



Safer West Mercia Plan 2016

(Draft)

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Foreword

Taking a good service and making it great represents a big challenge. It requires attention to detail, understanding, the right resources, and a determination to succeed. This is the challenge I have set myself: To take our strong foundation of a good police force and create an even safer West Mercia.

This plan will outline how, together, we can all help to achieve that goal.

This challenge means giving our officers the tools, skills and processes to do their work more effectively and more efficiently. It also means establishing West Mercia as a modern, dynamic, innovative police force whilst retaining the traditional fundamentals of good policing. The force must sustain and extend its connections and relationships with local communities by improving engagement, visibility and accessibility. Put together, the aim is to create a police force that is known and respected both nationally and locally for its outstanding performance.

For our communities, it will mean empowering people to play a more active role in identifying and tackling local issues. Active citizenship can and should have a major part in creating communities which are safer, stronger and more united. I want to ensure people have the opportunities and tools to make more positive contributions to their own communities, with appropriate backing from the police or other partners as required. I also want to provide a better service for victims of crime. Where people do fall victim, I will ensure they consistently get the support they need to cope, recover and prevent re-victimisation.

For partner agencies, it will mean working closer together to achieve the best possible value and results for the public. We will need to be reactive and adaptive together as society, culture and technology evolve over time to ensure we continue to deliver the priorities and issues that the public needs.

None of this will be easy but I will work tirelessly to make it a reality.

Together we can build a safer West Mercia.



Introduction - The Safer West Mercia Plan

I delivered a clear vision for a safer West Mercia during my election campaign. This is the vision the public voted for, it is the vision contained within this plan, and it is the vision I will work hard to deliver.

My vision for a safer West Mercia			
Putting victims first	Building a more secure West Mercia	Reforming West Mercia	Reassuring West Mercia's communities

This vision has been further shaped by the consultation I have carried out since my election (detailed below), along with analysis of inspections, audits and police performance in West Mercia.

- Results from my online surveys with the public and workforce of West Mercia
- West Mercia Police's Strategic Assessment and Control Strategy
- Community Safety Partnership strategic assessments and plans
- The strategic objectives and priorities of other partner organisations
- The strategic Policing Requirement
- National strategies
- Inspection reports from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

Putting victims first

I will ensure improved and more consistent services for the victims and witnesses who suffer most from crime. I will ensure they get the right help to cope and recover at every point of their journey.

I will hold the Chief Constable to account for:

- Making sure officers and staff have the skills to properly support victims and do so whenever necessary
- Ensuring all victims who report an offence in West Mercia can access 'Track my Crime' or an alternative with equivalent capability

As your Commissioner I will:

- Work hard to put victims first
- Set out my commitment in a new Victims Charter, clarifying what services victims can expect, and what services must be delivered.
- Complete a victims needs assessment.
- Bring together and help lead a new West Mercia Victims Board to ensure better results and consistency.
- Make sure victims get effective services, enabling them to cope and recover
- Make best use of any new responsibilities from government to further enhance services for victims and witnesses locally.
- Support the appropriate use of restorative justice.

What I will deliver for West Mercia:

- An enhanced and seamless approach to victim and witness care
- Seamless pathways of service delivery
- Improved police satisfaction for victims
- Making sure victims and witnesses are kept informed
- Tailored responses to individual needs
- More cases successfully supported through the criminal justice system.

The Victims Board will:

- Co-ordinate victim services and pathways which help victims cope and recover
- Ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system.
- Champion enhanced support for the most vulnerable.
- Ensure victims and witnesses get the right information at the right time.
- Act on recurring concerns about victims in the criminal justice system.
- Identify and resolve issues around regarding policies and processes.
- Make sure services and approaches are aligned to strategic priorities.
- Ensure compliance with the Victims Code of Practice.
- Provide a forum for strategic evidence and data sharing, review and problem solving.
- Promote best practice across West Mercia and Warwickshire.

