he had initiated discussions with 3 neighbouring Police and Crime Commissioners to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to SARCs across the region. He aimed to ensure that the service met the needs of victims, not the convenience of police boundaries.

Lisa Thompson commented that there were 2 issues - whether the SARC met the minimum standards of the contract, or the minimum standards set by government. In her view, the SARC should meet minimum standards for victims.

RESOLVED:-

That a report on the performance of the West Midlands Sexual Assault Referral Centre be presented to a future Panel meeting.

**PRELIMINARY REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSALS
2013/14 AND OUTLINE APPROACH TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

The following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Mike Williams, Treasurer, West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime, attended the meeting and highlighted the key elements of the report to Panel members by means of a PowerPoint presentation.

In response to questions from the Panel, Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, and Mike Williams made the following points:-

- The Pride in Our Police initiative aimed to secure a greater degree of ownership by local communities of the Police and Crime Plan. It also aimed to ensure that plans were customized to meet local needs. Consultation with local communities on their policing priorities was already underway.
- The government's baseline allocation for the new Community Safety Fund, which would be used to commission services to support crime, drugs and community safety priorities, was £7million. It was believed that current spending in these areas across the West Midlands amounted to £9 – 9.5million. If that estimate was correct, it implied year-on-year reductions of approximately 75%. Mike Williams had been asked to develop a formula based on current spending levels for community safety across the region so that the funding could be 'passported' to the West Midland District Councils, and they would be advised of indicative allocations as soon as possible. A request would be made for funding to be earmarked for future years, making it easier for Community Safety Partnerships to commission services.
- The Commissioner acknowledged that co-location of premises had worked well in Solihull, and he had plans to extend the initiative in other areas. However, it raised the question of what should be done with surplus property. The local community also had to be consulted carefully to ensure that access to the services required was maintained.

Panel members discussed the proposal to increase the precept for 2013/14 by 3% in line with inflation, and noted that if it were aligned to the consumer price index (CPI) in common with the approach adopted by other public bodies, it would result in an increase of 2.7%. Some members opposed a 3% increase and felt that the Commissioner would be better advised to accept the Council Tax freeze grant, but agreed to defer in-depth discussion of the issue to the Panel's meeting on 6 February 2013.

14

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

OTHER POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER PRIORITIES

Reference was made to the following letter from Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, outlining proposals to establish a West Midlands Strategic Policing and Crime Board:-

(See document No. 3)

The Chairman reported that following discussion with Panel members prior to the meeting, it had been agreed that there would be no Panel representative on the selection panel for appointments to the Strategic Board. Panel members had serious reservations regarding the proposals, and these would be confirmed in writing to the Commissioner in due course.

Bob Jones reminded Panel members of his offer of pre-scrutiny of his major decisions. The Chairman agreed that a Panel work programme would be drawn up once the Police and Crime Plan had been adopted.

15

RESOLVED:-

That the Chairman write to the Police and Crime Commissioner expressing the concerns of the Panel regarding the proposal to establish a West Midlands Strategic Policing and Crime Board, and that these be published on the Panel's website in due course.

WMPCP PROCEDURE FOR MANAGING COMPLAINTS AND MISCONDUCT MATTERS RELATING TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND THE DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE

The following report of the Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

16

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the interim complaints and misconduct procedure be approved, with delegation to Birmingham City Council's Monitoring Officer as in the report presented to the Panel at its meeting on 29 October 2012;
 - (ii) that a final report and protocol be presented to a future Panel meeting to draw on early local and national experience of managing complaints.
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WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – MEMBER EXPENSES ARRANGEMENTS

The following report of the Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

Councillor Sparks commented that there should be consistency amongst Leaders of the West Midland District Councils towards payment of expenses for attendance at meetings of outside bodies, and that, in his view, expenses should only be paid to co-opted independent Panel members.

17

RESOLVED:-

That the proposals for administering Member travel expenses and carer allowances be endorsed on an interim basis, and revised proposals brought back for consideration at a future Panel meeting.

WORK PROGRAMME 2013/2013

The following report of the Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No. 6)

18

RESOLVED:-

That the indicative work programme be noted and further developed following approval of the West Midlands Police and Crime Plan.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

19

RESOLVED:-

That in view of the nature of the business to be transacted which includes exempt information of the category indicated the public be now excluded from the meeting:-

Minutes – Exempt information paragraph 1

PRIVATE

MINUTES

20 The private section of the Minutes of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 26 November 2012, having been previously circulated, was confirmed as a correct record and the Minutes as a whole were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting ended at 1615 hours.

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CHAIRMAN