

**Minutes of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel  
held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

**Webcast**

A webcast of this meeting is also available at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWKSUNmlcwc>

**Present:**

**Members of the Panel**

**Councillors:**

Richard Chattaway	Warwickshire County Council (replacing Councillor June Tandy for this meeting)
Michael Coker	Warwick District Council
Nicola Davies	Warwickshire County Council
Peter Fowler	Warwickshire County Council
Phillip Morris-Jones	Warwickshire County Council
Dave Parsons	North Warwickshire Borough Council (replacing Councillor Peter Morson for this meeting)
Derek Poole	Rugby Borough Council

**Co-opted Independent members**

Bob Malloy  
Robin Verso (Vice-Chair)

**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Ron Ball	Police and Crime Commissioner
Eric Wood	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Neil Hewison	Chief Executive
Robert Phillips	Deputy Treasurer

**Warwickshire and West Mercia Strategic Alliance**

Richard Elkin	Director of Enabling Services
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**Warwickshire County Council Officers**

Georgina Atkinson	Democratic Services Team Leader
John Betts	Head of Finance
Phil Evans	Head of Localities and Community Safety
Sarah Duxbury	Head of Law and Governance

**Members of the public**

Chris Cade	Community Safety Ambassador
Julie A'Barrow	Community Safety Ambassador

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**1. General**

**(1) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Jenny Fradgley (Warwickshire County Council), Councillor Dennis Harvey (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council), Councillor Peter Morson (North Warwickshire Borough Council), Councillor Gillian Roache (Stratford upon Avon District Council), and Councillor June Tandy (Warwickshire County Council).

**(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Sarah Duxbury, Head of Law and Governance, declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to Item 3, 'Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2014'; the nature of the interest being that Warwickshire County Council had provided legal services to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

**(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

The Police and Crime Panel agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014 be signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

With regard to Item 6, 'Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure', Sarah Duxbury advised that the Terms of Reference remained as drafted, in accordance with the legislation.

**2. Public Question Time**

There were no questions from the public on this occasion. The Police and Crime Panel requested that its meetings were promoted as widely as possible to encourage public participation.

**3. Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2014**

Ron Ball, Police and Crime Commissioner, provided the Police and Crime Panel with an outline of the key highlights and achievements included in his draft Annual Report 2014. In summary, the Commissioner reported that the performance of Warwickshire Police was positive, with a 9 to 12 per cent reduction in traditional crime types, and that the Strategic Alliance was in a strong financial position to mitigate forthcoming increased budget pressures. He explained that the report was for both key bodies and members of the public; therefore, it was important to strike the right balance with the content. He welcomed the Police and Crime Panel to comment and make suggestions in respect of the draft document.

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The Panel commented that the report would benefit from an outcomes-focused approach and include reference to tangible achievements. There was also some concern expressed that as the report was long and detailed, it may have little public appeal.

Members of the Police and Crime Panel asked a number of questions as set out below.

- 1) Councillor Chattaway requested detail on the outcomes of the extensive range of meetings that had been undertaken by the Commissioner throughout the year, as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

Neil Hewison, Chief Executive, explained that the meetings demonstrated one opportunity for public communication with the Commissioner and that significant letters, emails and phone calls were also made to the OPCC. The outcome of meetings and correspondence was reflected in the body of the report, in terms of decisions made and priorities.

- 2) The Chair asked the Commissioner to explain his role in addressing the 25 per cent increase in the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in Road Traffic Collisions.

The Commissioner explained that an increase in the number of cyclists on the road was thought to be a key factor and that the Chief Constable would be tasked to investigate the increase in KSI in greater depth and advise what approach Warwickshire Police will take to address the issue. He added that to date, there had not been a statistically significant link identified between increased incidents and the Council Council's Part-Night Street Lighting Policy.

- 3) The Chair referred to the revision of the Alliance's performance framework and asked whether this would be shared with the Police and Crime Panel.

In response, the Commissioner explained that Warwickshire Police was currently identifying methods to measure performance, without a heavy reliance on target-setting and that the new framework would be shared with the Panel, once finalised. It was noted that the Panel's Planning and Performance Working Group would, with assistance from the OPCC, develop a performance framework for the Panel to hold the Commissioner to account, which may need to draw on the police performance framework.

- 4) With regard to the Priority Policing Area teams, Bob Malloy requested clarification on how the resourcing of these teams had been affected by the new policing model.

The Commissioner advised that the deployment of officers was a responsibility of the Chief Constable; however, it was his understanding that there had not been a reduction in provision to priority areas. Neil Hewison added that Operation X was subject to a review by the Chief Constable, which would include whether the current approach was

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achieving all of the required outcomes. The Police and Crime Panel requested that a report on the outcome of the Operation X review be presented at a future meeting.