Building a more secure West Mercia

I will reduce harm and increase safety in communities right across West Mercia, particularly for our most vulnerable people. From my perspective this is a non-negotiable part of policing and a key commitment from my partners. Together we can build a more secure West Mercia by understanding and tackling the causes of crime, improving community resilience and cohesion and being more responsive to emerging threats.

My particular focus areas will be:

- Child sexual exploitation
- Safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children
- Rape and sexual offences
- Violent crime
- Serious and organised crime
- Domestic and sexual abuse
- Road safety
- Drugs and alcohol
- Anti social behaviour
- Reducing reoffending

I will hold the chief constable to account for:

- Making sure the police provide the right response to incidents at the right time
- Working closely with partner agencies to reduce harm and prevent victimisation
- Ensuring officers and staff effectively identify and support people with vulnerabilities, understanding and managing associated risks.
- Proactively finding the causes of crime so threats are identified and targeted before they escalate.
- Working more effectively with partners and local communities to prevent, solve and reduce crime and anti social behaviour.
- Ensuring partnership commitments are fully implemented and delivering the best possible results, including West Mercia's Reducing Reoffending Strategy and Mental Health Crisis Concordat
- Working with West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership and others to improve road safety, using practical, evidence led approaches to enforcement and education.

As your Commissioner I will:

- Ensure partners work together to provide efficient and effective support to victims and use early intervention to prevent victimisation.
- Make sure public funding used in support of this objective is allocated responsibly, is outcome focussed and based on proven need.
- Use a commissioning framework to ensure funding for community safety partnerships represents value for money.
- Make sure the Safer Roads Partnership responds to community concerns as well as working to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads
- Provide oversight and support to West Mercia's Reducing Reoffending Strategy.

What I will deliver for West Mercia:

- Fewer repeat victims and offenders.
- Increased reporting of offences.
- Reduced or stable levels of recorded crime and anti social behaviour.
- West Mercia Police will improve its current 'requires improvement' and then sustain its rating in HMIC's PEEL effectiveness (vulnerability) inspection

Reforming West Mercia

West Mercia Police is a professional, hard-working force that delivers a good service to its communities. I will build on those foundations by transforming the organisation into a modern, innovative force, leading the way nationally and delivering even more locally.

It is imperative we give officers and staff the space, tools and skills to do an excellent job, whilst ensuring the best possible value for the taxpayer and service for our communities. I will ensure the money given for policing is spent as efficiently as possible before I ask our communities to pay more through council tax.

I will back the force with the investment and resources it needs to become more responsive to changing demands. In return for this freedom and support I will hold them robustly to account to ensure the police deliver the service our communities need to be safe and feel safe.

I will hold the chief constable to account for:

- Ensuring the alliance transformation programme delivers a better, more efficient service to the public
- Delivering new fit for purpose technology and making best use of it
- Ensuring the force has fit for purpose buildings and contact points which best meet the needs of local communities and the organisation
- Delivering the operational control centre programme on time and on budget to improve force resilience
- Making sure the force has the right contact channels for the public and that they provide the right response every time
- Understanding, investing in and developing the force's officers, staff and volunteers to make sure they are reaching their full potential
- Properly investing in the workforce and developing staff
- Delivering a modern, effective and adaptable support function which responds to the needs of our service and community
- Increasing the number of special constables and police volunteers
- Working alongside public and third sector partners

As your Commissioner I will:

- Work with Warwickshire's Police and Crime Commissioner to provide governance and oversight of all the modernisation programmes across the alliance.
- Support the health and wellbeing agenda within the alliance.
- Give leadership to the force and partners in forging new collaborations to deliver efficient and improved public services.

Together the Chief Constable and I will:

- Invest to save, so the force can be more adaptable and make best use of its resources.
- Monitor the National Specialist Capabilities Programme and respond to any changes arising from it.
- Join up services and commissioning with partners where there are operational and financial benefits.
- Aspire to a market leading support service for policing.



