

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel**Monday 11 September 2023 at 14:00 hours****Sandwell Council Chamber, Freeth Street, Oldbury, Sandwell, B69 3DE**

This meeting will be livestreamed on the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council meeting portal
<https://civico.net/sandwell>

More information about the Panel, including meeting papers and reports, can be found on the Panel website
www.westmidlandspcp.org.uk

Contact Officer: Sarah Fradgley email: wmpcp@birmingham.gov.uk Tel: 07927 665 829

AGENDA

Supporting Document	Item	Topic	Approximate time
	1	NOTICE OF RECORDING This meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast and members of the press/public may record the meeting. The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.	14:00
	2	APOLOGIES	
	3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY) Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation. If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest. Information on declaring interests at meetings is available on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct .	
Attached	4	MINUTES To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2023.	14:02

Supporting Document	Item	Topic	Approximate time
Attached	5	MINUTES OF CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER To confirm the Minutes of the Confirmation Hearing held on 17 July 2023.	14:05
Attached	6	POLICE AND CRIME PANEL ACTION TRACKER To consider the progress of actions arising from previous meetings.	14:07
	7	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To receive questions from members of the public notified to the Panel in advance of the meeting. Any member of the public who lives, works, or studies in the West Midlands (other than police officers and police staff) can ask a question at the meeting about the Panel's role and responsibilities. Questions must be submitted in writing 4 days before the meeting to wmppc@birmingham.gov.uk	14:10
Attached	8	UPDATE TO PANEL ARRANGMENTS Report of Lead Panel Officer seeking approval of an amendment to the Panel Arrangements document to reflect the increase in independent members.	14:40
Attached	9	DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN: ROAD SAFETY Report of Police and Crime Commissioner setting out delivery of Police and Crime Plan objectives relating to road safety.	14:50
Attached	10	POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE AND KEY DECISIONS To receive a verbal update from the Police and Crime Commissioner and consider his recently published key decisions.	15:35
Attached	11	POLICE AND CRIME PANEL WORK PROGRAMME Report of the Lead Panel Officer	15:55
	12	URGENT BUSINESS To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.	16:00

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON MONDAY 17 JULY 2023 AT 14:00 HOURS – WOLVERHAMPTON

PRESENT: -

CLlr Shabina Bano – Birmingham City Council
CLlr Heather Delaney – Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
CLlr Sabina Ditta – Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
CLlr Alan Feeney – Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
CLlr Sam Forsyth – Birmingham City Council
CLlr Jasbir Jaspal – City of Wolverhampton Council
CLlr Syeda Khatun – Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
CLlr Ed Lawrence – Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
CLlr Garry Perry – Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
CLlr Tersaim Singh – City of Wolverhampton Council
Adele Brown – Independent Panel Member (Appointed member from minute 731)

ALSO PRESENT: -

Simon Foster – West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
Jonathan Jardine – Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Sarah Fradgley – Panel Scrutiny Officer, Birmingham City Council
Amelia Wiltshire – Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Birmingham City Council
Kevin O’Keefe – Chief Executive Dudley Metropolitan Council, Lead Member (online)

724 NOTICE OF RECORDING

It was announced that the meeting would be livestreamed and recorded for subsequent broadcast via the Wolverhampton Council’s Public-I meeting portal and that members of the press and public could record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

725 APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Derek French (prospective Independent Panel Member), CLlr Abdul Khan (Coventry), CLlr Gareth Moore (Birmingham) and Kristina Murphy (Independent Panel Member).

726 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Nominations were invited by Amelia Wiltshire for the position of Chair of the Police and Crime Panel. One candidate was nominated and following a unanimous vote by members present, it was: -

RESOLVED: -

That Councillor Jasbir Jaspal be appointed Chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the period ending with the Panel Annual Meeting in 2024.

COUNCILLOR JASPAL IN THE CHAIR

727 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Nominations were invited by the Chair for the position of Vice-Chair of the Police and Crime Panel. One candidate was nominated and following a unanimous vote by members present, it was: -

RESOLVED: -

That Kristina Murphy, Independent Panel Member be appointed Vice-Chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for the period ending with the Panel Annual Meeting in 2024.

728 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

729 POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2023/2024

The list of appointments made by the West Midlands local authorities and the West Midlands Met Leaders group for 2023/2024 was submitted and the following changes made to the Birmingham City Council appointments reported at the meeting:

- Cllr Bano appointed to replace Cllr Scott, and Cllr Aziz appointed as her substitute member.
- Cllr Goodwin appointed as substitute member for Cllr Forsyth.

RESOLVED: -

That the amended list of appointments to the Police and Crime Panel for 2023/2024 Municipal Year be noted.

730 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PANEL MEMBERS

Members considered the report of the Panel Lead Officer reporting the outcome of the recent recruitment exercise for independent panel members.

It was reported that since publication of the meeting papers, the Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire had agreed to the Panel's request to co-opt a third independent member. As such, recommendation b) in the report was amended to suggest the Panel appoint both candidates with immediate effect.

RESOLVED: -

- i. **That Adele Brown be appointed to fill the vacant independent member position on the Panel for a period of four years, commencing on 17 July 2023 and ending in May 2027; and**
- ii. **That Derek French be appointed to fill the third and additional independent member position on the Panel for a period of four years, commencing on 17 July 2023 and ending in May 2027.**

731 PANEL ARRANGEMENTS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

RESOLVED: -

That the Panel Arrangements and Panel Rules of Procedure documents be noted.

732 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: -

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

733 ACTION TACKER

The meeting noted the four outstanding actions from 2022/2023 Municipal Year. The Panel secretariat undertook to liaise with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to agree a reporting schedule for actions 620, 693ii and 698iii.

In response to action 710iii, the Commissioner advised he had raised the issue about the extent views of local neighbourhood teams were incorporated in WMP responses to licensing and planning application consultations. At the 25 April 2023 Strategic Policing and Crime Board the Chief Constable had explained WMP specialist officers within the licensing team did communicate with neighbourhood policing teams but requests from neighbourhood policing teams for licences to be reviewed or revoked had to be considered in the context of legislation.

RESOLVED: -

- i. That the information reported on outstanding action 710iii be noted; and**
- ii. The Panel Secretariat and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner finalise reporting dates for outstanding actions 620, 693ii and 698iii.**

734 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions were submitted.

735 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN: PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

The Commissioner introduced the report and outlined his statutory responsibilities and the key priorities and principles within his Police and Crime Plan. Jonathan Jardine, OPCC Chief Executive described the three types of performance metrics contained within the Police and Crime Plan (specific targets, direction of travel metrics, plus monitoring metrics). He clarified that references in the report that a measure was currently being developed by WMP indicated that the force was collating a range of data into a format that matched to the police and crime plan metric.

Members noted areas of positive progress in performance. Including police officer recruitment, some improvement in outcome rates for rape and serious sexual offences, new initiatives making a positive impact on 999 and 101 call waiting times and abandoned calls performance and the fall in number of assaults on the police. The meeting was assured of the increased use of civil protection orders to manage and prevent domestic abuse cases.

The Commissioner confirmed the 256 net increase of police officers deployed to neighbourhood policing and explained the allocation of officers across the West Midlands was an operational decision of the Chief Constable.

The meeting discussed areas where performance improvements remained challenging. Concern was expressed that the West Midlands had that highest rate in the country of recorded firearm offences and the number of under-25 hospital admissions from a bladed weapon. The Commissioner expressed his support for work by the James Brindley Foundation and he highlighted the Violence Reduction Unit's education programme and the network of weapon surrender bins across the West Midlands.

It was noted that number of PCSOs was below the 464 police and crime plan target that was in part attributed to PCSOs recruited to police officer positions under the National Uplift programme. The meeting was advised that PCSO numbers were not expected to improve quickly due to wider budget challenges.

The OPCC reported that it had received assurance that the 7% police officer and staff pay increase from 1 September 2023 would be funded centrally. The Commissioner undertook to provide further data on the diversity of West Midlands Police force and the Uplift recruitment programme.

Members noted the significant increase in theft of motor vehicles, at a higher rate of increase compared to similar areas of the country thought linked to local organised crime and a concentration of scrap metal and motor trade spare parts markets. It was an ongoing focus for policing and enforcement activity.

Responding to further questions, the Commissioner spoke of his commitment to tackle criminal and anti-social use of the roads and lead a review of the Road Safety Strategy for the West Midlands due to launch in September. He supported the increase the number of average speed cameras and calls for the retention of enforcement fines and he referred to discussions with all districts to establish a joint enforcement protocol. The Panel asked for further analysis into the reason for the fall in the number of vehicle seizures compared to the 2019 baseline.

RESOLVED: -

- i. The update on the progress towards key objectives within the Police and Crime Plan be noted;**
- ii. The Police and Crime Commissioner be requested to provide the Panel with additional data on the diversity of West Midlands Police and the National Uplift police officer recruitment; and**
- iii. The Police and Crime Commissioner be requested to provide the Panel will analysis into the reason for the reported reduction in the number of vehicle seizures.**

736 PUBLIC CONFIDENCE INQUIRY: WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US?

Introducing the report, the Commissioner provided an analysis of the circumstances contributing to the fall in public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system over the past decade.

Reference was made to the Crime Survey of England data showing confidence in West Midlands Police remained lower than the England and Wales average and at a comparable rate to the MET and Greater Manchester.

The Commissioner described how WMP conducted surveys following contact to gather service satisfaction and victim satisfaction data. Satisfaction data on force contact and Stop and Search experiences was generally good and there was an increased take up of the WMNOW interactive communication channel.

The Commissioner assured the meeting of his commitment to hold the force to account on continuous improvement. He believed trust and confidence would grow as a result of the range of new initiatives including the implementation of the new neighbourhood policing operational model, establishment of his Public Accountability Forum, specific areas of work such as the focus on violence against women and girls, and new community initiative to engage young people to reduce violence.

RESOLVED: -

That the content of the report be noted.

737 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER KEY DECISIONS

The Commissioner introduced the report listing the recent key decisions.

RESOLVED: -

That the recent key decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner be noted.

738 PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024

The Panel considered its outline work programme that scheduled its statutory duties. Building on an initial discussion with the secretariat, panel members agreed to explore the following topics and asked the secretariat to liaise with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to agree timescales:

- Information briefing on the New Neighbourhood Policing Operational Model.
- Information briefing on the Drug Strategy, to include how it links to the Harm to Hope initiative.
- Road Safety be considered at the 11 September 2023 panel meeting.

