



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

Agenda Item 4

Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel

Thursday 22nd November 2018

**Report on the Work of the
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner**

1. Intention.

The purpose of this report is to provide the members of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP) with an update on the key activities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) that have taken place since the Panel last met on the 20th September 2018.

2. Warwickshire Police and the alliance

As the Panel are aware, on the 8 October 2018 I received a letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable for West Mercia informing me that they were terminating the alliance with Warwickshire Police from 9 October 2019. This decision had not been anticipated.

On the 25th October 2018 an extraordinary meeting of the Warwickshire PCP was held to discuss the implications of this development. At the meeting I undertook to provide a further update on the situation at the scheduled PCP meeting on the 22nd November 2018. As such, I will provide a verbal update on my current position in respect of this matter.

At my request, the Chief Constable of Warwickshire Police had already agreed to address the PCP at the 22nd November 2018 meeting regarding the present challenges to policing. The Chief Constable's appearance also now presents an opportunity for the Panel to raise their concerns regarding the implication of the West Mercia decision, so that the Panel can better consider its role in the process of transitioning from the alliance. **Agenda Item 3**

3. Performance.

- The 'Warwickshire Police Performance Summary Q2 2018/19' is contained at **Appendix A**.
- My office subsequently scrutinised the force's performance and I held the Chief Constable to account through the mechanism of asking specific written questions at our monthly performance review meeting. The questions are contained at **Appendix B**.
- The Chief Constable's formal response to these questions are contained at **Appendix C**
- Both of these documents are posted on the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) website for public access.
- On the 5th November 2018 the PCP Planning and Performance Working Group formally scrutinised both of these documents.

4. Precept Consultation

The PCP Annual report 2017/18 provided recommendations to the PCC in respect of the consultation process for the 2019/20 precept, to ensure that it captures the views of a fully representative demographic of Warwickshire's communities. As a consequence, my office have subsequently accepted the offer of assistance from Andy Davis, as an independent member of the Panel, to advise on the process for next year's consultation process.

Liaison between Andy Davis and Neil Tipton (OPCC Head of Media and Communications) has already occurred to consider this matter. However, the uncertainty created by the West Mercia decision regarding the alliance, compounded by an announcement expected to be made by the Policing Minister in early December 2018 regarding the police funding settlement, has resulted in a dynamic situation regarding the precept and the consultation process. Neil Tipton will consequently provide a verbal update to the Panel on the latest developments and considerations. **Agenda Item 5.**

5. Athena.

The PCP have continued to express interest in Athena since its implementation on the 4th October 2017, in terms of its impact on Warwickshire Police's performance.

As I stated in my previous report to the Panel on the 20th September 2018, the Athena platform is the most significant change to the ICT of the force in a generation, the effects of which have been far reaching and profound. The force subsequently convened a Critical Incident Management Meeting (CIMM), chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable, to manage a number of issues arising from its introduction.

I was not entirely satisfied that the Athena issues were being adequately addressed through the CIMM and I therefore commissioned my office to examine in detail the prevailing concerns. The purpose of the report was to provide an examination of Athena, in terms of its selection, processes, governance and the realisation of perceived benefits and risks. The focus of the report was on Athena's affect at the operational and tactical level and its impact on force performance and the management of the risk of harm. This aim was coherent with two of the four objectives of my Police and Crime Plan 2016 - 2021: -

1. Ensuring effective and efficient policing.
2. Protecting people from harm.

This investigation culminated in an extensive report with recommendations being produced by my office, which was presented to the Chief Constable the 20th August 2018 for his consideration and for a formal response. On the 16th October 2018 I received his response to the OPCC report.

It was initially intended that both the OPCC Athena report and force response would be shared in full with the PCP in due course, however a view has been taken that given the importance of this critical operating system to law enforcement agencies it would be prejudicial to their activities to openly share and divulge the content of either document.

In summary, the report found a number of Athena issues that were adversely impacting on Warwickshire Police's performance. The force's response acknowledged these concerns and as a consequence the Athena Development Team (ADT) identified a significant number of specific 'dis-

benefits' with the system, culminating in an Athena Service Improvement Plan (SIP) being formulated to address each of these areas of underperformance.