- 5) Bob Malloy queried the 'End of Year Finance Report 2013/14' section which demonstrated a 2014/15 decrease by 6.28 per cent in Protective Services, compared to a 4.81 per cent increase in Enabling Services.

Rob Phillips, Deputy Treasurer explained that a number of budgets had been centralised into Enabling Services from 2014/15 and therefore the year-on-year comparison was not accurate. He agreed that the way the information had been presented in the report could be misinterpreted by the public and agreed to amend the table.

- 6) Councillor Parsons queried the divisional disparity in the allocation of grants to the Community Safety Partnerships in 2013/14, particularly between North and South Warwickshire.

Members were advised that all bids were subject to a rigorous assessment process and were awarded on the strength of the application and supporting evidence. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner explained that the allocation of grants was a two-stage process: the first stage involved the evaluation of bids from community organisations which were locally driven and were required to demonstrate evidence against the Strategic Assessment; and the second stage involved the assessment of bids submitted by the Community Safety Partnerships against the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan. Together, these formed the Commissioner's Community Safety Grants Scheme. He added that a total £1.2 million had been allocated for 2014/15, of which North Warwickshire had received a further £28,500.

- 7) Councillor Morris-Jones requested confirmation of the Commissioner's approach to addressing the apparent under-reporting of business crime.

In response, the Commissioner explained that police discretion regarding crime recording was becoming increasingly restrictive and that he was confident that, given that business crime was one of his key priorities, it was now being accurately recorded in Warwickshire. The Commissioner regularly attended meetings of the Federation of Small Businesses to seek the views of the business community.

- 8) Councillor Fowler asked the Commissioner to clarify what measures were being addressed to tackle rural crime on a long-term basis.

Members were advised that the Commissioner was a member of the Rural Crime Network that had been established by a number of Commissioners to identify methods and best practice approach to tackle rural crime. He would also explore the possibility of recruiting volunteers within the rural community to be his 'eyes and ears' and report information to the Commissioner regarding local issues.

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- 9) Councillor Fowler asked a question regarding the key messages that had been reported by the Community Safety Ambassadors (CSAs) and whether the Commissioner had identified anything unanticipated.

The Commissioner said that he had received a set of reports from the CSAs which he felt confident were both independent and accurate and also provided necessary additional information to complement police intelligence and reports. He had accepted criticism regarding the launch of the CSAs and agreed that greater clarity regarding their role was required. The Chair requested that the issues raised by the Panel, in respect of the role of CSAs, be included in the report regarding the outcome of the CSA scheme review, which was due to be presented to the Panel on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

- 10) Councillor Davies requested clarification regarding the role of the Alliance Governance Group and whether it was fit-for-purpose and delivered the right decisions for Warwickshire residents.

In response, the Commissioner stated that he was confident that the Alliance Governance Group was adequate and that he was able to successfully influence and represent Warwickshire needs at that level. He provided members with an example of a recent decision that had been taken by the Group, that had resulted in Leek Wootton retaining its control centre. In response to a further question from the Panel, the Commissioner advised that Warwickshire Police was an independent body in a collaboration arrangement and that the success of the Alliance did not signal an intention of a merger. Although resources were proportionately allocated with a 69:31 (West Mercia:Warwickshire) split, the decision making was 50:50, which had ensured that Warwickshire was in a strong position in the Alliance.

- 11) Councillor Morris-Jones asked a question regarding the provision of medical care equipment in custody suites.

The Panel was informed that the Life Signs monitoring equipment was not currently in use at the Leamington site; however, the OPCC received regular reports from the Independent Custody Visiting (ICVs) which were followed up rigorously and any issues identified were raised with the police. The Panel requested that the Chairs of the ICVs be invited to a future meeting to share their views and experiences with the Panel.

- 12) Councillor Coker pointed out that there was a reported low conversion rate for persons arrested for domestic abuse being subsequently prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

The Panel was advised that the HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) report had judged Warwickshire to be in a positive position with regard to dealing with domestic abuse; however, further work was required and a detailed report with recommendations was being developed. The Chief Executive added that addressing Domestic Violence

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was included in the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2013-17, with a focus on improving police performance. The Panel requested that the report and recommendations be presented at a future meeting.

- 13) Councillor Davies pointed out that in Warwickshire, only 6 per cent of rapes resulted in a charge or caution and that the national average was 18 per cent. She asked the Commissioner to explain the reasons for the underperformance. She also asked how officers were trained to deal with rape incidents and what confidence and support they provided to the victims to progress the prosecution process.

The Commissioner explained that he had a good working relationship with Warwickshire County Council's Sexual Violence liaison officer, who had not reported any particular issues that were unique to Warwickshire; however, he agreed that Warwickshire's performance against the 18 per cent national average was a concern and that the Chief Constable would be tasked to examine the key issues and reasons for the level of performance. The Panel requested information on this, once available.