Panel members agreed to send a standing invitation to the Chief Constable to attend future Police and Crime Panel meetings.

RESOLVED:-

- I. That subject to further input from the Chair and Vice Chair, road safety be added the Panel work programme for 11 September 2023;**
- II. That the Police and Crime Commissioner be requested facilitate information briefings for Panel Members on the new Neighbourhood Policing Operational Model and the strategy to reduce drug harm; and**
- III. A standing invitation be sent to the Chief Constable to attend future Police and Crime Panel meetings.**

739 MEETING DATES FOR THE 2023/2024 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED: -

That the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel meet on the following dates at 14:00hrs:

- 11 September 2023 – Sandwell Council House
- 13 November 2023 – Walsall Council House
- 15 January 2024 – Venue TBC
- 5 February 2024 – Birmingham City Council
- 19 February 2024 (Provisional date if precept veto)
- 18 March 2024 – Venue TBC

The meeting ended at 15:50 hours.

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CHAIR

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER CONFIRMATION HEARING HELD ON 17 JULY 2023 AT 16:10 HOURS – CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL CIVIC CENTRE

PRESENT: -

Cllr Shabina Bano – Birmingham City Council
Cllr Heather Delaney – Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Sabina Ditta – Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Alan Feeney – Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Sam Forsyth – Birmingham City Council
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal – City of Wolverhampton Council
Cllr Syeda Khatun – Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Ed Lawrence – Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Garry Perry – Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Tersaim Singh – City of Wolverhampton Council
Adele Brown – Independent Panel Member

ALSO PRESENT: -

Jane Heppel – Preferred candidate for position of Chief Finance Officer
Simon Foster - West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
Jonathan Jardine - Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Amelia Wiltshire - Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Birmingham City Council
Sarah Fradgley - Panel Scrutiny Officer, Birmingham City Council

740 NOTICE OF RECORDING

The Chair announced that the meeting would be livestreamed and recorded for subsequent broadcast via the City of Wolverhampton meeting portal and that members of the press and public could record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

741 APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Derek French (Independent Panel Member), Cllr Abdul Khan (Coventry), Cllr Gareth Moore (Birmingham), and Kristina Murphy (Independent Panel Member).

742 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

743 CONFIRMATION HEARING

The Panel received and noted the following reports:

- Report of the Panel Lead Officer setting out the confirmation hearing procedure.

- Report of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner on his proposed appointment of Chief Finance Officer, including his formal notification to the Panel.

The Police and Crime Commissioner presented his report containing the information he was required to provide to the Panel under Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. He reflected on the recruitment and selection process that included a stakeholder panel, and outlined how he considered Mrs Jane Heppel met the criteria for the post of Chief Finance Officer.

Panel Members then asked Mrs Heppel a range of questions on a variety of topics to enable them to evaluate her professional competence, personal independence and her suitability for the role.

In response to questions, Mrs Heppel summarised her experience and knowledge she would bring to the role. She outlined her understanding of the significant financial challenges within policing and how she would seek to engage with key stakeholders. She provided reassurance as to how she intended to support the Commissioner to set a budget and deliver the Police and Crime Plan objectives whilst maintaining her professional independence. Mrs Heppel also spoke of her previous experience as a mentor and welcomed the opportunity to inspire a younger generation of women to enter the field of finance and accounting.

At the end of questioning, the Chair thanked Mrs Heppel for answering Members' questions and announced that in accordance with Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Panel would go into private session to deliberate and determine a report and recommendation to the Commissioner on the appointment.

RESOLVED: -

- i. **That the confirmation hearing process set out in the Lead Officer report be noted;**
- ii. **That the Panel conduct the confirmation hearing for the post of chief finance officer;**
- iii. **The information provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the proposed appointment, and by the preferred candidate in response to questions during the hearing be considered; and**
- iv. **A report incorporating the Panel's recommendation on the appointment be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner no later than 18 July 2023.**

744 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: -

That public be excluded from the meeting in accordance Paragraph 1. Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted that includes exempt information relating to an individual.

745 PUBLIC MINUTE OF CLOSED SESSION: DETERMINATION OF WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER OF THE WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Panel considered the information provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner as to Mrs Heppel's suitability for the position of Chief Finance Officer. Members were assured that a fair and transparent process had been conducted and the successful candidate was selected on merit.

Panel members carefully considered the responses provided by Ms Heppel to their questions and concluded that she possessed the professional competence and demonstrated the personal independence to undertake the role.

On a vote the Panel agreed unanimously that her appointment should be recommended to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RESOLVED:

That the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel recommend the Police and Crime Commissioner appoint his preferred candidate Mrs Jane Heppel as Chief Finance Officer of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The meeting ended at 16:40 hours

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CHAIR

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel – Action Tracker – September 2023
1. Outstanding Actions 2022-2023

Minute/ Action No.	Meeting Date	Action	Update/ Notes
620	Nov 2021	The OPCC to feedback on communications and publicity plans in relation to the Fairness and Belonging Plan and Recruitment.	Scheduled for 13 November 2023
693 ii	Jan 2023	The PCC to report back actions to address the findings from the recent WMP Employee Survey relating to staff morale, engagement, and culture.	Scheduled for 13 November 2023
698iii	Jan 2023	The OPCC to report back on the community engagement by local CSPs, and an explanation of the new Violence Reduction Boards structure.	Scheduled for 13 November 2023

2. Outstanding Actions 2023-2024

Minute/ Action No.	Meeting Date	Action	Update/ Notes
735ii	17 July 2023	The PCC requested to provide with additional data on the diversity of West Midlands Police and the National Uplift police officer recruitment	To be included in Fairness and Belonging Plan item scheduled for 13 November 2023
735iii	17 July 2023	The PCC be requested to provide the Panel will analysis into the reason for the reported reduction in the number of vehicle seizures	To be included in the Road Safety report for 11 September 2023
738i	17 July 2023	That subject to further input from the Chair and Vice Chair to define the aims and objectives, road safety be added the Panel work programme for 11 September 2023	Scheduled for 11 September 2023
738ii	27 July 2023	The PCC facilitate information briefings for Panel Members to gain an understanding of the new Neighbourhood Policing Operational Model and the WMP strategy to reduce drug harm.	To be delivered on 22 September 2023 as part of the PCP member visit to Lloyd House.

3. Completed Actions 2022-2023

Minute/ Action No.	Meeting Date	Action	Update/ Notes
710iii	Feb 2023	Collaboration between WMP Licensing and Planning Dept and Neighbourhood police	17 July 2023 PCC updated panel on response received from Chief Constable



Report to the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel – Panel Arrangements

Date: 11 September 2023

Report of: Kevin O’Keefe, Chief Executive Dudley MBC, Lead Officer of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Report author: Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Birmingham City Council

Email: sarah.fradgley@birmingham.gov.uk

Phone: 07927 665 829

1 Purpose

1.1 This report sets out the updated Panel Arrangements for the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel for 2023/2024.

2 Recommendation

2.1 That the Panel agree the suggested update to the Panel Arrangements for submission to the Metropolitan Leaders Committee for endorsement.

3 Background

3.1 Following the introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the creation of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel in 2012, Panel Arrangements were prepared and agreed by the seven Local Authorities comprising the West Midlands.

3.2 Specifically, the Panel Arrangements outline the functions and membership of the Panel; arrangements for budget and costs; the secretariat support; members expenses; promotion of the panel, and the validity of the proceedings.

3.3 The documents also has regard to the [Policing Protocol Order 2011](#) issued by the Home Secretary, which sets out the ways in which the Home Secretary, the PCC, the Chief Constable and the Panel should exercise, or refrain from exercising, functions to encourage, maintain or improve working relationships (including co-operative working), and limit or prevent the overlapping or conflicting exercise of functions.

3.4 The Panel Arrangements has been updated to reflect the agreement from the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, to increase the number of independent members from 2 to 3. The change relates to paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9 of Appendix 1 and is highlighted as tracked changes.

- 3.5 The Panel Arrangements are reviewed annually and approved at the Panel's AGM. Any changes to this document must be agreed by the seven Local Authorities. This will be actioned through the Met Leaders meeting on 13 September 2023.

4 Finance Implications

- 4.1 The Home Office provides an annual grant to support the administration of Police and Crime Panels. The grant is administered by Birmingham City Council.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The provision of a Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure enables the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel to fulfil its requirements outlined in [Schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#).

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The Panel has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 6.2 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; sex, and sexual orientation.
- 6.3 There are no equalities implications arising from these recommendations.

7 Background Papers

- 7.1 [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#)
- 7.2 [Policing Protocol Order 2011 \(Statutory Instrument\)](#)
- 7.3 [West Midlands Police and Crime Panel – Panel Agreement \(2012\)](#)

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Arrangements

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Panel Arrangements

This Agreement is dated the 20th day of July 2012.

The Agreement is made between the following:

Birmingham City Council

Coventry City Council

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Wolverhampton City Council

1. Background

- 1.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ('the Act') introduces new structural arrangements for national policing, strategic police decision making, neighbourhood policing and police accountability.
- 1.2 The Act provides for the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner ('PCC') for a police force area, responsible for securing an efficient and effective police force for their area, producing a police and crime plan, recruiting the Chief Constable for an area, and holding him/her to account, publishing certain information including an annual report, setting the force budget and police precept, and requiring the Chief Constable to prepare reports on police matters. The PCC must co-operate with local community safety partners and criminal justice bodies.
- 1.3 The Act requires the local authorities in each police force area ('the Authorities') to establish and maintain a Police and Crime Panel ('the Panel') for its police force area. It is the responsibility of the Authorities for the police force area to make arrangements for the Panel ('Panel Arrangements').
- 1.4 The West Midlands is a multi-authority police force area ('the police force area'). The Authorities, as the relevant local authorities within the area, must agree to the making and modification of the Panel Arrangements.
- 1.5 Each Authority and each Member of the Panel must comply with the Panel Arrangements.
- 1.6 The functions of the Panel must be exercised with a view to supporting the effective exercise of the functions of the PCC for that police force area.
- 1.7 The Panel must have regard to the Policing Protocol issued by the Home Secretary, which sets out the ways in which the Home Secretary, the PCC, the Chief Constable, and the Panel should exercise, or refrain from exercising, functions to encourage, maintain or improve working relationships (including co-operative working), and limit or prevent the overlapping or conflicting exercise of functions.
- 1.8 The Panel is a scrutiny body with responsibility for scrutinising the PCC and promoting openness in the transaction of police business in the police force area.
- 1.9 The Panel is a joint committee of the Authorities.

