



## West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Forward plan of key decisions

Report of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

### PURPOSE

1. This report outlines key decisions and other issues upon which the Commissioner would wish to consult the Police and Crime Panel prior to the making of formal decisions.

### BACKGROUND

2. At the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 26 November 2012, the Commissioner indicated that, in order to assist in his decision making, he hoped that the Panel would be willing to undertake a pre-decision scrutiny function. The Commissioner believes that he would benefit from the considerable knowledge and expertise held by Panel members. He hopes that such an approach would also be welcomed by the Panel in respect of its own statutory role to support and review the work of the Commissioner.
3. The table set out below lists those forthcoming key decisions that the Commissioner intends to take and on which he would welcome discussion with the Panel. The list is not exhaustive and the Commissioner recognises the need to balance any pre-decision scrutiny work with the work that the Panel will wish to do to review the work undertaken by the Commissioner. To this end the Commissioner would ask whether consideration could be given to possible bi-annual meetings between the Panel's Chair, Vice Chair and himself to review any work programme. This would be complemented by meetings at officer level on a regular basis between the teams supporting the Panel and the Commissioner. Such meetings, at officer and member level, would ensure that there is consideration, on a rolling basis, of the anticipated work programme.

Topic	Date of PCC Decision	Comment
Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Proposals 2013/14, including the precept level	Before 1 March 2013	The Panel has a statutory role in respect of the setting of the precept by the Commissioner. Initial consideration to the approach to the budget was given by the Panel on 21 January 2013. The detailed budget and proposed precept is included in the agenda for 6 February 2013.
Police and Crime Plan	Before 31 March 2013	The Panel has a statutory role in respect of the Police and Crime Plan. This is to be presented and tabled at the meeting on 6 February 2013 allowing for fuller Panel consideration on 19 February 2013 or 18 March 2013

Report of the Technology Task Group	February 2013	Report included in Panel agenda on 6 February 2013
Procurement Strategy	June 2013	The Commissioner intends to conduct a review of the approach to procurement and wishes to conduct a consultation on a procurement strategy. He would welcome the views on the Panel on both the consultation and the application of the outcomes of the consultation to a future procurement strategy
Victim Support Grants	July 2013	The Commissioner will take over responsibility for the allocation of victims funding from 2014-15. Funding is currently allocated by the Home Office. The Commissioner has held a Victims Summit the outcomes of which will inform a consultation document. The Commissioner would welcome the views of the Panel on the outcomes of the consultation and his proposed future approach to the allocation.
Local Policing and Crime Boards	March 2013	The Commissioner has indicated that he wishes to pass port his allocated Community Safety Funds to Community Safety Partnerships contingent upon there being a community lead Local Policing and Crime Board established in each local authority area. Local authorities have been given an indication of the proposed approach to funding. The Local Policing and Crime Boards and the funding approach will be the subject to discussion at the Commissioner's Partnership Summit to be held on 8 February 2013. The Commissioner would welcome the Panel's views on the outcome of the Summit ahead of finalising the funding allocation. He would also wish to seek feedback on the operation of the local boards ahead of any planning process for 2014-15
Estates Strategy	March 2013	The Panel has been provided with an overview, at its meeting on 21 January 2013, of the approach that the Commissioner is taking to developing his Estates Strategy. The Commissioner would welcome the views of the Panel on his proposed strategy prior to its finalisation. This includes works on custody provision.
Review of Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Powers	May 2013 tbc	The Chief Constable is responsible for determining the powers which can be used by PCSOs. He is currently conducting a review of the use of powers. The Commissioner would welcome the views of the Panel should the Chief Constable wish to amend the powers employed, particularly where any changes impact on the roles, functions and powers of local authorities, such as those associated with street enforcement.
Police and Crime Plan	February 2014	The Commissioner expects to review his Police and Crime Plan each year, not least to ensure that the West Midlands wide plan reflects the local priorities arising through the seven local policing and crime boards, in addition to needing to align the Plan to the financial settlement in each of the Plan's years. Therefore the Commissioner is expected to ask the

		Panel to undertake its statutory role in respect of any variations to the police and crime plan. Such consideration would be expected to complement consideration of the annual precept.
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**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4. In accordance with Section 28 (6) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Panel is responsible for the review or scrutiny of decisions made or actions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5. Of itself, this report contains no financial implications

**EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6. Of itself, this report contains no equalities implications

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 7. That the Panel discusses the proposals contained in this paper for the Panel to support the work of the Commissioner through the use of pre-decision scrutiny.