

Accountability and Governance Board

27 January 2026

Agenda Item 3: Operation Parkmill

Introduction and Concluding Comments

Introduction

I acknowledge, recognise and understand the significant strength of feeling that is shared by many people, including myself, in connection with matters arising from the decision of the Birmingham City Council Safety Advisory Group dated 16 October 2025, based on the recommendation of West Midlands Police, to ban away fans supporting Maccabi Tel Aviv, from attending the football match against Aston Villa on 6 November 2025 – and that includes our Jewish community and people and communities in the West Midlands - whether or not they agreed with the ban or they disagreed with the ban.

My immediate response to that decision was to call for a Review and the convening of a Special Safety Advisory Group Meeting at the earliest possible opportunity to reconsider the decision.

It is not my intention to rehearse all that has happened since the decision of the 16 October to the present day, because many, if not all of you, will have been following what has taken place.

However, I refer to the most recent and significant events that include:

The Home Secretary's announcement in the House of Commons that she no longer had confidence in the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police.

The publication of the HMIC letter setting out the preliminary views of the Chief Inspector of Constabulary – it is worth noting that this does not constitute the final report and the Chief Inspector's views might therefore develop or change.

My immediate commencement of preparation of the process that would have enabled me to dismiss the Chief Constable.

The retirement with immediate effect of the former Chief Constable - and I will say more on the subject of retirement or dismissal at the conclusion of this Agenda Item.

My appointment of former Deputy Chief Constable Scott Green as the Acting Chief Constable.

My referral of the former Chief Constable to the Independent Office of Police Conduct and the IOPC exercise of its power of initiative and WMP's referral, relating to WMP officers to independently investigate and determine if any officer or staff member may have a case to answer for misconduct.

The IOPC will now undertake a full assessment of the evidence, and gather more where necessary, to establish if any of the officers may have breached police professional standards in relation to duties and responsibilities.

The areas relevant to the IOPC's investigation will include: the quality and accuracy of the information provided by West Midlands Police to the Safety Advisory Group, particularly that provided on the 24 October 2025; the use of AI for the purpose of obtaining intelligence for inclusion in the report; consideration of the record keeping, or lack of, by individual officers; and the assertions made about the consultation with local Jewish community groups.

I welcome the apology that has been provided by the Acting Chief Constable on behalf of West Midlands Police, that I know he will want to repeat today.

We await the outcome of the Home Affairs Committee Report, that is expected in February.

The Acting Chief Constable and I have already met on 5 occasions, to discuss the actions that the force must take to re-build trust and confidence, including addressing the significant matters identified in the letter from HMIC.

We are committed to working together, to prevent and tackle crime, bring offenders to justice, promote the rights and welfare of victims and ensure the safety and security of the people and communities of the West Midlands.

I am looking forward to hearing from the Acting Chief Constable, in connection with the plans he has as part of Operation Strive. The strategic aim of Operation Strive will be to restore the trust and confidence that the public have in West Midlands Police and learn the lessons from how the force responded to the fixture. Acting Chief Constable Green is taking personal responsibility for this operation as the Gold Commander.

That is essential, because without trust and confidence in our police force, it is not possible to ensure that policing is with the consent of the people or to have an effective and efficient police force. Acting Chief Constable Green will be updating us on the objectives and detail within Operation Strive during the course of the meeting.

However, one of my statutory duties is to hold the Chief Constable and West Midlands Police to account, on behalf of the people who have elected me - and that is the primary purpose of today's Board.

Part of the process that is required, if trust and confidence is to be re-built, is for WMP not only to be held to account, but to be seen to be held to account. The HMIC process is of course important. However, it is a national body. The HASC is of course important. However, it sits in Westminster and no West Midlands MPs sit on it. Today is about local democratic accountability and local democratic accountability matters.

WMP must acknowledge with candour the significant concerns and shortcomings that have been laid bare in recent weeks.

WMP must confront and face up to the significant concerns and shortcomings that have been laid bare in recent weeks.

WMP must identify, understand and take ownership of the significant concerns and shortcomings that have been laid bare in recent weeks.

That has caused harm to West Midlands Police as an organisation. But more importantly, it has caused harm to the people and communities that it exists to serve.

On 8 December, I requested West Midlands Police to prepare a report to my Accountability and Governance Board today. That request set out 41 questions for the Force to answer. That Report has been published on my website and is before the Board today.

As a consequence of the referrals that have now been made to the IOPC in connection with the Chief Constable and other officers, I understand there will be some matters in connection with which it might not be possible for WMP to provide full and frank answers, so as not to prejudice the IOPC investigation.

I am also mindful that I am the Appropriate Authority in relation to the former Chief Constable; my role in connection with any disciplinary proceedings that might follow; and the need not to prejudice any ongoing investigation.

However, please rest assured I will be putting as many questions and raising as many concerns as I am able to do in the time available. I have many questions that I intend to put to the Acting Chief Constable. I would therefore ask that the answers provided are concise, so as to ensure we are able to address all of the relevant matters of concern.

Concluding Comments

In conclusion:

The following Actions will follow from this Agenda Item:

My Team and I will identify all of the matters arising from this Agenda Item and we will follow up on them

I remain committed to the implementation of my Police and Crime Plan

I will continue to hold WMP to account, with particular reference to the matters that we have discussed today – and that includes ensuring that Operation Strive is fit for purpose and is implemented.

I will also work with the Acting Chief Constable and WMP in connection with re-building trust and confidence and our many other common aims and objectives

I will be commencing an extensive and wide-ranging process for recruitment of a Chief Constable.

I will consider and respond to the HASC Report that is expected to be published in February

I will consider and respond to the final HMIC Report that is expected to be published in the Summer

We will identify any action that is required following the publication of those 2 Reports

I will continue to co-operate with the IOPC investigation and deal with any matters that arise from that

I will continue as I always have done, my extensive and wide-ranging programme of community engagement across the West Midlands.