2. Functions of the Police and Crime Panel

- 2.1 The Panel may not exercise any functions other than those conferred by the Act.
- 2.2 The functions of the Panel set out at paragraphs 2.3 - 2.9 below may not be discharged by a Sub-Committee of the Panel.
- 2.3 The Panel is a statutory consultee on the development of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan and must:
 - a) review the draft Police and Crime Plan (and a variation to it); and
 - b) report or make recommendations on the draft Plan which the PCC must take into account.
- 2.4 The Panel must comment upon the Annual Report of the PCC, and for that purpose must:
 - a) arrange for a meeting of the Panel to be held in public as soon as practicable after the Panel is sent an Annual Report under Section 12 of the Act;
 - b) ask the PCC at that meeting any such questions about the Annual Report as the Members of the Panel think appropriate;
 - c) review the Annual Report; and
 - d) make a report or recommendations on the Annual Report to the PCC.
- 2.5 The Panel must undertake a review of a precept proposed by the PCC in accordance with the requirements set out in Schedule 5 of the Act and has a right of veto in respect of the precept in accordance with the Act and Regulations made thereunder.
- 2.6 The Panel must hold a confirmation hearing to review, make a report and recommendations to the PCC in relation to the appointment of a Chief Constable in accordance with the requirements set out in Schedule 8 of the Act. It has a right of veto in respect of the appointment in accordance with the Act and Regulations made thereunder.
- 2.7 The right of veto referred to in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 require at least two-thirds of the persons who are Members of the Panel at the time when the decision is made to vote in favour of making that decision.
- 2.8 The Panel must hold a confirmation hearing to review, make a report to and make recommendations to the PCC in relation to the appointment of the PCC's Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner in accordance with the requirements set out in Schedule 1 of the Act.
- 2.9 The Panel shall receive notification from the PCC of any suspension of the Chief Constable, or any proposal to call upon a Chief Constable to retire or resign. In the case of the latter, the Panel must make a recommendation to the PCC as to whether or not the PCC should call for the retirement or resignation in accordance with the procedures set out in Schedule 8 of the Act.
- 2.10 The Panel must review or scrutinise the decisions or actions of the PCC in the discharge of his/her functions and make reports or recommendations to the PCC with respect to the discharge of the PCC's functions. The Panel may carry out investigations into the decisions of the PCC, and into matters of particular interest or public concern.
- 2.11 The Panel must publish any reports or recommendations made by it to the PCC in a manner which the Panel will determine and must also send copies to the Authorities.

- 2.12 The Panel may require the PCC or a member of his/her staff to attend the Panel to answer questions necessary for the Panel to undertake its functions, provided that such questions shall not:
- a) relate to advice provided to the PCC by his/her staff;
 - b) in the view of the PCC:
 - i) be against the interests of national safety;
 - ii) jeopardise the safety of any person; or,
 - iii) prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice; or,
 - c) be prohibited by any other enactment.
- 2.13 If the Panel requires the PCC to attend a meeting, the Panel may (at reasonable notice) request the Chief Constable to attend before the Panel on the same occasion to answer any questions which appear to the Panel to be necessary for it to carry out its functions.
- 2.14 The Panel may require the PCC to respond in writing to a report or recommendation from the Panel to the PCC.
- 2.15 The Panel may appoint an Acting PCC if necessary.
- 2.16 The Panel may suspend the PCC if he/she is charged with an offence carrying a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years.
- 2.17 The Panel is responsible for handling non-criminal complaints against the PCC and Deputy PCC and must refer complaints involving a criminal offence to the Independent Office for Police Conduct. This duty is ordinarily delegated to the Host Authority Monitoring Officer following the Panel's Complaints Procedure.
- 2.18 The Panel will have any other powers and duties set out in the Act or Regulations made in accordance with the Act.

3. Membership

3.1 Authority Members

- 3.2 The Panel shall consist of twelve elected Members appointed by the Authorities as follows:
- a) One Member appointed by each of the following Councils, subject to that appointee being the Elected Mayor in the case of those Councils operating such a system of governance:
 - Birmingham City Council
 - Coventry City Council
 - Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Wolverhampton City Council
 - b) Two further Members to be nominated by Birmingham City Council and appointed by the West Midlands Metropolitan Leaders.
 - c) Two further Members to be jointly nominated by Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Councils and Wolverhampton City Council and appointed by the West Midlands Metropolitan Leaders. Committee.

- d) One further Member to be jointly nominated by Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and appointed by the West Midlands Metropolitan Leaders Committee. (Solihull MBC to nominate in 2021).
- 3.3 Appointments of Authority Members shall be made with a view to ensuring that the balanced appointment objective is met so far as is reasonably practicable. The Host Authority shall take steps to coordinate the Authorities with a view to ensuring that the balanced appointment objective is achieved. The balanced appointment objective requires that the Members of the Panel should:
- a) represent all parts of the police force area;
 - b) represent the political make-up of the Authorities; and
 - c) taken together have the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.
- 3.4 If an Authority does not appoint a Member or Members in accordance with these requirements, the Secretary of State must appoint a Member to the Panel from the defaulting authority in accordance with the provisions in the Act.
- 3.5 Appointments of Members to serve on the Panel shall be made by the Authorities on an annual basis. A Member shall continue to serve on the Panel unless they cease to be an elected Member, resigns from the Panel, or is removed by their Authority at any time.
- 3.6 Members may be re-appointed to the Panel by the Authorities on an annual basis, without restrictions on the maximum term of office, provided that the balanced appointment objective is met by the re-appointment(s).

3.7 Co-opted Members

- 3.8 The Panel shall also co-opt ~~three~~ two independent Members.
- 3.9 ~~In June 2023, the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire approved the Panel's application to increase the number of co-opted independent Members from two to three posts. The Panel may also resolve to co-opt a further Member, with the agreement of the Secretary of State, provided that the number of co-opted Members included in the Membership of the Panel shall not exceed three.~~
- 3.10 In co-opting Members who are not elected members of any of the Authorities the Panel must secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the appointed and co-opted Members of the Panel have the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

3.11 Substitute Members

- 3.12 In making appointments of Members to serve on the Panel, the Authorities shall also appoint nominated substitutes to serve in the absence, or inability to act, of the appointed Members. The appointment of substitutes does not apply to co-opted Members.
- 3.13 A substitute member shall only be appointed if he/she is otherwise eligible to serve on the Panel. The appointment of a substitute to serve for any meeting should be notified to the Host Authority prior to the commencement of the meeting concerned. A substitute member shall serve only for the duration of the meeting to which they are appointed as a substitute unless a meeting is adjourned, and it is essential the substitute member attends a subsequent meeting to comply with a statutory obligation or the rules of natural justice.

3.14 Removal or Resignation of Members

- 3.15 The Authorities may decide to remove any appointed or substitute Member(s) from the Panel at any time and in doing so shall give notice to the Host Authority.
- 3.16 An appointed Member may resign from the Panel by giving written notice to the Host Authority and to the Chief Executive of the Authority that appointed them to the Panel.
- 3.17 If any appointed or substitute Member resigns from the Panel, or is removed from the Panel, the Authorities shall immediately take steps to nominate and appoint alternative Member(s) to the Panel.
- 3.18 If a Member has been absent from the Panel for more than three months, the Chair shall write to the relevant Authority asking it to consider making a new appointment. Exceptional circumstances will be considered.

3.19 Appointment, Removal or Resignation of Co-opted Members

- 3.20 The following may not be co-opted Members of the Panel:
- a) the PCC for the Police Area.
 - b) a member of staff of the PCC for the area.
 - c) a member of the civilian staff of the Police Force for the area.
 - d) a Member of Parliament.
 - e) a Member of the National Assembly for Wales.
 - f) a Member of the Scottish Parliament.
 - g) a Member of the European Parliament.
- 3.21 An elected member of any of the Authorities may not be a co-opted Member of the Panel.
- 3.22 The co-opted Members appointed in 2012 shall serve for a term expiring on 30 April 2016. Thereafter, co-opted Members shall be appointed to the Panel for terms of four years.
- 3.23 The Panel shall put in place arrangements to ensure that appointments of co-opted Members are undertaken following public advertisement in accordance with the following principles:
- a) The appointment will be made on merit of candidates whose skills, experience and qualities are considered best to ensure the effective functioning of the Panel;
 - b) The selection process must be fair, objective, impartial and consistently applied to all candidates who will be assessed against the same predetermined criteria; and,
 - c) The selection process will be conducted transparently with information about the requirements for the appointment and the process being

publicly advertised and made available with a view to attracting a strong and diverse field of suitable candidates.

- 3.24 A co-opted Member of the Panel may resign from the Panel by giving written notice to the Host Authority at any time.
- 3.25 The Panel may decide to terminate the appointment of a co-opted Member of the Panel if at least two-thirds of the persons who are Members of the Panel at the time when the decision is made vote in favour of making that decision for the reasons set out below and in doing so shall give written notice to the co-opted Member:
- a) if the co-opted Member has been absent from the Panel for more than three months without the consent of the Panel;
 - b) if the co-opted Member has been convicted of a criminal offence but not automatically disqualified;
 - c) if the co-opted Member is deemed to be incapacitated by illness or is otherwise unable or unfit to discharge his or her functions as a co-opted Member of the Panel.
- 3.26 If a vacancy arises for a co-opted Member, for any reason, the Panel shall make arrangements to fill the vacancy in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 3.23.
- 3.27 Co-opted Members appointed to the Panel are eligible for re-appointment for further terms of four years.

4. Budget and Costs of the Panel

- 4.1 The annual costs associated with the operation, organisation and administration of the Panel shall be offset by the Home Office grant to be managed by the Host Authority.
- 4.2 All relevant costs incurred by the Host Authority in connection with the work of the Panel shall be met from the funding allocated by the Home Office unless the Authorities agree otherwise.
- 4.3 The Host Authority shall monitor all expenditure incurred and make provision for an annual report.

