



**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**  
**14 May 2013**

<p><b>PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COMMISSIONER'S SUMMITS</b></p>
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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the series of summits that have taken place at the request of the Commissioner. The summits were a series of consultation and engagement events designed to support the development of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and give him the opportunity to develop on-going consultation and engagement mechanisms.

**BACKGROUND**

2. The Police and Crime Commissioner has responsibility to gain the views of the public, with specific mention of victims of crime, in the policing area about matters concerning policing and crime. These requirements are set out in the Police Act 1996 as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Other statutory consultation duties of relevance are those which require public consultation on the Commissioner's police and crime plan.
3. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Community Safety Partnerships to involve the community in drawing up and implementing strategies for reducing crime and disorder in their areas. Unlike his predecessor body, the Police Authority, the Commissioner is not a statutory member of the partnership although he hopes that Partnerships will work with and involve the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners who he has appointed to the Strategic Policing and Crime Board.
4. Engagement and consultation can mean different things to different people. One of the aims of the Summits was to reach as many different people as possible by developing a process of dialogue between individuals and groups, based upon a genuine exchange of views with the objective of influencing decisions, policies and planning to improve service delivery. The Summits gave the Commissioner the opportunity to listen first hand to people's opinions, concerns and, in some cases, solutions to developing on-going structures for consultation and engagement.
5. The approach to the Summits focused on a number of themes to deliver the following outcomes:

- local people feel more informed and motivated to influence decisions on policing services
  - all sections of the community have opportunities to influence decisions, particularly victims and vulnerable
  - exploring ways of ensuring that people have a voice
  - ensuring the coordinated use of existing resources for engagement and consultation with our partners.
6. The Commissioner will use the information gained from the Summits to develop and implement structures for on-going consultation. They will also form the basis of the Commissioner's Community Consultation and Communications Strategy.
  7. Five Summits have taken place, with further events planned for later in the year. The Commissioner's Office is in the process of considering the outcomes from the events held to date. This report gives an overview of those already held.

### **VICTIMS SUMMIT 11 January 2013**

8. The Victims Summit had a number of specific objectives which included the opportunity to:
  - speak to victims and representatives in order to ensure that adequate support services are in place for victims and their families
  - talk about the distribution of the victims funding which is being transferred to the Commissioner in April 2014 and to consider how the needs of victims will be represented locally. Police and Crime Commissioners will be responsible for ensuring that the emotional and practical support services for victims of crime. These services help victims to cope with and recover from the impacts of crime.
9. At the event the Commissioner set out his ambitions for community led local policing and crime boards in each of the seven local authority areas to ensure that the views of local people are reflected in priorities set locally for policing and crime, and also that those priorities are delivered. They will also be part of the decision making process on the local allocation of funds and monitor their local police and crime plan. The boards will be made up of members of the community as well as responsible authorities. The exact composition will be a matter for local determination.
10. Roundtable discussions gave participants the opportunity to discuss and develop options for distribution of the victims funding from 2014. The information gained from the Summit formed the basis of a public consultation document. The closing date for responses to the consultation is 31 May 2013. Copies of the consultation document are available on the Commissioner's website [www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk). The following information briefly sets out the questions that are being asked.
  - Question 1 is about the development of a Victims Commission which will develop policies and procedures identify local concerns and priorities and influence the final decisions on funding and allocations.

- Question 2 gives a number of options for a commissioning framework and delivery options;
  - a) West Midlands wide structure, led by Victims Support, working with other voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations
  - b) West Midlands structure comprising VCSE organisations with no lead organisation4%
  - c) In house procurement by the Office for Policing and Crime

11. The full response will be available the week beginning 10 June when the final results and structure will be announced.

### **BUSINESS SUMMIT 26 January 2013**

12. The Business Summit is an important annual meeting that gives the Commissioner the opportunity to speak to the business sector about issues. The meeting is also taken as an opportunity to consult on the police revenue and capital budget and precept for the coming year. This year's event also sought to establish how business wanted to be consulted on an on-going basis.

13. Key messages to business were the following proposals:

- that the Commissioner was minded to refuse the freeze grant and set a precept increase of 3% in line with inflation
- the release of police officer to front line activities through the establishment of 100 new police staff posts
- to prioritise capital spending on Invest to Save Schemes and use reserves to avoid borrowing costs

14. The business consultation strategy will include:

- a) A mapping exercise between now and September, which will review information already held by the Commissioner's office to identify business networks and umbrella organisations within the seven local authority areas
- b) Having established the above, working with the Commissioner and the Non-Executive Board Member lead for business, Brendan Connor, a mechanism will be established to ensure a comprehensive spread of views and influence across the region.
- c) A programme of engagement of future engagement will be agreed by September which will last through to the end of the current financial year. The Commissioner's Office will work with organisations to ensure that they are able to raise their issues with the Commissioner. This will assist in pre-planning for future events and help ensure that the Commissioner engages with a wider number of businesses than at present.
- d) The Force lead on business, CSupt Sally Bourner, has established a working relationship with the three Local Enterprise Partnerships in the region. It is not intended that the Commissioner duplicate this. The Commissioner will work with

the Force to ensure that information is shared. Chief Supt Bourner intends to produce an e-bulletin in partnership with the Commissioner's Office to communicate information to businesses. This will also give a continuity of contact and flow of information and feedback in between other events.