The Chair thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Annual Report 2014.

The Police and Crime Panel agreed to:

- 1) Note the report and make the following recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner, in respect of the draft Annual Report 2014:
  - i) That the 'Warwickshire Police Performance' section include greater detail regarding performance and crime statistics; and
  - ii) That the 'End of Year Finance Report 2013/14' section provides greater clarity to avoid the misinterpretation of year-on-year budget comparisons.
- 2) Request that a report on the outcome of the review of Operation X be presented at a future meeting;
- 3) Request that the issues raised by the Panel, in respect of the role of CSAs, be included in the report regarding the outcome of the CSA scheme review, on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014;
- 4) Request that the Chairs of the ICVs be invited to a future meeting to share their views and experiences with the Panel;
- 5) Request that the report and recommendations to improve police performance and increase prosecutions in respect of Domestic Abuse be presented at a future meeting; and

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- 6) Request that a report on the reasons for Warwickshire's apparent low performance, when compared to the national average, in the number of reported rapes resulting in a charge or caution be presented at a future meeting.

**4. Joint Property Vehicle**

Richard Elkin, Director of Enabling Services (Warwickshire and West Mercia Strategic Alliance), provided the Panel with an outline of the development of the Joint Property Vehicle (JPV), a single property unit that would take on all property and estate management responsibilities for a number of public sector bodies in the Warwickshire and West Mercia areas. The JPV would be a Publicly Owned Company, owned by its member bodies, which would deliver anticipated benefits to the public by enhanced service provision and to the public bodies through reduced costs.

It was reported that the Police and Crime Commissioners for both areas, supported by the two Chief Constables, had recently agreed to participate in the production of a Full Business Case (FBC) for the establishment of the JPV. Richard Elkin provided a summary of the three key workstreams that had been identified to address issues and potential complications that had been raised by the police. The FBC was on track for completion by October 2014 and, if successful, it was anticipated that the JPV would be launched in April 2015.

In response a question raised, the Panel was advised that Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police already had shared property management arrangements in place and that the JPV would be an extension of this to include local authorities, health bodies and other public sector organisations. Each partner in the JPV would retain ownership of its properties and full sovereignty in terms of decision-making regarding the use of those properties. Warwickshire County Council was not currently a proposed partner in the JPV.

The Panel raised a number of issues regarding sovereignty of the partners and service delivery. Richard Elkin provided assurance that the issues raised by members were those that had been identified and were being addressed via the three workstreams as part of the FBC process.

With regard to potential vested interests, members were advised that future governance and decision-making of the JPV would be via a representative body comprised of all of the partners; therefore, priorities for the JPV, in terms of estate management, would be set by the partners.

The Chair pointed out that the Ministry of Justice had a similar approach to estate management at present which had delivered a questionable service in terms of quality and responsiveness. Richard Elkin advised that it was his understanding that the Ministry of Justice arrangement was through a privately owned company, whereas the JPV would be publicly owned and

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governed by each of the public sector partners; therefore, it would have different priorities in terms of estate management.

The Police and Crime Panel agreed to note the report and asked the Commissioner to explore whether the Full Business Case could be shared with the Panel prior to final decisions being made.

### **5. Work Programme 2014/15**

The Police and Crime Panel considered the Work Programme 2014/15 and updated Recommendations and Actions document.

Georgina Atkinson, Democratic Services Team Leader, reported that the first meeting of the Planning and Performance Working Group had been scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a framework for monitoring the performance of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the delivery of priorities in the Police and Crime Plan 2013-17.

The Police and Crime Panel:

- 1) Agreed the updated Work Programme for 2014/15;
- 2) Noted the update on recommendations and actions previously requested by the Panel;
- 3) Agreed to seek representation at the rescheduled conference event on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014;
- 4) Noted the update on its Task and Finish / Working Groups; and
- 5) Request that information and data regarding Road Traffic Collisions involving cyclists, and extenuating factors, be presented at a future meeting.

### **6. Urgent Items**

Councillor Morris-Jones requested information on how the Police complaints system is currently working with data on volume and outcomes of complaints. The Commissioner undertook to provide this to future meeting of the Panel.

### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The Police and Crime Panel noted that the date of the next meeting had been scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014, commencing 10.00 a.m. at North Warwickshire Borough Council, Atherstone.



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**8. Report Containing Confidential or Exempt Information**

The Police and Crime Panel noted that as there had not been any complaints for its attention since the last meeting, there was nothing to discuss for this item and therefore there was no need to exclude the press and public.

The meeting rose at 12:40 pm

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Chairman