5. Lead Officer and Host Authority

- 5.1 The Chief Executive of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council shall act as the Lead Officer to the Panel on behalf of the Authorities.
- 5.2 Birmingham City Council shall be the Host Authority for the Panel and shall provide such administrative, scrutiny and other support as will be necessary to enable the Panel to undertake its functions within the approved budget.

6. Rules of Procedure

- 6.1 The Panel shall determine its Rules of Procedure which shall include arrangements in relation to:
- a) the election and removal of the Chair and Vice-Chair;

- b) the formation of sub-committees;
- c) the making of decisions;
- d) the arrangements for convening meetings; and
- e) the circulation of information.

7. Members' Expenses

- 7.1 Elected Members of the Panel shall be paid expenses only in accordance with the annual rate provided for in the grant allocated by the Home Office.
- 7.2 An annual discretionary allowance of £920 per annum shall be paid for each co-opted independent member provided for in the grant allocated by the Home Office. All expenses including travel and carers expenses will be covered by this payment.
- 7.3 The Host Authority shall administer the payment of expenses and allowances.

8. Promotion of the Panel

- 8.1 The Panel arrangements shall be promoted by:
 - a) the establishment and maintenance of a website including information about the role and work of the Panel, membership, all non- confidential Panel and sub-committee meeting papers, press releases and other publications;
 - c) the Authorities will each include information about the Panel on their websites and will also include a link to the Panel website.
- 8.2 Additional support, advice and guidance shall be provided to executive and non-executive elected members and officers in relation to the functions of the Panel as the Authorities may deem necessary, taking account of the Act and any Regulations made under the Act.

9. Validity of Proceedings

- 9.1 The validity of the proceedings of the Panel shall not be affected by a vacancy in the Membership of the Panel or any defect in appointment.
- 9.2 The conduct of the Panel and the content of these arrangements shall be subject to the legislative provisions in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, and any Regulations made in accordance with that Act. In the event of any conflict between the Act, Regulations and these arrangements, the requirements of the legislation will prevail.

Agreement agreed by Authorities: 2012

Last updated and endorsed: July 2021

Road Safety - Report of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

Report Author: Brendan Warner Southwell

Date: Monday 11 September 2023

1 Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present an overview to the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel on how the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner is working personally to improve road safety across the West Midlands and how he is holding the Chief Constable to account for improving road safety. To achieve this, the paper is segmented into two parts. Firstly, there is an overview of the current work that the Police and Crime Commissioner is progressing through his office. Secondly, is a section which clearly outlines all of the work West Midlands Police is progressing in this area. This information is either pulled directly from his office and West Midlands Police, or from the reports presented to the Commissioner at his Strategic Police and Crime Board.
2. The panel asked for the report to cover specific areas of interest. For ease please find these in the following paragraphs:
 - For a statement on how the Police and Crime Commissioner is directly holding the Chief Constable to account on road safety see paragraph 6.
 - For an indication of how West Midlands Police is working with Local Authorities to improve road safety please refer to the following paragraphs: 47, 58, 71-75, 85-86.
 - For an overview of current data on road casualties see paragraphs 17-19.
 - For an update on activity relating to street racing see paragraphs 59-66.
 - For an updated explanation on why vehicle seizures have dropped over the past year please see paragraphs 25-30.
 - It is hoped that this paper acts as a comprehensive update on the challenges and barriers to delivering improved road safety across the West Midlands.
 - For specific reference to how the Police and Crime Panel can support the Commissioner in his work, please see paragraphs 10 and 12.

2 Strategic Work of The Police and Crime Commissioner

3. The Regional Road Safety Strategic Group, is the regional forum in which all strategic partners convene and direct road safety across the region. The secretariat for this group is provided by Transport for West Midlands. The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner was asked to chair this group so that he could hold the partnership to account for their publishing and then their delivery of the Regional Road Safety Strategy. The Commissioner chaired his first meeting in February 2023 and has subsequently chaired three meetings in total. Since his taking over this forum, the Commissioner has led the group through its drafting of the new strategy which will be published in September 2023. Once the strategy is published the Commissioner will work to hold the Group to account for its delivery.
4. Under the Regional Strategic Group are three delivery groups. These are as follows:
 - Enforcement Sub Delivery Group, chaired by Transport for West Midlands.
 - Data Sub Delivery Group, chaired by Dudley MBC.
 - Funding Sub Delivery Group, chaired by a WMOPCC officer.
5. The funding sub delivery group's Terms of Reference has three aims:
 - Bringing in external funds to the region through bidding into external funds.
 - Broader lobbying of government for funds, such as our work on fixed penalty fines.
 - Developing economies of scale, where stakeholders can save money by pooling resources.

This sub delivery group reports back into the Regional Strategic Group on a quarterly basis.

6. As well as having oversight for the regional strategic partnership for road safety through chairing the Regional Road Safety Strategic Group, the PCC also holds West Midlands Police to account through his Strategic Police and Crime Board. A report on Safer Travel was taken to the board in July where the PCC held the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of the objectives he set out in his Police and Crime Plan. The PCC also holds the Chief Constable to account more informally through his weekly Monday meetings.
7. The PCC has been working to support Local Authorities with their drawing down of Moving Traffic Contravention powers. These are powers which allow for Local Authorities

to enforce against contraventions which were previously only enforceable by the Police. Local Authorities across London and in Cardiff have had these powers since 2004. It's only with the Government's white paper on active travel that these have been activated for the rest of England and Wales.

8. Three local authorities in the region have successfully applied for these powers in 'Tranche 2'. These are Birmingham, Coventry and Walsall. The other four in the region will be applying for these powers before October this year in 'Tranche 3'.
9. The PCC is in the process of working with local authorities to deliver the ambitions set out in his Police and Crime Plan. These ambitions are an approach that is co-ordinated across the West Midlands:
 - With a single approach to technology
 - Back office functions
 - Enforcement
 - Data sharing
 - Financial flows
 - Engagement with blue light services
10. Moving forward the PCC's team will be convening conversations with all Local Authorities to support them in moving towards achieving the above ambitions. It is the belief of the OPCC that the Panel is strategically placed to support the PCC in this endeavour and he would welcome further conversations with the Police and Crime Panel on how they can support him with this endeavour.

Fixed Penalty Notice Consultation:

11. Part of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal, where the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) was given the opportunity to engage with the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to achieve either devolved powers or devolved funding, was a request for the West Midlands to retain fixed penalty fines. This request was declined by the Government.

An average of 16,654 fixed penalty tickets are processed by the West Midlands Police ticketing office each year, generating £1,654,000 in income for HM Treasury.

We have consulted the public on whether these fines should be retained locally. The results of this consultation can be found below:

- **Have you witnessed a motor vehicle driving at an inappropriate or excessive speed within the West Midlands in the past week?**

Yes: 1,254 (94.2%)

No: 76 (5.8%)

- **How safe do you feel using the West Midlands road network?**

Very safe: 37 (2.7%)

Safe: 94 (7%)

Neither safe nor unsafe: 175 (13%)

Unsafe: 594 (44.3%)

Very unsafe: 439 (32.7%)

- **Do you think more needs to be done to prevent, tackle and reduce speeding on West Midlands roads?**

Yes: 1,252 (94%)

No: 79 (6%)

- **Would you be supportive of the income generated from fixed penalty fines, relating to speeding offences, being retained by West Midlands Police and the local authorities, so that it can be spent on making our roads safer?**

Yes: 1,242 (93%)

No: 94 (7%)

- **Do you think it is fair that money from fines goes to central government, rather than enabling road safety interventions to be delivered in the region, to make our roads safer and to prevent, tackle and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour on our roads?**

Yes: 110 (8.2%)

No: 1,221 (91.7%)

12. Over the next month we will be presenting the results of this survey to both the Department for Transport and the Treasury. We will be using the support from local partners, such as Transport for West Midlands to show that this is a joint request from partners across the West Midlands region. We would allocate this funding to get control of the crime we're seeing on West Midlands roads. Any weight the Panel can give to our achieving the devolution of these funds would be greatly appreciated.

Safer Streets Fund Round 5

13. As part of Safer Streets Fund Round 5, the PCC has submitted a £1million bid to the Home Office. A third of this bid is focused on 'ASB Use of the Roads'. This funding will run from October 2023 until March 2025. There are four initiatives he is looking to fund under his 'ASB Use of the Roads', all of which have been developed in partnership with Transport for West Midlands, the Local Authorities and community organisations. These initiatives are: the expansion of third party reporting, the purchasing of more speed camera vans for West Midlands Police, the expansion of community speedwatch and a speeding focused communications campaign. We will find out if our submission has been successful in mid-September 2023.

3 West Midlands Police's Response to Road Safety

BACKGROUND

14. The Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG) and WMP Force Traffic sit as one wider Roads Policing Department. The mission of the department is "Working in partnership to deliver safe and secure roads" with 4 key pillars – Preventing harm and saving lives, tackling crime, driving technology and innovation and Changing minds. This strategy aligns with the National Police Chief Council's Roads Policing strategy. While the scope is broad, it focuses on the areas of greatest concern as follows:

- Collaborating with partners towards Vision Zero
- Disrupting organised criminality on the road network
- Providing a pro-active response in support of WMP priorities

- Maximising the use of ANPR technology
- Fatal Four offences (seat belts, excess speed, drink/drugs and mobile phone use)
- Uninsured drivers
- Supporting national roads policing campaigns

15. To target road harm, the department has a wide-ranging approach. The department reviews its identified road harm locations through collision data to allow effective, geographic and thematic interventions. The investment in a dedicated Road Harm Prevention Team allows the department to build capability across WMP while working with Local Policing Areas (LPAs) to expand schemes such as speed watch. The Chief Constable has recently approved a 66% increase in staff allocated to the team, but it will take several months to recruit and train these officers.

16. The department has a strong approach to tackling organised crime on the roads, supporting force tactical priorities such as gang tensions, organised vehicle crime and serious youth violence.

ROADS POLICING AND ROADS SAFETY

General Performance (including KSIs¹)

17. 1051 people have been seriously injured in road traffic collisions in the last financial year, including 55 fatalities. The total number of killed or seriously injured casualties is 3 per cent more than in 2021/2. However, there was a 16 per cent decrease in fatalities compared with the previous financial year (from 66 to 56).

