

Appendix A

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Key Activities 2022

1. Role of the Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”)

- 1.1 The Panel is a joint scrutiny body of the West Midland authorities with a dual role to ‘support and challenge’ the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”).
- 1.2 The Panel acts as a critical friend to the Commissioner on behalf of West Midlands residents and must perform the following statutory functions:
 - Review and comment on the Commissioner’s draft Police and Crime Plan.
 - Review the Commissioner's Annual Reports.
 - Scrutinise decisions and actions by the Commissioner in discharging his/her functions.
 - Review (with the power to veto) the Commissioner's proposed Council Tax precept.
 - Hold confirmation hearings before the Commissioner makes certain senior appointments (Chief Constable, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer), with the power to veto the Chief Constable appointment.
 - Handle non-criminal complaints about the conduct of the Commissioner and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, referring serious complaints to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.
 - Appoint an acting Commissioner if required.
 - Suspend the Commissioner if charged.

2. Panel Membership

- 2.1 The Panel consists of 12 councillors representing the seven West Midland districts and two independent members. Councillor membership reflects the political balance of the region, and appointments are made annually.
- 2.2 Birmingham is represented on the Panel by Cllr Alex Aitken, Cllr Kath Scott and Cllr Gareth Moore. Cllr Akhlaq Ahmed, Cllr Raqeeb Aziz and Cllr David Barrie are named substitutes.
- 2.3 The Panel re-elected Councillor Suky Samra (Walsall) as Chair and Kristina Murphy (Independent Member) as Vice Chair for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

3. Panel's Work Programme

- 3.1 The Panel's work programme consists of its statutory tasks (refer to point 1.2) and wider exploratory work. This specifically supports the Panel to scrutinise the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and the discharge of his/her functions.
- 3.2 The Commissioner attends every Panel meeting to respond to questions and provides updates on recent activities. The Panel may also invite the Chief Constable to attend to answer any questions which appear to the Panel to be necessary to carry out its functions. The Panel could also invite other persons (residents, stakeholders, councillors, officers from other parts of the public sector) to discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions.
- 3.3 Meetings papers, meeting dates, published reports, together with more information about the Panel can be found on the Panel's website. All meetings are live streamed.

4 Key Activity January 2022- October 2022

- 4.1 The Panel held a confirmation hearing for the Commissioner's proposed appointment as Chief Constable in July 2022, and unanimously confirmed the decision. Craig Guildford, currently Chief Constable for Nottinghamshire Police, will be commencing his role as Chief Constable for West Midlands Police on Monday 5th December 2022. The Panel will be formally acknowledging the service of Sir David Thompson, current Chief Constable on his retirement in early December 2022.
- 4.2 Further to the confirmation hearing itself, the Panel also provided challenge and support to the Commissioner in relation to the recruitment process for the new Chief Constable. The recruitment plan was presented to the Panel in advance of the advertisement. An observer from the Panel was invited to attend the recruitment selection process.
- 4.3 In January 2022, the Panel reviewed and approved the Commissioner's proposed Policing Precept for West Midlands.
- 4.4 The Commissioner has attended all Panel meetings and provided updates on the progress of his Police and Crime Plan 2021-25. In particular, he has provided information on his plan to rebuild community policing and progress to date.
- 4.5 The Panel published its Tackling Confidence in Policing Inquiry in December 2021. The Panel is currently tracking its recommendations.

5. Forward Plan

- 5.1 The Commissioner will be presenting his Annual Report to the Panel in November 2022.

- 5.2 The proposed Policing Precept will be reviewed between November 2022 and January 2023 for a decision at the Panel meeting in January. In the event of a veto, a provisional meeting has been arranged for February 2023.
- 5.3 A new Memorandum of Understanding is being developed to support the relationship between the Panel and the Commissioner. This is recommended as good practice and has been adopted from other areas.

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