

**AT THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS
POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD AT THE CIVIC
SUITE, SOLIHULL ON MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER
2012 AT 1330 HOURS**

PRESENT:-

Birmingham

Councillor R Alden (Alternate)
Councillor Jess Phillips
Councillor Paula Smith

Coventry

Councillor S Bains
Councillor G Duggins (Alternate)

Dudley

Councillor Safeena Arshad
Councillor Judy Foster (Alternate)

Sandwell

Councillor D Cooper (Chairman)

Solihull

Councillor K Meeson

Wolverhampton

Councillor E Mattu (Alternate)

Co-opted Independent Members

Mr N Drew
Mr L Walker

APOLOGIES

1 Apologies were submitted on behalf of the following: -

Councillor Z Ali - Walsall
Councillor M Bird - Walsall
Councillor R Lawrence – Wolverhampton
Councillor J Mutton – Coventry
Councillor T Oliver - Walsall
Councillor D Sparks - Dudley
Councillor M Whitby – Birmingham

Apologies for lateness were submitted on behalf of Mr N Drew.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2 The following declarations of interest were made:-

Councillor Phillips - non-pecuniary interest as an employee of Sandwell Women's Aid.

Councillor Foster – non-pecuniary interest as Bob Jones' agent during the Police and Crime Commissioner election.

Councillor Meeson – non-pecuniary interest as a lay member of the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Lionel Walker – non-pecuniary interest as an employee of the Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust.

MINUTES

3 The Minutes of the Shadow West Midlands Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 29 October 2012, having been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Bob Jones, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, attended to answer the Panel's questions about his plans and priorities for the forthcoming year. During the discussion, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) made the following points:-

- His first decision since taking office had been to announce the cessation of the controversial Business Partnering for Policing Programme. He wanted to ensure that operational staff were under the control of, and accountable to, the Chief Constable, not private sector managers. With that objective, a Task Force would be established by the Chief Constable to work on a technology-driven solution to improve service delivery, which would report back to the PCC in January 2013.
- That day, he had launched a campaign for a Fair Deal for Policing in the West Midlands. His aim was to end the compulsory retirement of police officers after 30 years' pensionable service and to restart police recruitment. In order to achieve this, the Chancellor, in his autumn statement, would need to ensure that there were no further cuts in funding for West Midlands Police, and that the funding formula and "grant damping" were more fairly applied. He invited the Panel to support his campaign.
- In order to ensure that the Policing Plan was responsive to local needs, he was examining the possibility of establishing local policing boards to drive the activity of the local policing units (LPUs).

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- He aimed to hold a Victims' Summit to ensure that victims felt confident about the police response to crime.
- He hoped that his success would be measured by how the community felt about policing, and reflected in a higher turnout at the next PCC elections.
- He acknowledged that the government funding allocation to support the Panel was inadequate, but confirmed that he had no plans to divert his administrative staff to support the Panel's work.
- With regard to his proposals for local policing boards, he hoped that they would comprise local councillors, victims and representatives of small businesses. Their role would be to set a Policing Plan to drive the activities of the LPU. They would also have a consultative function and hold the LPU to account. The Boards would be led by the community, not by his officers, and should not therefore be viewed as introducing another tier of bureaucracy.
- Although he would be covering a wide and diverse geographical area, only one Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC) could be appointed under statute. He aimed to establish a Strategic Board with representation from each area/city in the West Midlands, and would also take advantage of the Panel's expertise to establish local links.
- He hoped to establish a cooperative relationship with the Panel and involve it in pre-scrutiny of major decisions. His aim was to achieve consensus so that decisions were representative of the whole community, not vested interests.
- The timetable for agreement of the Police and Crime Plan, and precept, was dependent upon the police settlement, which would be announced on 19 December 2013. He hoped to be in a position to present his proposals to the Panel's meeting in January 2013.
- He had selected Yvonne Mosquito as his proposed appointee for DPCC, as they already had a close working relationship and she complemented his skills set. He had announced his choice of running-mate early in the election campaign, as he had felt that it was an important part of the democratic process. He possessed analytical skills, whereas Yvonne Mosquito was a well-known community campaigner who had empathy with residents. He would be delegating some functions to his deputy, and would report these to a future Panel meeting.
- He acknowledged that working with the diverse communities across the West Midlands would be challenging. A Trust and Confidence Summit was planned, and he would investigate the possibility of establishing independent advisory groups to examine specific issues, for example, stop and search techniques. He intended to consult young people, the BME community etc. on how they wished to be engaged in his work.
- He confirmed that the DPCC's salary would be £65,000 per annum, for a nominal 32-hour week.

