



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of meeting held on Thursday, 11 September 2014
in Committee Room 3, Birmingham Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham

- Present: Jamieson, David – Police and Crime Commissioner
Abbott, Cllr Faye – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Foster, Cllr Judy – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Hannon, Cath – Non-executive
Hendricks, Ernie – Non-executive
Mosquito, Cllr Yvonne – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Nazir, Cllr Mohammad – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Sawdon, Cllr Tim – Non-executive
- In attendance: Bell, Chief Supt Claire – Coventry LPU
Foulkes, Carl – Assistant Chief Constable
Cann, Gary – Assistant Chief Constable
Gabbitas, Andrea – Policy Manager
Gardner, Stuart – Performance Assessment Team
Godwin, Supt Tim – Deputy Head of Professional Standard
Hickman, Fiona – Committee Manager
Kelly, Andy – Head of Corporate Asset Management
Sims, Chris – Chief Constable
Smith, Lisa-Marie – Director of Legal Services
Sturman, Chief Supt David – Walsall LPU
Thompson, David – Deputy Chief Constable
Williams, Mike – Chief Finance Officer
- Observers: 10

085/14 Conflicts of Interest

085/14

Cllr Nazir declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in agenda item 5 because he currently had the Cabinet portfolio for regeneration in Walsall Council. Cllr Foster also declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in item 5 because she was currently Cabinet Member for Regeneration in Dudley Council.

086/14 Apologies

086/14

Apologies had been received from Brendan Connor.

The new Commissioner took the opportunity to outline very briefly how he intended to approach his role.

- He did not intend to change the current Police and Crime Plan nor the budget which supported it.
- He did not intend to make any changes to the current exercise to recruit new police officers. He had been delighted to meet the first 84 new recruits recently and had been impressed with their intellect and engagement.
- He would be working over the next few weeks on designing a new Plan and expected to have a good idea of how the Plan might change by October. This would then inform the proposed budget for the next financial year.
- He wanted the overarching focus of the new Plan to be on how policing could help to improve the economy in the West Midlands. This was not just about procuring goods and services locally. This was about lifting communities. He would look forward to hearing thoughts and ideas from others on how to progress this.
- He wanted some focus on road safety because during the election period he had been made aware of the concerns of many communities about deaths and injuries on the region's roads.
- He would be changing his approach to the local policing and crime boards. He would be more prescriptive and more focused on outcomes. There would be more monitoring and accountability in respect of the funding provided by the Commissioner. He did not, of course, wish to inhibit ideas and he was supportive of the boards in principle.

The Board approved the notes of the meetings held in public and in private on 3 June 2014.

C012/14: Mr Hendricks raised a question about whether the Commissioner or a representative could sit on the Birmingham Airport SEG. **ACTION ACC Cann would provide a briefing note confirming the arrangements but indicated that the Commissioner was a statutory consultee and would be most welcome to attend the SEG in future.**

A briefing note has been requested by OPCC. The next meeting of the SEG is on 12 November.

The Commissioner took the opportunity to put on record his thanks for the work of the previous Commissioner, Bob Jones. Mr Jones had

been extremely well informed about policing matters and his commitment to policing and the communities of the West Midlands was beyond compare.

089/14 Public Questions

089/14

No questions from the public had been received.

090/14 Estates Update and Walsall LPU Estate Review Decision

090/14

The Head of Corporate Asset Management introduced the report which provided an update on the outcomes of the Coventry and Walsall Local Policing Unit (LPU) estate reviews and an update on the wider estates review programme, including the refurbishment of Lloyd House. Attached to the report was a draft decision on the Walsall LPU Estate review. Chief Superintendents Bell and Sturman from Coventry LPU and Walsall LPU were present to answer questions on their areas.