The SIP has been formulated to remedy these matters at both the strategic and tactical level with short, medium and long term milestones. In addition, the Athena governance arrangements have been strengthened with the formation of both a strategic and tactical governance group, coupled with an uplift in resources in key processes to better meet the Athena demand and reduce backlogs. Of the four Athena modules, namely Investigation / Intelligence / Custody / Case, it was the Case module that was considered to be the least developed and most challenging for officers and staff to use. The force therefore made the decision to move away from Athena Case as of the 5th November 2018 to a different ICT platform for case file preparation.

These are welcome developments and my office will continue to monitor and scrutinise the progress made with the Athena SIP, including providing OPCC representation at the newly formed Athena governance groups.

6. Victims and Witnesses Charter

My Victims and Witnesses Charter was launched in November 2017 and now, on its anniversary, is an appropriate time for the Panel to scrutinise the impact of this initiative and how its success, or otherwise, is being monitored.

A report on Victims and Witnesses Charter has consequently been prepared by Mr Chris Lewis (OPCC Development and Policy Lead - Victims Services) that outlines the progress that has been made in this regard. **Agenda Item 6.**

7. Summary of Activity.

The list is not exhaustive, but I have attended the following engagements and events: -

- 4th September - Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board at Shire Hall
- 5th September - OVO tour of Britain Stage 4, Leamington
- 7th September - Pride of Warwick Awards, Kenilworth
- 9th September - Cadets attestation and leaving ceremony, Leek Wootton
- 10th September - NPR Photoshoot, Leek Wootton
- 10th September - Prevent awareness workshop, Leek Wootton
- 11th September - Warwickshire Blue Light Collaboration Board, Shire Hall
- 12th September - LCJB / WJC and AGG meeting, Leek Wootton
- 13th September - Visit to Bradby Club, Rugby
- 17th September - Visit to Forensic Services, Hindlip

- 19th September - The Emergency Services show, Birmingham
- 20th September - Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel, Shire Hall
- 21st September - Unauthorised Encampments Summit, Birmingham
- 23rd September - Town Council of Royal Leamington Spa
- 25th September - Excellence in Policing Conference Day 1, Rugby
- 26th September - Excellence in Policing Conference Day 2, Whitnash
- 26th September - Community Forum, Whitnash
- 27th September - Visit to Grey's Mallory Traffic Base
- 28th September - Northern Areas Secondary Head Teachers, Nuneaton
- 4th October - Visit to Stratford Police Station
- 5th to 8th October - Annual Leave
- 9th October - Problem Solving Event, Dunchurch
- 13th October - Independent Custody Volunteers AGM, Coventry
- 15th October - All Party Parliamentary Group, London
- 17th-18th October - APCC meeting, Ryton-on-Dunsmore
- 20th October - Love Instead of Hate Community Conference, Bedworth
- 21st October - Commissioning Service, Rugby Street Pastors, Rugby
- 23rd October - Alcester / Bidford Community Forum, Bidford
- 24th October - Street Triage Workshop, Birmingham
- 25th October - Rural Crime Event, Atherstone
- 30th October - Warwickshire Rural Crime meeting, Stoneleigh Park
- 31st-October - APCC / NPCC Summit, London
- 5th November - Blue Light Collaboration Board, Warwick.

In respect of the public engagements, since West Mercia's decision to terminate the alliance, repeated concern has been expressed as to the effect that this will have on Warwickshire Police and the communities it serves. I have sought to provide reassurance in this regard and will be undertaking a programme of engagements in the near future to further inform and reassure.

8. Formal Decisions of the PCC.

A copy of the non-exempt completed decision forms are published on the OPCC website together with any relevant documents. <https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/decision-making>

I have made the following decisions since my last report to the Panel on the 20 September 2018: -

WPCC 20052 - 01.08.2018 - Upgrade to ANPR Infrastructure.

WPCC 20054 - 04.09.2018 - Commissioning Consultants.

WPCC 20057 - 11.10.2018 - Commissioning Services.

WPCC 20058 - 18.09.2018 - Reserves Strategy 2018/19.

A number of other decisions are in the process of being finalised prior to being formally signed off.

I will update the Panel in respect of these decisions at the next PCP meeting.

9. Appendices.

- **Appendix A** - Warwickshire Police Performance Summary Q2 2018/19.
- **Appendix B** - OPCC Force Performance Scrutiny - Q2 2018.19
- **Appendix C** - Force Response - OPCC Performance Scrutiny Q2 2018.19