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RESOLVED:-

That the points made during discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following report of the Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

5

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the indicative work programme be noted; and
 - (ii) that the potential issues for Member briefings be noted.
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CONFIRMATORY HEARING – DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Councillor Yvonne Mosquito, the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed appointee for Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC), attended the meeting to receive questions from the Panel as part of the Confirmation Hearing. The Panel took into consideration the following information provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC):-

(See document No. 2)

In response to questions from the Panel, Councillor Mosquito made the following points:-

- She had been involved in policing for 16 years, working with communities to ensure that their concerns were relayed to the Chief Constable. She was a past Vice Chairman of the West Midlands Police Authority.
- She had been a Birmingham City Councillor for 16 years, and managed that commitment together with full-time employment. She intended to relinquish her employment in order to take up the DPCC role, and might have to consider relinquishing the Chairmanship of Ladywood District Committee the following year. If there was any conflict between her commitments as a City Councillor and DPCC, they would be discussed with the PCC.
- Any difference of opinion with the PCC would be resolved in private.
- Examples of the community campaigns with which she had been involved included the death of 3 young men on Dudley Road, Winson Green during the 2011 riots, when she had emailed all Birmingham City Councillors to warn them of the sensitivity of the issue. Following the shooting of Letisha Shakespeare and Charlene Ellis, she had met with their families to discuss how they might best liaise with the police, the media and the City Council. She was a past General Secretary of the Standing Consultative Forum, which

comprised representatives from all faith organisations in Birmingham, and was a body with which she felt the PCC could re-establish meaningful consultative links.

- In order to engage with stakeholders and local communities, she would build on existing community organisations and encourage them to discuss their concerns collectively, rather than in separate forums.
- She would be guided by the PCC in terms of his vision for the commissioning of local services. Her principal objective was to make the West Midlands a safe area for its citizens.
- In relation to gang crime, she would engage with existing organisations working with gangs and seek their views as to how the problem could be tackled effectively.
- The West Midlands Police service was currently facing significant challenges, particularly in relation to budget cuts, and the campaign for a Fair Deal for Policing in the region had been launched that day. Working with the PCC, an innovative approach would be adopted, which, in her view, would lead to significant change. The health authorities, probation service, faith organisations, young people and residents were all stakeholders whose views would be taken into account when drawing up the Police and Crime Plan.
- She would take advantage of her dual role as a Birmingham City Councillor and DPCC to ensure that local priorities were reflected in the Police and Crime Plan. However, she wanted to be seen as representative of the West Midlands region, not Birmingham alone.
- She was aware that there were some aspects of policing where her knowledge was limited, but knew that she could rely upon support from the Chief Executive and Secretariat of the PCC's office, as well as officers from the 7 West Midland District Councils. She was particularly keen to expand upon her knowledge of the use of information technology and social media to tackle crime.
- After one year in post, she would like to think that she had been a good deputy, and helped to strengthen the relationship between communities and the police.
- She felt that Bob Jones was the best candidate for PCC in the West Midlands in terms of his experience and humility, and she had been privileged to be selected as his running-mate. They would not take politically-motivated decisions in relation to the police service.

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RESOLVED:-

That the responses to the Panel's questions be noted.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

7

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:-

Panel Deliberation and Decision – Exempt information paragraph 1