- e) The Office will use social media e.g. Twitter, facebook, the website, to ensure all activity is high profile and keep awareness high.

### **PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT 8 February 2013**

15. The Partnership Summit was an opportunity for members from the seven Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across the West Midlands to come together and hear first-hand the offer that was being made to them by the Commissioner. The offer was that the Community Safety Fund 2013-14 would be passported out to the CSPs on condition that a community led Local Policing and Crime Boards was established in each of the local authority areas. The Commissioner has indicated that he hopes the local boards would have responsibility for consultation and engagement, and development of a local policing and crime plan. He has also stated that the membership of such boards must comprise at least 50% community representation with a community representative acting as the Chair of the Board.
16. The Commissioner explained his ambition for work on future plans to be a 'bottom-up' rather than a top-down process. The seven local police and crime plans are intended to be used as the building blocks for any future variations to the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.
17. All of the CSPs have accepted the monies allocated to them by the Commissioner, agreeing to the condition of establishing local police and crime boards. Each CSP is now in the developmental stages and determining what structures will work in their areas. There is an expectation that the Boards will be developed to the extent that they will input into the review process for the Police and Crime Plan later this year.

### **YOUTH SUMMIT 26 February 2013**

18. Working with the Youth Offending Teams and the Youth Parliament, 180 young people attended the Commissioner's Youth Summit. The event gave those attending the opportunity to give their views on priorities, policing and on-going consultation.
19. Young people were asked to consider the relative merits of a number of options which included Youth Commissioners, a Youth Forum, a Youth Commission, or the use of social media. Feedback included support for the use of existing structures to avoid duplication. However there was no overall consensus on the suggested future structures.
20. The Force has already established a Youth Independent Advisory Group and the Commissioner is minded to work with the Force to develop this body into a Youth Commission. This would make use of the existing membership with the addition of two youth representatives/commissioners from each local authority area. Additional members, in the region of 4-6, may be added to ensure representation from special interest areas.
21. The Youth Commissioners would lead on the consultation with young people on the Police and Crime Plan, monitoring of priorities and police responses to young

people. Work is currently being done with the Force and local authorities to determine existing structures that could be used in the development of this.

### **TRUST AND CONFIDENCE SUMMIT 11 March 2013**

22. Communities in the West Midlands need to have trust and confidence in their police as this makes them feel safer and means the police can be effective in reducing crime and disorder. Without this the Commissioner's vision of 'Pride in our Police' cannot be achieved. Levels of reported crime are at an historic low but the public need to see that they being served by an efficient and fair police force in order to feel safe within their neighbourhoods. The aims of this Summit were to:

- hear people's views on trust and confidence from a range of different perspectives
- explore solutions for the future of the diverse communities which make up the West Midlands.

23. Hate crime, perceived discriminatory treatment, police understanding of diversity, and the way police react to complaints were amongst some of the factors highlighted during the event all of which were considered as having the potential to impact both adversely and positively, on trust and confidence. While the police have strategies in place to deal with all of these, many of those present thought that there was not enough communication to local communities. More community involvement in decision making and more transparency around the work of the police were suggested for the future.

24. A number of themes emerged during the course of the day including:

- the benefits from having a workforce that is representative of the West Midlands
- the importance of effective engagement with local communities
- the importance of the police being seen to value their engagement with communities and that they are trained and aware of its significance
- the importance of the police demonstrating their accountability to local people

25. A number of other themes were highlighted, both at these events, but also in the extensive one-to-one engagements that the Commissioner has undertaken with representative groups, individuals and partners. The Commissioner's Office, working with partners and stakeholders, is developing the following in response to these engagements and issues raised in Summits to date:

- Mental Health and Learning Disability Summit – 21 June 2013
- Stop and Search Summit – 20 September 2013
- Women's Group – first meeting September 2013
- Event for criminal justice partners – autumn 2013
- Partner event to consider safeguarding issues – autumn 2013
- Event to engage with Neighbourhood Watch – autumn 2013

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

26. The cost of all consultation activities is included in the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime budget for 2013-14.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

27. The legal implications are set out at paragraph 2.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board is asked to note the contents of the report

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