18. There have been monthly variations in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions over the last three years, in line with when CoVID-19 lockdown restrictions were in place and traffic volumes reduced. As restrictions eased in 2021, the number of killed or seriously injured casualties returned to around the average of 80 per month. Nationally, there remains a stagnation of road safety collision reduction since 2010.

¹ Killed or seriously injured

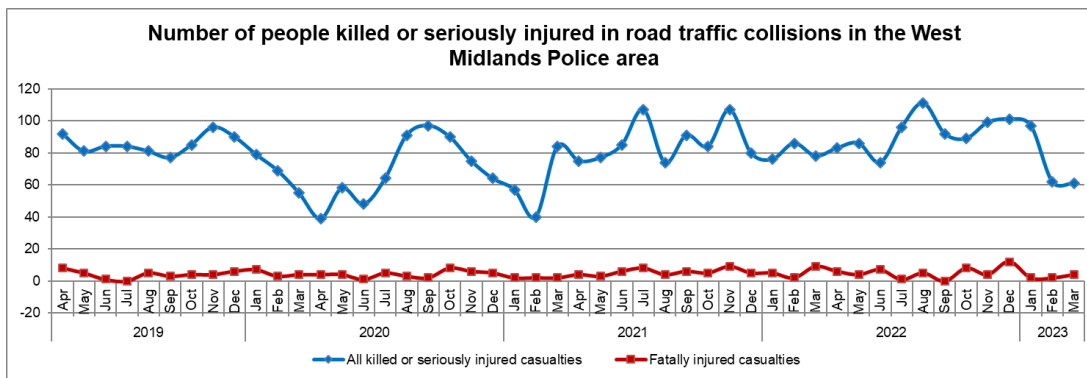


Figure 1. Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions in the West Midlands Police area, April 2019 – Mar 2023

19. Enforcement activity aimed to reduce KSIs is currently prioritised on 11 routes in the West Midlands. These locations make up 0.63 per cent of the West Midlands Road network but 9 per cent of all KSI road traffic collisions occur on these routes.
20. The Serious Collision Investigation Unit has investigated 98 life changing and fatal road traffic collisions in the West Midlands during this period, with our dedicated Family Liaison Team supporting the families from all 98 collisions.
21. Family liaison is a very important and well considered part of the collision investigation process. In West Midlands, we offer a family liaison service for all fatal and serious injury collisions. An FLO is appointed to the point of contact within the victim's family. The FLO's main responsibility is that of an investigator and gathers information about the victim to aid the investigation. The FLO also provides a BRAKE pack (a Road Safety charity) at the appropriate time and will offer signposting services. In West Midlands we offer a Victim Support service that is funded by the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner. Two victim support workers are employed and will support families of victims involved in fatal and serious injury collisions. This service provides families with extra support and assistance. The FLO will refer any families who are eligible and live in the West Midlands area.

Roads Policing Academy

22. The fourth Roads Policing Academy (RPA) commenced in March 2023 and tested candidates' operational competence and legislative knowledge. At the centre of the process was a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, with extensive consultation

with Staff Networks to encourage applications from female and underrepresented groups in line with the Force’s ambition towards fairness and belonging. The RPA process recruited officers for vacancies within WMP Force Traffic Unit and CMPG (WMP and Staffordshire).

23. The process commenced with a paper sift phase with successful applicants being invited to attend an Assessment Centre which included a written exam and practical assessments. Officers who were successful at the Assessment Centre were invited to a structured competency-based interview.

24. When successful candidates subsequently join the Roads Policing Team, they complete a bespoke 8-week course led by the Roads Policing Personal Development Unit. This training plan culminates with the officers becoming fully trained Roads Policing Officers. This approach provides new officers with the skills, knowledge and confidence required to operate safely and effectively when they join their team.

Uninsured Vehicles & Drivers

25. 8,123 uninsured vehicles were seized by WMP during 2022/23, equating to an average of 677 per month. This is a decrease of 11 per cent compared to the previous financial year.

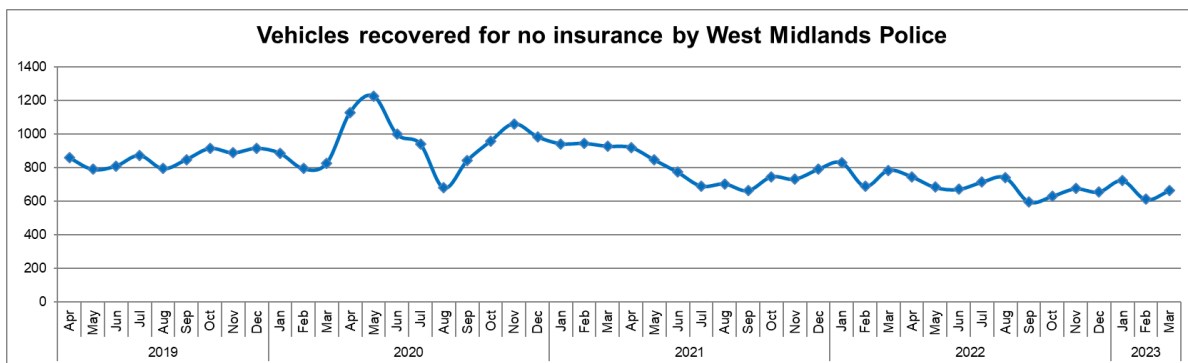


Figure 2. Number of vehicles recovered for no insurance by West Midlands Police, April 2019 to March 2023

26. WMP supported the NPCC ‘No Insurance’ week of action in November 2022. During this period 160 uninsured vehicles were seized across the WMP area. There will be another initiative in November 2023.

27. Operation Tutelage - West Midlands Police work alongside the MIB to trace those who are breaking the law and order them to get insured. Letters are sent out on behalf of

WMP by the national Operation Tutelage team to registered keepers of cars (where information the force holds suggests the vehicle has no insurance).

28. West Midlands Police are able to confidently point to the success of Op Tutelage as one of the reasons that vehicle seizures have dropped over the past year, with more people insured there are less vehicles to seize.
29. Further they have been approached by the MIB to carry out some work in partnership with them. As part of this work they are seeking to run two operations per week which will be dedicated to seizing vehicles across the West Midlands. This will be commencing shortly.
30. As part of this project they will be able to evaluate our intelligence and the impact of removing these vehicles from the road.

'Close Pass' Operations

31. 'Close Pass' operations consist of an officer riding a pedal cycle on roads identified as 'hot spots' for collisions involving pedal cyclists, in order to identify offending vehicles who pass within 1.5 metres of them. A colleague in a police vehicle then escorts the offender on to a nearby site. The driver completes an eyesight test and is given education in relation to how to safely share the road with cyclists.
32. Responsibility for conducting 'Close Pass' operations, is held by the WMP Road Harm Prevention Team who are conducting regular 'Close Pass' operations. This initiative has won praise and awards from across the UK and has been implemented by most police forces nationally. This operation is an important step towards changing driver behaviour and is in line with the new Highway Code, supporting the move to green transport options in our region.
33. 'Close Pass' aims to alter driver attitudes and behaviour, WMP hope that motorists will share what they have learned with others. This year will see a renewed focus on this activity, particularly in light of recent cyclist fatalities in our region.
34. A cadre of Police officer and staff pedal cyclists who can support 'Close Pass' is being developed and maintained in order to enable us to deploy more frequent operations.

Operation Zig Zag

35. The Road Harm Prevention Team have been worked in collaboration with West Midlands Police Led Prosecutions and Traffic Investigation Office to devise Operation Zig Zag.
36. Operation Zig Zag was designed to protect the most vulnerable road users (pedestrians) at crossing points within the West Midlands. This operation has received national praise for its implementation and featured in the Department for Transport Road Safety Statement 2019.
37. Officers deploy in high visibility at high profile locations, where collisions have historically been high, or are on the rise. An officer uses a speed detection device to identify speeding offences at the vulnerable location with a further officer in high visibility clothing on the crossing as a visible marker for the motorist and to offer education around safer crossing to pedestrians. Everything is in the driver's favour to see the officers and adjust their speed in good time, prior to reaching the crossing. Those who speed through the crossing are stopped and dealt with for Driving without Due Care and Attention.
38. Operation Zig Zag is used to good effect at key locations where KSI collisions have been prevalent and provides positive reassurance to the community that West Midlands Police is taking positive action in problem areas to prevent collisions.

E-Scooters

39. The council e-scooter trial had been taking place in Birmingham, however there is currently no trial operating since VOI's contract ended.
40. The Road Harm Prevention Team works closely with LPAs, Local Authority, Combined Authority/Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) and national partners to ensure a consistent approach is taken Force wide and nationally.
41. The Government were due to publish new legislation in Autumn 2022 regarding eScooters. This has not yet come to pass and as such, there is a general lack of understanding and knowledge by the public about the legalities surrounding eScooters which can be purchased from many online and in-store retailers.
42. As a consequence of the public confusion, West Midlands Police currently adopts an educational position in order to tackle this, with a view to not criminalising our young riders, instead opting to only prosecute those who are committing offences that have aggravating factors.

43. During 2022/23 there were 23 collisions in the WMP area involving e-scooters in which people were seriously injured, compared with 22 during 2021/22. This figure includes one fatality. 12 of the collisions involved a car and an e-scooter. Six involved pedestrians being injured. The rider was at fault in at least 16 of the incidents.

44. There were approximately 180 logs relating to complaints and reports of anti-social use of e-scooters in 2022/23 and around 100 further logs relating to RTC matters². Further to this, there were approximately 608 crimes where e-scooters were mentioned. This includes crimes where e-scooters have been used, stolen or targeted. Approximately 125 were seized in the WMP area.

Fatal Four

Seat Belts

45. Nationally, 23% of those killed on the roads were not wearing seatbelts. 724 seat belt offences were reported by WMP during 2022/23. This is a 17 per cent increase compared to the previous financial year. WMP supported a 2-week national seat belt enforcement campaign in May/June. 130 offences were reported during the campaign in the WMP area.

