Local Policing and Crime Board

REPORT TITLE	Walsall LPU Local Policing Plan 2014/15	REPORT STATUS *Delete as appropriate*	Information *(& decision on further consultation)*
REPORT WRITER	Chief Superintendent David Sturman Walsall LPU Commander	AGENDA ITEM	Agenda Item 5
DATE	7th January 2013		

1. **Purpose of report:**

    To update the Board on the proposed content and timeframe for the production of the 2014/2015 Walsall Local Policing Plan. More specifically this paper seeks to consult on the intended local 'community concerns' within the plan.

2. **Recommendation**

2.1   That the Board note the proposed content and timeframe for the completion of the Walsall Local Policing Plan. Governance and accountability for the plan lies with the Borough Police Commander to the Chief Constable who in turn is accountable to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

2.2   That the Board approves a short period of additional public consultation about the local community concerns within the plan via the Local Area Partnership meetings.

3. **Background**

3.1.   The PCC is required to annually produce a Policing Plan for the West Midlands. This plan has been built taking account of a range of factors. These are:

- The manifesto commitments of the PCC.

- A strategic assessment conducted by the Chief Constable which identifies the Force's strategic policing priorities. This assessment is based upon intelligence held by the Force.

- The strategic assessments of community safety needs carried out by the community safety partnerships in Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton

- Requirements of the Strategic Policing Requirement which are those national requirements set out by the Home Secretary to which both the Chief

Constable and the PCC must have regard

- Medium term financial prospects for the revenue and capital funding for West Midlands Police

- The views of local people, as canvassed by the office of the PCC, including those who have been victims of crime, making use of extensive public engagement through the use of survey work, social media and a series of summits targeted at victims, business, young people, partners and trust and confidence issues.

3.2. In addition to the Force level Policing Plan detailed above, each of the 10 Local Policing Units (LPUs) that cover the Force area are required to produce their own local plans that both reflect local community concerns, as well as support the overall West Midlands Police Plan.
The current **2013/14** Walsall Local Policing Plan contains the following local community concerns that have been highlighted from survey work with the public:

Current Walsall Policing Plan Community Concerns
Reduce crime & increase successful criminal justice outcomes
Work with partners to address issues of youth anti social behaviour.
Address drug dealing & the harms associated with drugs misuse
Tackle anti social use of vehicles including speeding & inconsiderate parking

3.3 A considerable amount of work has already been undertaken to engage the public in order to understand what current community concerns they deem to be important for the police to deal with in Walsall. The main vehicle for surveying the public is the now well established WMP **'Feeling the Difference'** survey. The latest 3 waves of this work (Waves 32 – May 2012, 33 - October 2012 & 34 - August 2013), all highlight the same 3 community concerns identified by respondents;

Speeding,
Teenagers hanging around, and
Burglaries.

A more detailed summary of the 'Feeling the Difference' survey from the forthcoming Walsall strategic assessment is at **Appendix A** to this paper.

3.4. In addition to the above the PCC has recently conducted a separate public survey of people across the force area to gauge their community concerns. For both the West Midlands Force area and for Walsall specifically this survey highlighted the following 3 issues:

> **Burglary,**
> **Drug dealing /drug use,**
> **Inconsiderate parking.**

A more detailed summary of the PCCs recent survey from the forthcoming Walsall strategic assessment is at **Appendix B** to this paper.

3.5.   Colleagues will note perhaps unsurprisingly that there is a considerable degree of consistency between the community concerns contained within the current 2013/14 Walsall Local Policing Plan and the issues highlighted in both surveys. The only issue that is not specifically addressed in the current plan is that of Burglary. However Walsall LPU is already measured on Burglary reduction as part of the PCCs WMP main policing plan.

4.   Timescales/Content of 2014/15 Local Policing Plan

4.1.   Walsall LPU will be required to produce its 2014 Local Policing Plan by no later than the end of February 2014, in time for the new performance year. The LPU Commander is keen to ensure some further local consultation takes place early in the Year prior to the plan being submitted to the PCC via the Chief Constable for approval.

4.2.   Given the survey work already undertaken and synergy of the current plan with those community concerns already identified, The LPU Commander proposes to **maintain the current 4 community concerns** in the 2014/15 plan, **and make just one alteration to add a specific commitment to address burglary** within the first crime reduction concern. The proposal is to amend the wording of this first point to read:

Reduce crime, (with a particular focus on burglary), and to increase successful criminal justice outcomes

4.3.   The LPU Commander would seek to undertake an additional period of consultation again on this proposal via the 6 Local Area Partnerships who all have meetings early in the Year. It is proposed to request feedback from the 6 LAPs by no later than Friday 7th February 2014.