What I will deliver for West Mercia:

- A modern, more responsive police force.
- Better infrastructure and development for West Mercia's officers and staff to reach their potential.
- A network of partner, public and third sector agencies working alongside the police to deliver a safer West Mercia.

Reassuring West Mercia's communities

It is vital our communities are not only safe, but feel safe too. I want to make that principle a reality for more people across West Mercia.

I want to ensure our communities can have trust in me as their Commissioner and the police force I hold to account on their behalf. People need to be able to engage with both myself and their police to be confident that, respectively, we are visible, accessible, transparent, understanding of local priorities and capable of tackling them effectively.

I will create more opportunities for communities to not only raise local issues, but also play a leading role in resolving them. I want to enable more active citizenship and will ensure people get the tools, training or expertise they need in order to help themselves and their communities. This will include updated and improved use of technology, delivering services and engagement more conveniently via new internet and social media platforms.

I will hold the chief constable to account for:

- Ensuring the Police Code of Ethics is embedded within the force's culture, and is adhered to.
- Delivering new online platforms for communicating and engaging with the public and partners, alongside traditional and existing methods.
- Proactively publishing information to demonstrate the force is working ethically, and enable good governance.
- Engaging with the public and acting on their concerns locally.
- Ensuring the force is visible and accessible both in communities and online.
- Making sure people get an individual response based on their specific needs, and they understand the service they can expect to receive.
- Making sure all communities, individuals and staff are treated equally, fairly and respectfully by the force.
- Ensuring West Mercia Police complies with the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme.
- Working with partners to improve prevention and understanding of cyber crime, ensuring the strategy is fully implemented and emerging threats are tackled.
- Making sure voices and priorities are heard and acted on from within our rural communities, via the Rural Matters plan to ensure their specific needs are addressed.

- Working with businesses and partners through the Business Matters plan to ensure business crime is addressed effectively.

As your Commissioner I will:

- Make sure police follow custody rules and treat detainees safely and fairly, via an Independent Custody Visitor Scheme.
- Develop and publish a Communications and Engagement strategy, setting out how I will actively engage with communities and monitor performance.
- Launch a new Commissioner's Ambassador scheme to deliver more engagements, relationships and local links across our communities.
- Ensure that the police and partner organisations are active and effective in tackling the issues that are important to our communities.
- Involve, engage and empower communities in the delivery of my plan through more opportunities for active citizenship and volunteering.
- Be open and transparent in all the decisions and appointments I make and in the way I hold the Chief Constable to account.
- Work with the police to publish information arising from recommendations in HMIC or other strategic reports.

Together the Chief Constable and I will:

- Work with local people and partners to give visible reassurance on frontline neighbourhood policing.

What I will deliver for West Mercia:

- Increased confidence in the police.
- Communities feel valued, informed and involved.
- The force achieves and maintains a minimum rating of 'good' in HMIC's PEEL inspections.
- Published communication and engagement.
- Increase the proportion of hate crimes reported to the police.

Appendix 1 - Collaboration and partnership working

Building a safer West Mercia is not and cannot be the sole responsibility of any one person or organisation. I am committed to effective partnership working and this principle will be essential in achieving many of the objectives in this plan.

We have some good existing partnership arrangements already in West Mercia. I will look to sustain these and build new ones in order to achieve more effective and efficient results for our communities.

I will work with local partner organisations to:

- Develop strong partnerships that deliver our shared outcomes, particularly with community safety partnerships, local authorities, fire services, health and wellbeing boards, the youth offending service, safeguarding children's boards, safeguarding adult's boards, the criminal justice board and the community and voluntary sector.
- Support collaboration to improve services, increase capability and achieve efficiencies
- Aim to better serve local communities by encouraging innovative partnerships with the local and community sector
- Consider opportunities for co-locating, sharing or integrating services where it is in the best interest and operationally and financially viable to do so.
- Ensure effective partnership work to tackle adult and youth reoffending and its causes.
- Manage the change to the Transforming Justice agenda, with criminal justice partners

National and regional collaboration

I will work with regional and national partners on threats and areas of policing which go beyond a single force's boundaries, interests and capabilities. These include national threats set out in the Home Secretary's Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) of terrorism, civil emergencies, organised crime, threats to public order, large scale cyber incidents and child sexual abuse.