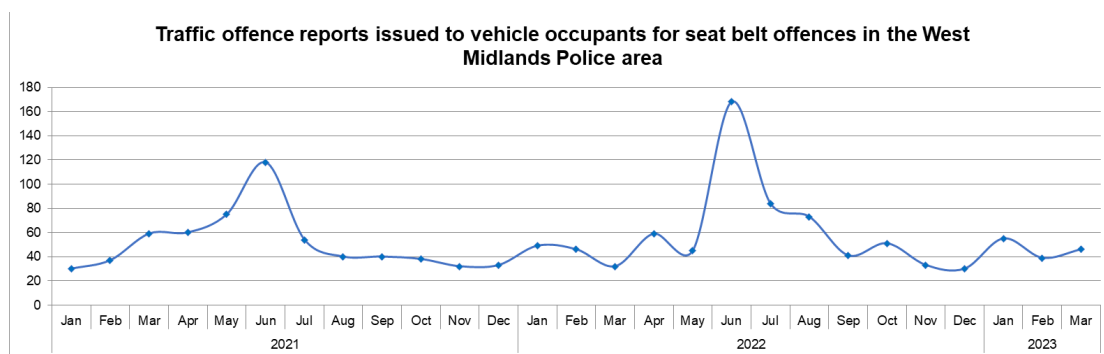


Figure 3.

3. Number of traffic offence reports issued to vehicle occupants for seat belt offences in the West Midlands Police area, Jan 2021 – Mar 2023

Speed

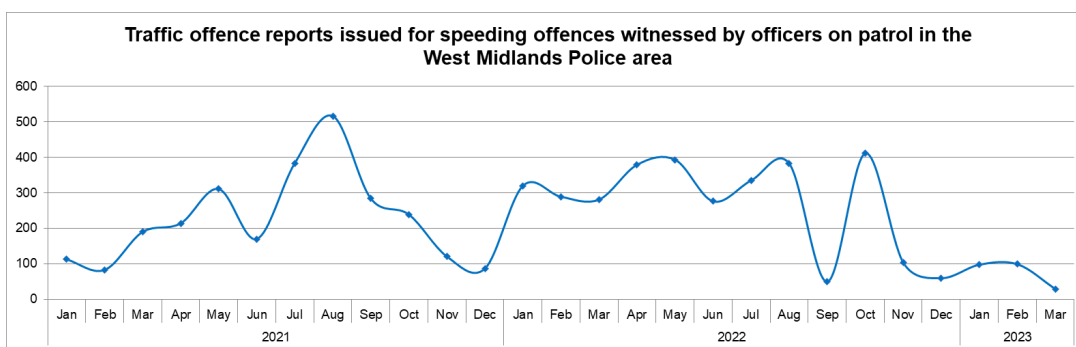
46. Through handheld speed detecting devices, 2,615 speeding offences were reported by WMP officers during 2022/23 which is in addition to offences detected by automated equipment. This is an 18 per cent decrease on the previous financial year. WMP

² This is based on “e-scooter”, “electronic scooter” or “e scooter” being mentioned in the first parts of an incident log. If “scooter” is just listed, it has not been included as it is not possible to determine if it is an e-scooter or not. Therefore the figures are likely to be higher.

participated in the national speed enforcement campaign during October, and during the two-week campaign 348 offences were reported.

47. West Midlands Police have engaged in a project to drive greater compliance with speed limits through additional enforcement. Work is currently ongoing to put in place a single Joint Working Agreement across the region in order that this can be progressed as a partnership. Some of the work is commercially sensitive and subject to early consultation and discussions between agencies. The outcomes of this project do work towards the Strategic Police and Crime Plan with respect to carrying out more Average Speed Enforcement, a further report on the project will be taken to OPCC when further progress is made.

48.



Figure

4. Number of traffic offence reports issued for speeding offences witnessed by officers on patrol in the West Midlands Police area, Jan 2021 – March 2023

Drink and Drug Driving

49. 2,554 drink and/or drug drivers were arrested by WMP in 2022/23, one every 3.5 hours. This is a 4 per cent decrease compared to the previous financial year. WMP took part in the national drink and drug driving campaigns in August and November/December. The summer campaign resulted in 45 arrests (drug driving) and the Christmas campaign recorded 361 arrests. WMP will be participating in similar national campaigns this year.

50. Drug driving remains an increasing challenge and the prevalence of Nitros Oxide anecdotally appears to be an increasing factor in many collisions that police are responding to. We have recently engaged with the Department for Transport about a potential change in legislation to tackle the impairment that Nitros Oxide causes to drivers.

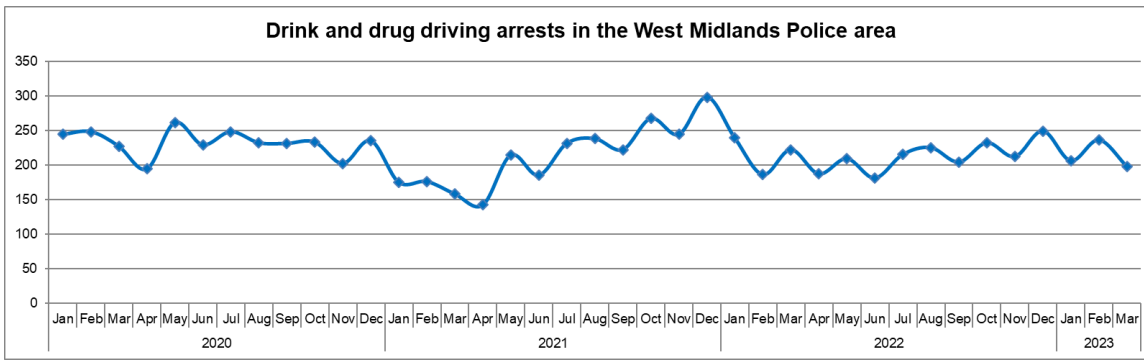


Figure 5. Number of drink and drug driving arrests in the West Midlands Police area, Jan 2020 – Mar 2023

Mobile Phone Use

51. 1,089 drivers were reported for using a mobile phone whilst driving, or not being in proper control of their vehicle, during the 2022/23 financial year. This is a 21 per cent increase compared to the previous financial year. WMP supported the national mobile phone enforcement campaign in February/March 2023, during which 70 offences were reported. In March 2022 the law changed, making it easier to prosecute people illegally using their phone at the wheel by making almost any use of a handheld mobile phone behind the wheel illegal.

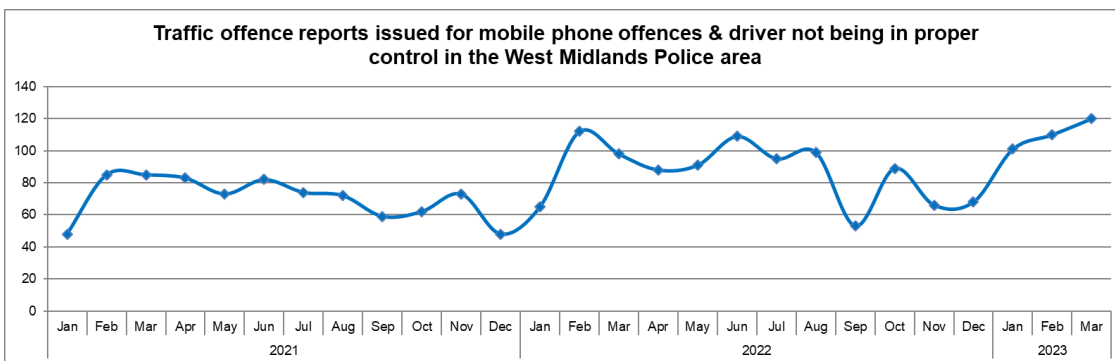


Figure 6. Number of traffic offence reports issued for mobile phone offences & the driver not being in proper control in the West Midlands Police area, Jan 2021 – March 2023

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime on the Roads

52. Over the last financial year, roads policing officers based in the WMP area have seized criminal assets from vehicles stopped worth almost £15 million, including almost £1.3 million worth of drugs and over £700,000 in cash. There have also been large scale

commodity seizures whilst working with organisations such as HM Revenue and Customs, the West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit and the National Crime Agency as well as the recovery of high value stolen vehicles as part of targeting vehicle crime.

53. In addition to the recovery of valuable commodities, 99 weapons have been recovered from vehicles stopped by roads policing officers over the last financial year helping to tackle violence associated with serious and organised criminality.

54. Roads Policing officers continue to target burglary and vehicle crime offenders which is part of our core delivery and has been integral to the reductions in car key burglary across WMP.

Seized drugs	Seized cash	Other seized assets	Arrest
£1,255,985	£708,534	£12,2992,758	1,793

Table 1. Roads Policing Performance Data 2022/23

Misrepresented, missing or obscured number plates

55. 1,828 number plate offences have been reported by West Midlands Police over the last 3 years. This is a 23 per cent increase compared to the previous 3-year period reported on in the 2022 Safer Travel report presented to the SPCB. This is due to a significant increase in offences reported by officers assigned to Operation Hercules (WMP’s street racing enforcement) from January to May 2022 when issuing reports to vehicles with non-conforming registration plates was used as a tactic to disrupt and deter participants and spectators with vehicles bearing illegal number plates. The vehicle reported for number plate offences on 6 occasions in 2021 was reported on a seventh occasion in 2022 but is now displaying a compliant plate. It could be suggested that the law surrounding obscured numbers plates could be enhanced to create a larger penalty for lack of compliance with the law.