The Board considered the report and during the lengthy discussion noted the following points:

- The word 'rationalise' encompassed consolidation, closure and smarter ways of working.
- Chief Supt Sturman (Walsall) confirmed that he had engaged widely with local communities about the Walsall police estate over the past two years through, for example, the Walsall Area Partnership, with briefings to boards and councillors, letters to KINs, etc. He had been open with the public and had listened to and taken on board concerns. For example, when concerns had been expressed by councillors about the plans for Darlaston, the Force had reviewed the proposals and changed their plans for Darlaston.
- Cllr Nazir indicated that he had been assured that Walsall Council would assist the Force with their proposal. They were ensuring that the Civic Centre was fit for purpose, for example.
- The preferred options for the Coventry rationalisation would be submitted to the December Board meeting. Coventry was not as far advanced in its review as Walsall and would be taking a two-stage approach. The Force had not yet engaged with the public but would be doing so. For example, it would be discussed at the full Coventry City Council meeting on 15 September. The Force needed a strategic picture first before considering details such as where people would need to go to answer bail.
- On a general note, the Chief Constable indicated that it was important to explain to the public where the Force was with its overall plan for the police estate. The Force had consistently explained that its estate would shrink considerably and many policing buildings would be closed. The Force needed a modern estate and would have to take into account different ways of interacting with the public as well as a reduced budget. The Force

would work with the Chief Executive to refine the message. The Force would be coming back to the Board in the near future about the proposals for the future of front offices/public access. It would be necessary to consult locally about the detail for each area. Nothing would happen until a proper structured debate about particular areas had taken place.

- The Chief Constable believed that there was plenty of evidence from across the country that police co-location with other services worked. In the meantime, the Force was learning from its experience at the Blubell Centre.
- Birmingham City Council had approved the plans for the Lloyd House refurbishment project. The final costs of the refurbishment were not yet known but the Force hoped to have more certainty by 22 September when the mechanical and electrical elements of the project were clearer. The delay in receiving the final costs was regrettable but the Force was confident that they would be within their expectations. The Commissioner would want confirmation that the business case for Lloyd House remained valid.

091/14 Performance against the 2014-15 Milestones and Deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan 091/14

Stuart Gardner introduced the report which outlined the end of year performance against the milestones and deliverables that contributed to the ten strategic outcomes set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

The Board considered the report and the following actions were agreed:

ACTION The Force would send a copy of the questions about public confidence to Cllr Foster.

OPCC have sent the information to Cllr Foster.

ACTION Mr Hendricks would discuss with the Force and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner the potential to present performance information in such a way that it could be compared year on year against the conception of the Police and Crime Plan.

OPCC are arranging a meeting.

092/14 ACC Operations Portfolio 092/14

ACC Cann introduced the report which provided an update on his operations portfolio which included criminal justice.

The Board considered the report and during the discussion noted that:

- the Force intended to obtain some analysis behind the casualty rates on the roads with a view to understanding if there was any good practice in one area that could be shared across all of the West Midlands areas

- the Force was working on the charging arrangements for the National Police Air Service (NPAS) which would change in April 2015. The calculations would come to a future Board meeting.
- The Force had received positive feedback on their contribution to the policing of the NATO conference.

093/14 ACC Local Policing Portfolio

093/14

ACC Foulkes introduced the report which provided an update on his local policing portfolio.

The Board considered the report and noted its contents.

The Commissioner congratulated all those who had been involved in integrated offender management (IOM) and the excellent performance figures.

Mr Connor had sent the Commissioner a number of issues to be raised in his absence but time constraints did not allow for these to be raised. **ACTION Mr Connor's issues would be sent to ACC Foulkes and the response would be circulated to the Board.**
ACC Foulkes's response had been circulated to the Board.

The Board requested a progress report on Priority Areas. **ACTION Report to be programmed in to the work plan.**
A note has been made on the work plan.

094/14 Professional Standards and Quality of Service

094/14

The Board noted the report which provided an overview of the recent work of the Professional Standards Department.

095/14 Dip Sampling of Completed Complaints Files

095/14

The Board noted the report which presented the outcome of the dip-sampling of completed complaints files undertaken by a member of the Board on 1 July 2014.

096/14 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - Casework

096/14

The Board noted the report which provided an update on the casework and correspondence received and managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

The Commissioner indicated that he had made changes to this aspect of OPCC work since he had taken up office. Members of the public had been approaching the Commissioner as if he were part of the complaints procedure with a role similar to that of an Ombudsman. This was not the case. Complainants were now being directed to the relevant part of the Force. He would be looking out, however, for any strategic issues raised through such correspondence and for any 'whistleblowing' matters.

097/14 Finance: Revised Revenue Budget 2014/15 and Financial Health Indicator Update 097/14

The Board noted the contents of the report which provided an update on changes to the 2014/15 Revenue Budget and the financial health indicators.

