



**Philip Seccombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire**

Decision Application WPCC20071

BREAK-OUT OF LOCAL POLICING 2019/20

Application Date:	1 st April 2019	Name of Applicant:	Philip Seccombe
Application Decision Reference: WPCC20071 – Breakout of Local Policing 2019/20			
1. Summary of the application The local policing element of operational services has formed part of the Strategic Alliance Collaboration Agreement and cost sharing model with West Mercia since the formation of the Alliance. This position has been reconsidered in the light of the ongoing review of the Collaboration Agreement and as part of the budget setting process for 2019/20 and it is felt that the decision to breakout local policing budgets to each respective force will allow greater local control over the operational policing capability, improve the effectiveness of the service and increase the transparency of the local policing budgets. In the 2019/20 Warwickshire budget the local policing costs have been disaggregated and includes only the costs of Warwickshire officers and staff, rather than the previously 'pooled' budgets.			
2. Background information: Following a meeting on 21 st May 2018 between the respective Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's) for both forces it was agreed in principle that the policing functions which together make up the Local Policing service delivered in Local Policing Areas (LPAs), would include as follows: a. Response Policing. b. Safer Neighbourhood policing. c. Criminal Investigation Department (Investigation & Proactivity) d. Operational Policing Unit – Roads Policing and Firearms. e. Custody services. f. Public front enquiry counters. g. Harm Reduction and Offender Management.			

These policing functions are assessed to be largely static in force areas, with limited mutual support between Local Policing Areas (LPAs) within force areas. The functions are designed to meet the local policing requirements of their LPA, and respond to the needs of local communities. The LPAs also provide enduring relationships between the police and local partner agencies, and since the policing requirement differs between areas, the local policing function is better served by being tailored to the respective and specific local needs of their communities. This approach has also been agreed and supported through a consultation process with Assistant Chief Constable's and Chief Superintendents.

Given the agreement regarding what constitutes local policing, and the fact that local policing occurs in force specific areas, it follows that there is no compelling argument to hold local policing budgets in a centralised manner or function that supports both forces into the next financial year. Thus it would seem appropriate for local policing to be held under force command and control to align the responsibility for policing in an area, with the authority to direct the resources that deliver it. It also means that since local policing should be held under force command and control, there is no compelling argument to retain it in a shared funding model, because to do so would risk spreading the cost of delivering local policing beyond the electoral and local tax raising areas of responsibility of the PCC.

On this basis the current approach supports the breakout of local policing costs within the 2019/20 Warwickshire budget and the consequent need to vary the s22 Collaboration Agreement to ensure that the correct governance arrangements regarding such a decision are in place. The variation to the s22 Collaboration Agreement also reflects that the following services that support local policing will now form part of Shared Policing Services: Custody contracts, policies, audit and compliance; OCC, Crime Bureau, Resolution Centre and Demand Reduction; Criminal Justice; Crime Review; Collision Investigation and SOCU.

3. Whether additional information/report is attached to support this decision application

NO

List of additional information/report

4. Expected benefits (non financial)

- Greater local command and control over the local policing functions to better reflect the needs of Warwickshire communities.
- Clearer alignment of local policing functions with the local electorate and funding, to improve transparency of cost and financing of local policing services.

5. Impact of not approving the application

If not approved by both parties, the cost saving to Warwickshire in the 2019/20 budget will not be realised, along with any other benefits of local force command and control.

6. Costs

Revenue: In preparing the 2019/20 budget a cost reduction of £1.6m is included in the Warwickshire budget to reflect the breakout of local policing across the Alliance structures. This represents the financial costs of local policing only, as per the definition outlined above, and the costs of other services supporting local policing remain within the current collaboration agreement and cost sharing split of 69%/31%.

Capital: n/a

7. Savings:

The breakout of local policing in the 2019/20 budget represents a budgetary saving to Warwickshire of £1.6m.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications:

Not applicable

9. Treasurer's comments

The decision to de-pool the local policing budget brings with it various benefits and significant cost savings to Warwickshire in the 2019/20 budget, as outlined previously within this decision notice.

10. Legal/Monitoring Officer comments

The existing Strategic Alliance Collaboration Agreement has been amended by Letter of Variation effective 1 April 2019 and agreed by the PCC's and Chief Constables to reflect the breakout of local policing. The benefits and cost savings to Warwickshire Police are set out in this notice.

Decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner

To approve the budgetary breakout of Local policing in the 19/20 budget.

PCC Signature:



Date of Decision:

25/7/19.