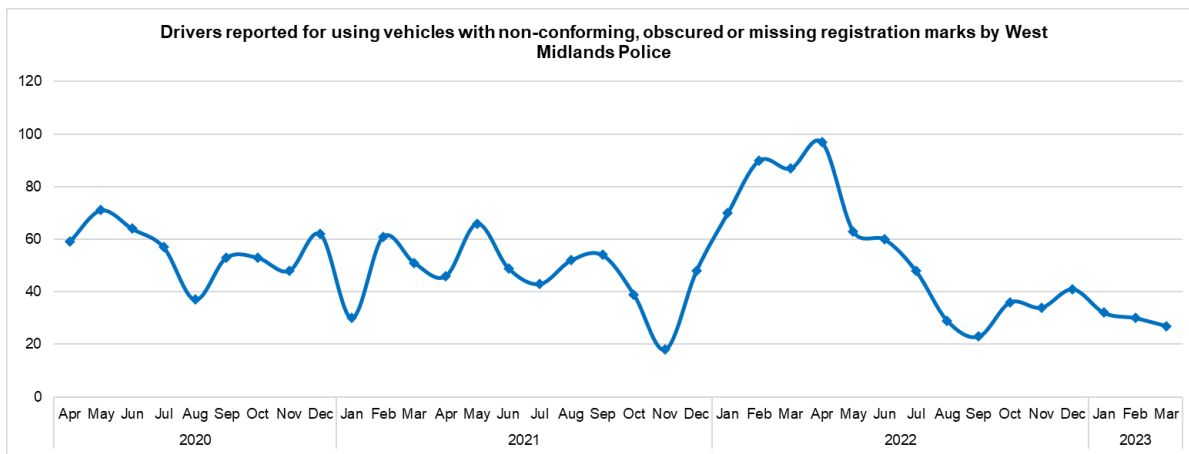


Figure 7. Number of drivers reported for using vehicles with non-conforming, obscured or missing registration marks by West Midlands Police, Apr 2020 – Mar 2023

Illegally adjusted exhausts

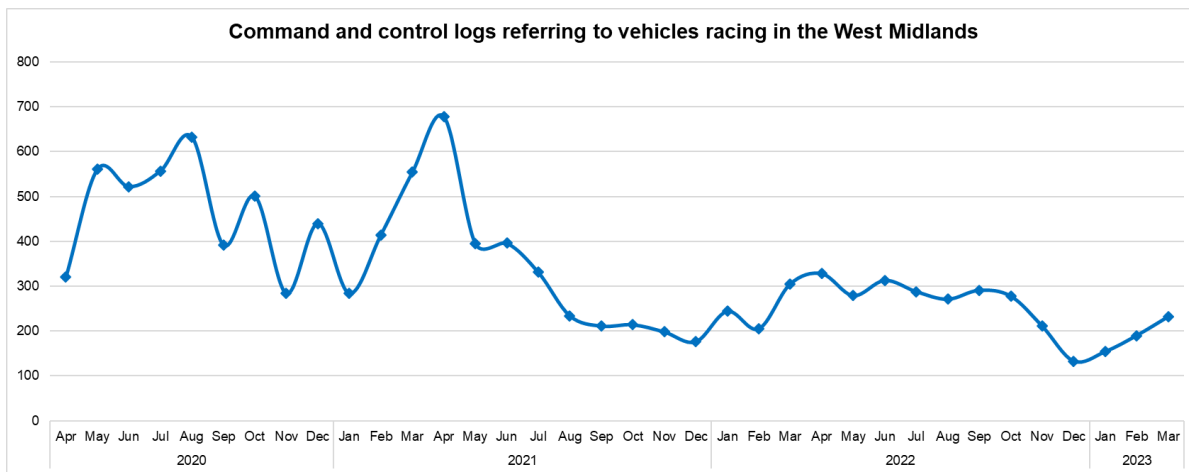
56. Policing illegally modified exhaust systems is an essential measure to address noise pollution and ensure road safety. These modifications, involve altering the original exhaust system of a vehicle to produce louder and more disruptive noise levels. By enforcing laws against such modifications, authorities aim to maintain peaceful communities and protect individuals from excessive noise exposure. Illegally modified exhausts are considered anti-social behaviour, but can also distract drivers and pedestrians, leading to potential accidents. Through diligent partnership, authorities can deter the use of these exhaust systems and promote a safer and quieter environment for everyone. As police we see numerous vehicles that are either remapped or have a non-standard exhaust fitted which produces a loud popping noise.

57. The Road Harm Reduction Team are in the process of securing funding to purchase an audio analyser which will allow enforcement to be taken, particularly during Multi Agency Road Safety Operations. With regards to insurance, where officers identify an aftermarket modification on a vehicle, they refer this to the relevant insurance company for their attention. It is then up to the insurance company as to whether they take any action regarding the policy.

58. Birmingham City Council has installed an acoustic camera, recognising the cross over from excessive noise into anti-social behaviour. This is helpful monitoring tool (not enforcement) providing data that will be used to support a broader partnership response.

Street Racing

59. The tactical delivery of Operation Hercules came under Roads Policing in September 2022, specifically the Road Harm Prevention Team now coordinates all Operation Hercules activity. Street racing continues to be a problem across the force and the team work tirelessly to reduce the problem by conducting proactive patrols at key locations on relevant days.
60. The team have attended multi-agency meetings with local Councils and businesses across the Force, addressing community concerns and target hardening locations currently used for street racing.
61. There is now an interim civil injunction in place across Birmingham and the Black Country. The team have made a number of arrests in relation to this and will continue to arrest where operationally feasible.
62. There have been 12,017 reports of vehicles racing in the West Midlands over the last 3 years. This is a 3 per cent increase on the 3-year period reported on in the previous Safer Travel report presented to the Strategic Police and Crime Board. However, during the summer period when there is normally a peak in activity, 2022 saw the lowest reported incidents of street racing since 2019.
63. Approximately 1 in 5 reports of street racing in the West Midlands over the last 12 months relate to activity on the Black Country Route in Bilston, Kenrick Way in West Bromwich and Heartlands Parkway in Nechells. 25 per cent of street racing activity occurs on weekend evenings from 21:00-01:59 with increased activity also on bank holiday evenings.
64. Drivers involved in street racing in the West Midlands are known to travel from as far as Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Essex and Nottinghamshire to engage in this activity and on nights when street racers encounter a robust policing presence in the West Midlands, they are often displaced to locations on other force areas.
65. In partnership with West Midlands Fire Service a diversionary programme is now delivered where a staged intervention approach is taken towards civil interventions for those observing or taking part in street racing activities.



66.

Figure 8. Number of command and control logs referring to vehicles racing in the West Midlands, Apr 2020 – Mar 2023

Update on Multi-Agency Road Safety Operation (MARSO)

67. The Multi-Agency Road Safety Operation (MARSO) gives Local Policing Teams a unique tactic in order to concentrate high visibility policing in specific areas. This operation is led by the Road Harm Prevention Team as a tactic to reduce risk on our roads, by removing the vehicles causing or likely to cause the most harm to other road users, while allowing the Neighbourhood Policing Team to address crime spikes, ASB issues or other crime and community concerns.

68. The MARSO uses traffic motorcycles and marked or unmarked cars to spot vehicles that are in poor condition, while also using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) for any information markers associated with vehicles. Vehicles are then brought onto a static site, staffed by the Local Policing Teams and multiple key partner agencies, who deal with the vehicles and occupants.

69. Key partners include Warwickshire Police, West Mercia Police, Staffordshire Police, Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), Environment Agency, West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS), Court Warrants Officers and Licensing Officers. This tactic is only effective because of the work done by our key partners, and it highlights the impact a joined-up approach can deliver.

70. MARSO operations are run on a weekly basis throughout the Force area and on a cross border basis with the surrounding forces.

Car Free School Streets

71. The Road Harm Prevention Team are working in partnership with Birmingham City Council in relation to their experimental Car Free School Street zones.
72. These Car Free School zones came into force on the 25th April 2022, since this time Birmingham City Council have taken steps to publicise the zones and educate drivers as to the rules relating to them.
73. Working in partnership, the Road Harm Prevention Team staff have been attending the zones when they are in operation during weekday morning and afternoons. Alongside Council Staff, Road Harm Prevention Team staff have also provided a high visibility presence in order to educate but also enforce Car Free School Streets if necessary.
74. Whilst at the location officers are also able to detect other offences, failing to wear seatbelts etc. These offences impact on the safety of drivers and vehicle occupants, by dealing with these offences at the same time officers are able to reduce the risk both to vehicle occupants as well as vulnerable road users.
75. The Car Free School Streets Scheme is being extended to other Council areas and the Road Harm Prevention Team staff will also work with our other partners in order to contribute to the success of pedestrianised school streets.

West Midlands Police Volunteers

76. The Road Harm Prevention Team have taken on a number of community volunteers.
77. These volunteers will be provided with uniform and will accompany regular officers from the team on visits to schools and colleges. Officers from the team will mentor our community volunteers so that they can commence delivering these inputs.
78. Our partners at Birmingham City Council are assisting with updated lesson plans so that any inputs being given are up to date and will increase their chances of being effective. Awareness of e-scooters and e-bikes, along with the dangers associated with them is seen as a priority during these engagement sessions in schools.
79. The Road Harm Prevention Team uses an evidence-based approach towards its day-to-day activity. We will continue to do this in relation to our school inputs. By liaising with our council partners and utilising KSI data, we will identify a top 20 list of priority schools

where we can commence inputs, in order to maximise our effect on reducing collisions involving young people.

80. All activity that the Road Harm Prevention Team undertakes is designed to improve the safety of road users, all activity is showcased on all available social media platforms to improve public perceptions and to provide reassurance that positive action is being taken.

Safety Cameras

81. For the financial year of 2022/2023 there were 85,965 offences passed to Central Ticket Office (CTO), these were a mix of speed and Red X offences. This was delivered through a range of cameras, such as average speed cameras on our road network, average speed cameras on the motorway (roadworks), variable cameras and mobile enforcement camera vans.

Month	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22
Offences to CTO	6873	8084	7586	8666	7309	7565	6448	5314	5717

Month	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23
Offences to CTO	7177	7940	7286

Table 1. Offences passed to the Central Ticket Office, Apr 2022 – Mar 2023

82. Motorway camera update - Average speed cameras that were in place on the M6 roadworks are now in the process of being removed from Junctions 4-5 (both directions) and at the moment there is no commitments from National Highways to continue with the roadworks in the short term. This does not affect the long-term commitment to enforcing the speed and red X on the motorway.

West Midlands ANPR

83. We have been granted permission to extend our ANPR network. The location of these cameras has been chosen following a strategic assessment that has been carried out by the force. Full consultations are taking place in the areas that the cameras are being located.

Network Resilience

84. The CMPG Regional Operations Centre (ROC) continues to work on their partnership with Highways England (HE), ensuring a joined-up approach to incidents on the strategic network. An interoperability airwave channel has been implemented to enable a robust incident management process, preventing delays and 'trapped traffic' utilising CLEAR (collision, lead, evaluate, act, reopen) principles to keep traffic moving.

Rollout of moving traffic offence devolution across the force area

85. At the beginning of 2023, CC Guildford approved Tranche 2 applications from Birmingham, Coventry and Walsall local authorities in order to enforce Moving Traffic Contraventions under the Traffic Management Act 2004. Their applications were subsequently submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) and were approved. The first of these authorities is likely to begin enforcement after September.