I will work with my regional counterparts of Staffordshire, Warwickshire and the West Midlands and wider regional and national partners to ensure we have the capability and capacity to tackle major challenges to public safety set out in the SPR and that robust governance arrangements are in place to hold the chief constable to account for responding to these national threats.

I will explore further operational collaboration with other police forces, particularly our neighbouring regional forces. I will also work with other Police and Crime Commissioners to improve and increase our collaborative working, building on the existing response to organised crime and criminal use of the road network, as well as ensuring that there is effective regional and national oversight of counter-terrorism policing.

Beyond this, I will look to work with my regional partners to develop collaborative approaches to other policing activity, such as uniformed operations (including armed policing) and other specialist functions. While ensuring continued responsiveness and preserving local accountability, these steps can deliver cost effectiveness, increased capability and greater resilience.

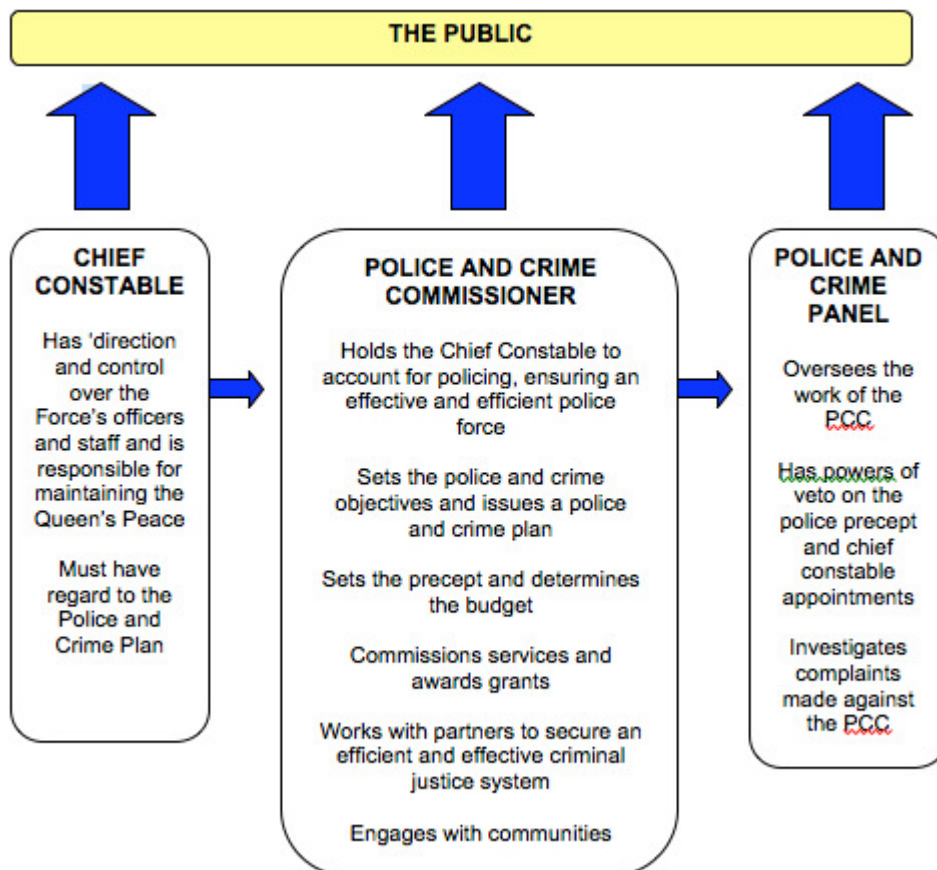
Appendix 2 - Performance and accountability

I want the public to have confidence and trust in my work, along with that of the force. To achieve this, I have developed a clear, robust assurance programme which will monitor performance of West Mercia Police. The programme will enable scrutiny of key areas within this plan, and is available to view and download at any time on my website.

