

# **REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2009**

## ***Inspection of the Police Authority***

1. The Police Authority Inspection by the Audit Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is scheduled to take place between March and June 2010. The inspection marks the first time police authorities will be jointly inspected across a whole range of activities by the Audit Commission and HMIC. Special emphasis will be placed on the way police authorities consider the views of the public.

## ***Delivering the Policing Pledge***

2. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has reviewed how well the 43 forces in England and Wales are delivering the standards they promised the public in the Policing Pledge, which sets out ten minimum standards that the police service promised to deliver. West Mercia received an overall grade of Good, one of only eight forces to receive a Good grading. The HMIC commented "*They have generally kept their Pledge with the public and listened to their concerns, acted on their concerns and kept them informed on the progress they have made.*"

## ***Police Use of Resources (PURE) Assessment***

3. The force has been awarded Level 3 in the 2008/09 Use of Resources Scores, which is in the top quartile of forces. Level 3 is defined as "exceeds minimum requirements – performs well". Three themes are covered in the Assessment:

- Managing Finances
- Governing the Business
- Managing Resources

## ***Capital Programme 2009/10***

4. The Police Authority has approved negotiation of a 21 year lease for a building in Wem to replace the existing police station, and to provide other facilities.

## ***Commendations and Honours***

5. Chief Constable Commendations have recently been awarded to officers involved in a variety of cases including an armed robbery, a person armed with a ceremonial sword posing a threat to the public, and two firearms incidents.

## ***Significant Recent Court Cases***

6. Since the Authority's last meeting in July 2009 there have been some further significant court results, which are summarised below:

### Herefordshire

A man was convicted for the attempted murder of his wife. Also, a man was found guilty of multiple counts of rape, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, common assault and harassment on his wife. This verdict is seen as highly significant, given the particular difficulties involved when prosecuting rape cases within marriage.

### Worcestershire

A man was sentenced to serve at least 22 years for murder, with a 12-year sentence to run concurrently for arson after causing the death of one man and serious burns to members of his family.

A man was jailed for 13 years after a series of armed bank robberies, and attempted robberies, in Worcester and elsewhere in the UK.

In the first case of its kind in the country, a woman was sentenced to three months in a young offenders' institution for harassment after posting a death threat on Facebook.

A man was sentenced to two years in jail for the manslaughter of a colleague who died after an argument on a night out in Kidderminster. Also a man from Kidderminster was sentenced to six years in jail for causing death by dangerous driving.

### Shropshire Division

A man was convicted of two counts of rape, one of sexual assault and a charge of stealing his victim's purse when he attacked an 80-year-old woman at a cemetery in Oswestry. He has been warned to expect a lengthy custodial sentence. Also a 19 year old man has been charged in connection with another rape in Oswestry.

A Shropshire man has been jailed for five years after admitting 13 counts of obtaining money transfers by deception, fraud and money laundering offences and he has been served with a confiscation order of £345,576.

### Telford and Wrekin Division

A prolific burglar from Telford has received a custodial sentence of 3 years and 4 months, admitting burgling 23 homes in Telford.

A man has been found guilty of robbery and possessing an imitation firearm and sentenced to three years in prison for a hold up at a service station in Newport.

### ***Setting Priorities for the Policing Plan 2010/11***

7. Consultation evenings for partners, business and community representatives on the Proposed Policing Plan and Budget Consultation have been arranged as follows:

12 January 2010	Police HQ, Hindlip Hall, Worcester
13 January 2010	Shirehall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire
14 January 2010	Brockington Council Offices, Hereford
18 January 2010	Civic Offices, Telford

### ***Annual Crime Statistics***

8. The annual crime statistics indicated that total crime nationally was down by 5% against last year. The Force has concentrated efforts on serious harm impact crime and this has resulted in an 11% drop in burglaries in West Mercia.

### ***Community Engagement Fortnight***

9. A series of successful events had been held in September, including visits to Police Headquarters by over 1600 schoolchildren and an event in aid of Help the Heroes which had raised over £40,000.

### ***Local Policing Summaries***

10. Local Policing Summaries will shortly be made available to every household in West Mercia and can be viewed in selected libraries and leisure centres. The Summaries contain information on local policing teams and how to contact them. They also contain information on crime in each area, key contact numbers, how the public can get involved and who the local Police Authority members are, along with interesting facts and figures relevant to the area.

Signed on behalf of the  
West Mercia Police Authority

Sheila Blagg  
Chairman

### ***Further Information***

Any person wishing to seek further information on the subject matter of this report should contact David Brierley or Ian Payne on Shrewsbury (01743) 264690.

Further information on the West Mercia Police Authority can also be found on the Internet at [www.westmerciapoliceauthority.gov.uk](http://www.westmerciapoliceauthority.gov.uk).

***Questions on the functions of the Police Authority***

The Authority has nominated the following members to answer questions on the discharge of the functions of the Police Authority at meetings of the relevant councils:

Herefordshire Council	Mr B Hunt
Shropshire Council	Mr M Kenny
Telford and Wrekin Council	Mr K Sahota
Worcestershire County Council	Mrs S Blagg

***List of Background Papers***

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Chief Executive of the Police Authority) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers for the meeting of the West Mercia Police Authority held on 20 October 2009.