86. The remaining Local Authorities of Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Solihull are intending to apply during Tranche 3. The deadline for these applications to be received by DfT is 25th October 2023. Within all applications is the commitment to work towards the commitments of the Strategic Police and Crime Plan.

Financial Implications

87. West Midlands Police demonstrate a strong commitment to roads policing and the positive effect this has on road safety. Road's policing officers have a much broader function than the conventional notion of a 'traffic officer' however part of all roads policing officers core role is taking part in road safety initiatives and road safety enforcement activity. Specialist training in these areas is provided. The Chief Constable has recently agreed an increase to the overall number of roads policing officers in WMP.

Equality Implications

88. All policies relating to Roads Policing are subject to Equality Impact Assessments before being published. This ensures WMP demonstrates transparency and achieves better outcomes for all.
89. In addition, CMPG attends West Midlands Police Cadet schemes to engage young people and obtain feedback regarding perceptions or road policing. The feedback from these sessions has been very positive.
90. Our Intelligence function is currently developing a number of apps to provide greater management information about all elements of Roads' Policing. In particular, we CMPG and Traffic are piloting an app to capture data surrounding vehicle stops that result in the use of S.163 of the Road Traffic Act. This will be reviewed in September 2023, to determine whether this is rolled out force wide.
91. The data from Stop and Search and Use of Force is monitored via daily TRM meetings, monthly Tasking Delivery Boards and is reviewed by LPA Public Scrutiny Boards.
92. CMPG also regularly attend IAG meetings held on each of the LPA areas.

4 Recommendations

93. It is recommended that the Panel notes the contents of this report.

Report to the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Police and Crime Commissioner Update and Key Decisions: July - September 2023

Date: 11 September 2023

Report of: Kevin O’Keefe, Chief Executive Dudley MBC, Panel Lead Officer

Report author: Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Birmingham City Council

Email: wmpcp@birmingham.gov.uk

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report lists the recent key decisions published by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 1.2 The Panel is responsible for scrutinising the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 1.3 Copies of the decisions and background reports are available to view and download from the Commissioner’s website [Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions](#)

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Police and Crime Panel note the recent key decisions published by the Police and Crime Commissioner.**

3 Finance Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications relating to the report set out in Appendix A that lists the published decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.2 The financial implications of the key decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner are outlined in the individual decision reports published by the Commissioner.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications relating to the report set out in Appendix A that lists the published decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.2 The legal implications of the key decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner are outlined in the individual decision reports published by the Commissioner.

5 Equalities Implications

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications relating to this report.

5.2 The equalities implications of the key decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner are outlined in the individual decision reports published by the Commissioner.

6 Appendix

6.1 Appendix A List of Police and Crime Commissioner key decisions

Appendix A

Police and Crime Commissioner Key Decisions: July 2023 – September 2023

The following key decisions have been published by the Police and Crime Commissioner since the last Panel meeting.

Further details of decisions, including non-confidential reports and supporting documents are available on the website: [Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions](#)

PCC Decision 012-2023: Disposal of 2&4 Winchcombe Rd, Solihull (Confidential Decision)

PCC Decision 013-2023: Proposed Appointment of the Chief Finance Officer

PCC Decision 014-2023: Lease of Parking at Civic Centre, Walsall (Confidential Decision)

PCC Decision 018-2023: Dudley Acquisition – Castlegate House (Confidential Decision)

PCC Decision 019-2023: Decision to Appoint Chief Finance Officer

PCC Decision 020-2023: Provision of Legal Assistance (Confidential Decision)

PCC Decision 021-2023: Policing Education Qualifications Framework (Confidential Decision)



Report to the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel – Work Programming for 2023/2024

Date: 11 September 2023

Report of: Kevin O’Keefe, Chief Executive Dudley MBC, Lead Officer of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Report author: Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Birmingham City Council

Email: wmpcp@birmingham.gov.uk

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed work programme for the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel (‘the Panel’) for 2023/24, based on the statutory duties the Panel will have to undertake and standard items.
- 1.2 This report will be continuously updated throughout the year to enable the Panel to respond in a flexible and timely way.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the Panel

- a. Considers the outline work programme set out in Appendix 1;**
- b. Identifies any further topics to add to the menu of topics for the Panel to explore over the coming year.**

3 Background

- 3.1 Following the introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel was established. The Panel acts as a joint scrutiny body of the West Midlands Local Authorities with a dual role to ‘support and challenge’ the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (the PCC).
- 3.2 The Panel acts as a critical friend to the PCC on behalf of West Midlands residents and must perform the following statutory functions:
 - Review and comment on the PCC’s draft Police and Crime Plan
 - review the PCC’s Annual Reports
 - scrutinise decisions and actions of the PCC
 - Review (with the power to veto) the PCC’s proposed Council Tax precept

- hold confirmation hearings before the PCC makes senior appointments (Chief Constable, Deputy PCC, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer) with the power to veto the Chief Constable appointment
- handle non-criminal complaints about the conduct of the PCC and Deputy PCC, referring serious complaints to the Independent Office for Police Conduct
- Appoint an acting PCC, if required
- Suspect the PCC, if charged.

3.3 The Panel's work programme consists of statutory tasks (listed above) and wider exploratory work to fulfil its role to hold the PCC to account. This will build knowledge and insight into the strategic policing and the wider community safety and criminal justice landscape. The Police and Crime Plan will form a large part of this work.

3.4 The Panel must maintain a strategic focus is scrutinising the work of the PCC, rather than operational detail. The role of the Panel is to provide oversight of how the PCC is holding the Chief Constable and West Midlands Police to account; the Panel does not provide direct oversight of the Chief Constable. This is the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3.5 The Police and Crime Panel comprises elected members from across the seven separate Local Authority areas in the West Midlands, as well as independent co-opted members. The Chair is appointed by the membership at its AGM.

3.6 A well planned and timely work programme enables the Panel to consider the right issues in an informed way. It may be necessary for the Panel to prioritise issues and consider factors such as public interest and performance when carrying this out.

3.7 The Panel will liaise with the PCC and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide the issues the Panel would like to explore, and their specific areas of focus.

4 Work Programme 2023/24

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the topics the Panel will consider over the next few months.

4.2 The Panel will amend and update this work programme during the course of the year.

5 Finance Implications

5.1 The Home Office provides an annual grant to support the administration of Police and Crime Panels. This will cover all costs relating to the secretariat to support this work programme.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7 Equalities Implications

- 7.1 The Panel has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 7.2 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; sex, and sexual orientation.

- 7.3 The Panel will ensure it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within the West Midlands; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

- 7.4 The Panel should ensure that any recommendations which contribute towards reducing inequality, are based on evidence.

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#)
- 8.2 [Policing and fire governance: guidance for police and crime panels](#)
- 8.3 [West Midlands Police and Crime Panel – Panel Agreement \(2012\)](#)

9 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Work Programme September 2023

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2023/24

Meeting Date	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Additional Information and Outcome*
11 September 2023	Road Safety	<p>To Understand how the PCC is providing oversight of WMP and holding the Chief Constable to account to improve road safety across the West Midlands and action undertaken by WMP is delivering on the Police and Crime Plan where it relates to road safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WMP's approach towards improving road safety for all road users including an outline of its current enforcement strategy and partnership work with Local Authorities. - Current data and trends for road casualties (including fatalities). - Performance information demonstrating the impact of the s222 injunctions and other measures to address street cruising. - The challenges and barriers to delivering improved road safety across the West Midlands. - Recognising the role of the Panel to challenge and support the Commissioner, the Panel would like to understand if there are ways it could consider support to overcome identified barriers. 	Item requested at the July 2023 meeting
22 September 2023 Member Visit	Drugs Strategy	Information briefing	
22 September 2023 Member Visit	Neighbourhood Policing New Policing Operational Model	Information briefing	
13 November 2023	Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner on progress made on the Police and Crime Plan objectives during 2022-23	<p>Review the draft Annual Report for 2022-23</p> <p>Agree recommendations for PCC to consider in final Annual Report</p>	<p>This is a statutory duty.</p> <p>Latest Annual Report, 2021-22 is available here.</p>

Meeting Date	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Additional Information and Outcome*
13 November 2023	Fairness and Belonging Strategy – the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner	<p>Understand how the PCC is providing oversight to deliver the objectives within the Fairness and Belonging Plan.</p> <p>Consider the outcome of communications and publicity plans in relation to the Fairness and Belonging Plan and Recruitment.</p> <p>Consider the impact of the plan to date.</p> <p>Outline actions to address the findings from the recent WMP Employee Survey relating to staff morale, engagement, and culture.</p>	<p>Report provided to Strategic Police and Crime Board in September 2022.</p> <p>The Fairness and Belonging Plan was launched by West Midlands Police and the PCC in July 2020.</p>
		The OPCC to report back on the community engagement by local CSPs, and an explanation of the new Violence Reduction Boards structure.	Item requested as part of the WMPCP tackling serious violence item in January 2023 to understand the local governance and operational structures
15 January 2024	Draft proposed Precept and PCC Budget	Consider the draft proposed precept and PCC budget.	<p>This informs the February meeting where the proposed precept is considered formally and voted upon. This is a statutory duty.</p> <p>The Panel may consider setting up a sub committee to review the draft proposed precept in more detail and report back to the February meeting.</p>
5 February 2024	PCC Proposed Policing Precept for 2024/25 and PCC budget	<p>Formally review the proposed precept, and decide whether to approve</p> <p>Agree recommendation for PCC regarding the proposed precept</p>	This is a statutory duty. The Panel has the power to veto the proposed precept. If this happens, this is revisited at a further meeting of the Panel on 19 February 2024.

Meeting Date	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Additional Information and Outcome*
		Consider the proposed PCC budget	
19 February 2024	PCC Proposed Policing Precept for 2024/25	<i>Formally review the proposed and revised precept</i>	<i>Provisional meeting date - this meeting will only take place in the event the proposed precept is vetoed at the earlier February meeting.</i> <i>The Panel does not have the power of veto on this occasion.</i>
18 March 2024	Complaints received by the Panel	Consider the process and outcomes from the handling of complaints to the Panel	Annual Report.
18 March 2024	Panel Budget and Expenditure	Consider and approve the total budget and expenditure of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel	Annual Report.

Menu of Options for Future Consideration

The Panel is invited to identify potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Additional Information