ACC Foulkes was working with the OPCC on making the decisions on POCA funding more transparent.

The Commissioner had asked for a briefing for councillors, MPs and MEPs on the innovation and integration partner (IIP). He wanted a clear narrative for them and for the public on the role and purpose of the IIP and what was actually being done.

A briefing was circulated to to councillors, MPs and MEPS on 17 September.

098/14 Domestic Homicide Review Research Project 098/14

The Board noted the contents of the report which provided an update on the Domestic Homicide Review Research Project for which the previous Commissioner had approved funding.

The Commissioner and the Chief Constable commended this excellent piece of work.

099/14 Chief Constable's Update 099/14

The Chief Constable formally congratulated the Commissioner on his appointment and observed that the rules around the by-election had been poorly reasoned. He thanked Cllrs Mosquito and Foster for their leadership in the interim period, and the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer who had stepped in in the Chief Executive's absence. The Commissioner echoed the Chief Constable's thanks.

On operational policing, the Chief Constable raised the following matters.

National Security Levels

Security levels had been lifted across the country. This was a long-term change in security levels and the Force was working on this through the Counter Terrorism Unit and the Government.

Child Sexual Abuse

It was very important to provide the public with a well-considered response to questions around whether there were any child sexual exploitation issues in the West Midlands similar to those exposed in the recent report on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham. The Force would be briefing the Commissioner in private in the first instance on 3 October and would cover three areas:

- Arrangements that the Force currently in place to deal with child sexual exploitation and how effective they were.
- As full a narrative as possible about Force activity in this area over the past year. The Force had dealt with a number of these issues.
- How to take this forward to a debate with partners. The local authority role in such matters, for example, was greater than that of the police. There needed to be a transparent public debate.

The Commissioner had asked the Chief Constable to provide a report for a future Board meeting and observed that care must be taken not to marginalise elements of the West Midlands community. The people who sexually abused children must be viewed as criminals irrespective of the their ethnicity or nationality.

Operation Pelkin

Supt Tim Godwin provided an update on Operation Pelkin which was the name given to the policing of party conferences. This was the sixth time that party conferences had been held in Birmingham. This year the Conservative Party conference would be held in Birmingham from 28 September – 1 October. The Conservative Party were expecting around 14,000 accredited delegates. The Force would be working alongside G4S who had the Government contract for providing security services. The operation would involve around 700 police officers and 300 G4S personnel each day.

The Chief Constable indicated that he had no operational policing items to raise in the private meeting which was scheduled to follow immediately after this public meeting.

100/14 Reports submitted for the previous Board meeting

100/14

The Board noted the contents of the following reports which had been submitted for the July Board meeting which had been cancelled owing to the sudden death of Bob Jones.

- a) DCC Portfolio Update
- b) HR Update
- c) Outcomes from the Community Safety Fund 2014-14
- d) Neighbourhood Watch Summit and Action Plan

	Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings	
016/13	Professional Standards Department, Quality of Service West Midlands Police Working Group on disproportionality. The Board welcomed the work being done on disproportionality. ACTION The Force would circulate the action plan to members of the Board. <i>An update was provided in the report that was submitted to the Board meeting held on 11 September 2014.</i>	016/13
064/13	ACC Operations Portfolio Update ○ ACTION. The Force and the Commissioner would explore whether it would be possible for a representative from the West Midlands Police to attend the regional NPAS board meetings as an observer.	064/13
063/14	Performance against the 2013-14 Milestones and Deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan ● It was not clear how fraud figures would be dealt with in future. For example, crime reported to Action Fraud would be collated centrally and would not be attributed to local forces. However, some fraud cases would be reported directly to local forces. It was not clear to whom the detection figures would be attributed. ACTION The Deputy Chief Constable would clarify the matter. <i>OPCC are arranging for a briefing note to be provided.</i>	063/14
070/14	Decisions: Victims Services ● ACTION Alethea Fuller would provide Board members with the information about how the Ministry of Justice were currently monitoring how the money was spent and whether they were getting value for money.	070/14
077/14	Performance ● The Force planned to extend the new automatic recording systems for Stop and Search across the whole force by late summer. It was currently live in Sandwell and Dudley Local Policing Units. The Force wished to approach the roll out with caution given the technical issues that had arisen with the previous system. ACTION The Force would report on progress at the October Board meeting. <i>The October Board was cancelled.</i>	