5.   Local Policing Plan and Borough Community Safety Plan.

5.1.   Once the Walsall Local Policing Plan is ratified by the PCC, it is proposed to assimilate it as a subsection of the broader Borough Community Safety Plan as the police specific element of that document. The Community Safety plan will be presented back to this board on 15th April 2014. An additional briefing on the content of the West Midlands Police Force level plan can be delivered at this time if required.

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Feeling the Difference is West Midlands Police's public perception survey. It is a key lever for levels of public trust and confidence in police and local authorities. The survey is conducted in 2 waves per year, encompassing 16,800 interviews broken down to LPU local constituency.

The most recent survey (Wave 34) took place between June to August 2013 whereby 8,451 interviews were completed across the Force and 898 specifically within Walsall[1]. Utilising the last update of Feeling the Difference, up to Wave 34, Walsall is currently 7th (out of 10 LPUs) in the Force for public confidence in the police. This milestone is not currently being achieved:

Indicator	Milestone	Performance	Variance
Public have confidence in police	85%	82.1%	2.9

Figure 11: Feeling the Difference Indicators

Figure 12 below shows the percentage of the public which have confidence in the police have been below 85% since Wave 30 (July 2011).
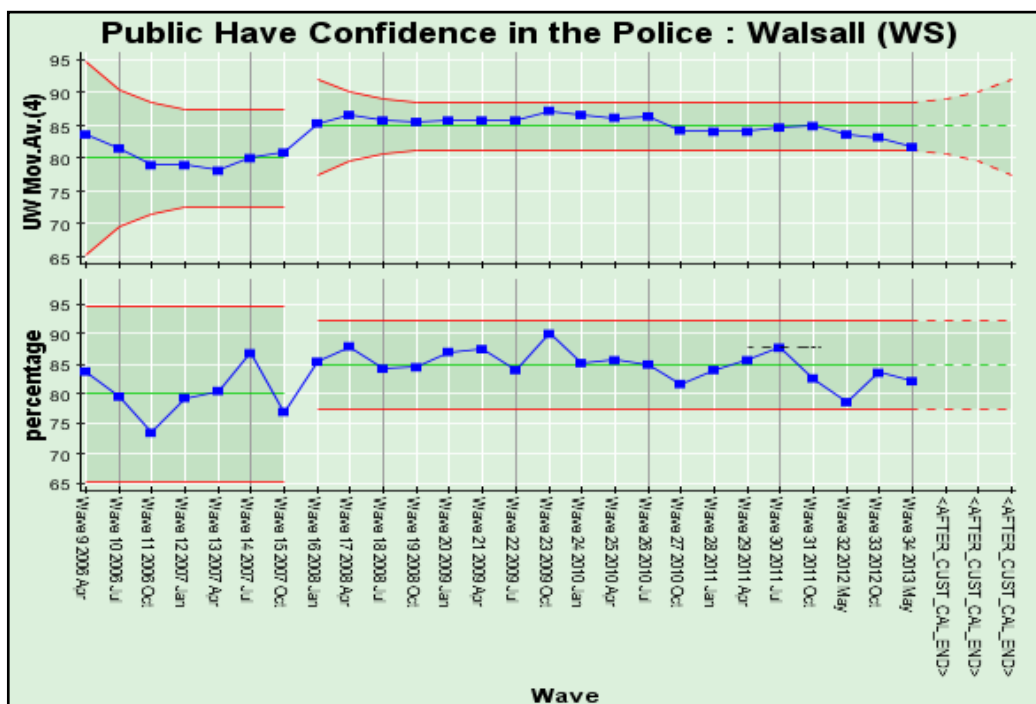

Figure 12: Feeling the Difference: Wave 9 April 2006 – Wave 34 May 2013

The latest 3 Waves; 32 (May 2012), 33 (October 2012) and 34 (May 2013) all highlight the same 3 problems identified by respondents; Speeding, Teenagers Hanging Around and Burglaries. Wave 32 and 34 rank these

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[1] Research Report – Feeling the Difference – Walsall LPU Wave 34 results (June – August 2013)

issues in the same order however Wave 33 highlights Teenagers Hanging Around as the most problematic followed by Speeding and also includes Inconsiderate Parking along with Burglaries.

Top 3 Problems Identified in Local Areas (All Respondents)			
Wave	Problem 1	Problem 2	Problem 3
34	Speeding (21%)	Teenagers Hanging Around (18%)	Burlgaries (15%)
33	Teenagers Hanging Around (21%)	Speeding (17%)	Burglaries / Inconsiderate Parking (15%)
32	Speeding (24%)	Teenagers Hanging Around (21%)	Burglaries (15%)

Figure 13: Top 3 Problems Identified by All Respondents: Wave 32 May 2012 – Wave 34 May 2013

When Walsall respondents of Wave 34 were asked if they had confidence in the police, 82% agreed which is in line with the force. Residents in Aldridge Brownhills constituency are more confident in the police (87%) than those in Walsall North (79%) or South (81%). This was also the case in Wave 32 and 33.