The assurance programme gives an assurance to communities of how I intend to hold the chief constable to account. It also clarifies how I carry out my responsibilities around governance and oversight, including the mechanisms in place to assist me. The assurance programme will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis and will be subject to external scrutiny by the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel.

In addition, I have also developed a performance dashboard document, which will provide me with an at-a-glance summary of West Mercia Police performance. This is shown at appendix A.

Roles and responsibilities



DRAFT PLAN

THE ASSURANCE PROGRAMME AND PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD ARE IN DEVELOPMENT AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL ALONG WITH A FINAL DRAFT OF THE SAFER WEST MERCIA PLAN IN OCTOBER

Appendix 3 - Our resources

Financial resources

Setting the police and crime budget for the each financial year is one of the most important decisions I have to make. The budget is funded by a combination of central government grants and council tax contributions.

- The net revenue budget after savings for 2016/17 is £207.6 million.
- £4.690 million of reserves is to be used within the year.
- The net budget is £202.9 million
- £79.5 million of income is raised through council tax

A value for money approach

It is my intention to keep council tax increases to a minimum through a value for money approach which will be achieved by improving efficiencies in all aspects of this plan. In support of this approach I will:

- Support the development of the Alliance transformation programme
- Ensure the force invests and uses technology innovatively to reduce support costs, allowing more resources to be focused on frontline policing.
- Seek opportunities for collaborative working with other partners and police force to deliver further operational and financial efficiencies.
- Develop an outcomes based approach to service delivery.
- Rationalise the cost of my office by centralising its administrative function at the Police headquarters in Worcester and reduce the cost of the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and my Community Ambassador scheme.

Commissioning and grants

I have a central role in the commissioning of services related to victims, community safety and crime reduction, which may expand in the near future if police and crime commissioners take on responsibility for court based victims and witness services.

As your Commissioner I will:

- Develop and strengthen existing commissioning arrangements.
- Actively seek new opportunities for the co-commissioning of services with partner organisations where we have shared outcomes and issues of joint priority.
- Implement an outcomes based approach to commissioning and grants so that there is a clear rationale for the commissioning of services and activity with resources allocated to need.
- Implement an outcomes based commissioning framework with Community Safety Partnerships.
- Pilot the use of the Outcome Star framework with ten of the 2016/17 third sector grant recipients. This is an evidence based tool for supporting and measuring change when working with people.
- Operate a grants scheme.

DRAFT PLAN

THE GRANT SCHEME IS UNDER REVIEW

Appendix 4 - West Mercia policing area

People and communities



West Mercia is one of the largest police force areas in England and Wales, covering the counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire. It has a population of just over 1.2 million people, which is projected to grow 4.6% by 2024. The majority (92.9%) of the population is white British.

Much of the force area is rural, especially in Herefordshire and Shropshire, but there are also urban areas of Hereford, Redditch, Shrewsbury, Telford and Worcester.

West Mercia comprises of three unitary local authority areas; Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin along with Worcestershire, a county council area with six district/borough councils. The West Mercia Police Force is currently divided into four local policing areas aligned to local authority boundaries.

The policing alliance

West Mercia Police is in a formal strategic alliance with Warwickshire Police. This means that below the rank of Deputy Chief Constable all the functions of both police forces are combined. By working in an Alliance both forces have been able to realise significant financial savings as part of the government's comprehensive spending review. However the benefits of the alliance have proved to be more than just financial bringing greater operational and organisational resilience to both forces and ensuring the maximum number of people are protected from harm.

West Mercia personnel in numbers

	Actual	FTE
Number of police officers	2,094	2,066.47
Number of students officers (less than 2 years service)	246	246
Number of Specials	334	334
Number of PCSOs	249	241.73
Number of police staff (excluding PCSOs)	1,605	1,452.39

Figures shown are as at 31 March 2016