When asked '*what makes you feel confident in the police'*, a quarter of Wave 34 respondents (26%) stated that it was because 'they do a good job' followed by 'they always come when called / very responsive' (19%). When asked '*what doesn't make you feel confident in the police'* over a quarter of residents (27%) stated it was due to 'previous / poor experience' followed by 'limited police attendance / officers aren't visible enough' (25%) and 'no action is taken / police don't deal with issues (after being reported)' (25%) .

Responses when asked about confidence in the police differ over the different waves. Waves 32 and 33 are similar, both having 'they're always around/ local/ available/ they're there when you need them' as a reason why respondents are confident in the police and 'limited police attendance / officers aren't visible enough' as a reason why respondents don't feel confident in the police. Wave 34 however has different responses to both questions.

Question	Wave		
	32	33	34
What makes you feel confident in the police?	They're always around/ local/ available/ they're there when you need them/ visible police presence' (12%) and 'they always come when called/ very responsive' (12%)	They're always around/ local/ available/ they're there when you need them (14%)	They do a good job (26%)
What doesn't makes you feel confident in the police?	Limited police attendance/ officers aren't visible enough (26%)	Limited police attendance/ officers aren't visible enough (32%)	Previous / poor experience (27%)

Figure 14: Confidence in Police: Wave 32 May 2012 – Wave 34 May 2013

Wave 34 shows public confidence in the police is most likely to be increased if the local police are viewed to 'deal with things that matter to communities,' 'work with people in the community to improve neighbourhoods' and show they 'understand the issues that affect communities.'

Residents' perceptions of whether the police do a good job have increased by 5% points since Wave 33 and by 9% points since Wave 32. The level is 2% points higher than the Force average. Aldridge Brownhills residents are significantly more likely to feel the police do a good job (89%) than both other Constituencies. However, levels have increased significantly in Walsall South since Wave 33 (+11% points). Perceptions of whether the police do a good job are most likely to improve amongst residents that are 'confident in the police', that feel the police 'deal with things that matter to communities', and that feel they 'make fair decisions when dealing with local problems.'

Walsall residents are more likely to feel the police do a good job, provide value for money, deal with things that matter to communities, and work with people to improve neighbourhoods since Wave 33.

Indicator	Wave 32	Wave 33	Wave 34	% Difference
Feelings of safety after dark (% feeling safe)	75%	83%	86%	+3
How good a job do you think the police in this neighbourhood are doing (% good)	70%	74%	79%	+5
Can be relied on to be there when you need them (% agree)	74%	81%	80%	-1
The police in this neighbourhood deal with things that matter to this community (% agree)	68%	73%	80%	+7
The police in this neighbourhood understand the issues that affect this community (% agree)	73%	78%	81%	+3
Work with people in the community to improve neighbourhoods (% agree)	61%	64%	72%	+8
Taking everything into account, I have confidence in the police in this area (% agree)	78%	83%	82%	-1
How good or poor are the relations between people in your neighbourhood and the police (% good)	61%	68%	70%	+2
West Midlands Police (WMP) Force provide good value for money (% agree)	71%	72%	80%	+8
The local police have a positive reputation in the local community (% agree)*	-	-	79%	-
The local police work hard to engage with local residents (% agree)*	-	-	72%	-
Proud to be served by WMP (% agree)*	-	-	82%	-

Figure 15: Indicators: Wave 32 May 2012 – Wave 34 May 2013

Residents of the West Midlands were given the opportunity to have their say about policing and the key community safety issues in their local neighbourhood by completing a short online survey which was designed to capture what residents of the West Midlands want their local officers and other agencies to focus on in their area.

The survey ran for 3 weeks between 4th and 27th October 2013. In total 2,041 residents from across the force responded to the survey, this breaks down to 240 responses on Walsall LPU, 11.8% of the overall total return. Whilst 240 responses were received, this is an overall return. Questions were not compulsory meaning that respondents could skip a question should they wish to do so, the return rate is therefore subject to variation.

Respondents were mainly aged 45-54 (23.3%), followed by 65+ (22.1%) and 35-44 (21.3%). 50.8% were male and 87.9% of all respondents were White. 12.9% considered themselves to have a disability, as defined by the Equalities Act 2010, 80% were heterosexual and 62.5% were Christian.

Respondents were asked to select their top three issues in their neighbourhood. Both the Force and Walsall respondents' responses were:

1. Burglary
2. Drug Dealing / Drug Use
3. Inconsiderate Parking

When asked how important it is for West Midlands Police to deal with issues in order to make our neighbourhood a safer place to live, the majority answered dealing with Burglary closely followed by Anti-Social Behaviour.

When asked what is the best way for the police to consult with them or keep them informed, the majority of respondents said by email (69.6%) followed by 35 saying social media (14.6%).