

Notice of Motion – 25 February 2025

Motion Title: Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee

Proposer: Councillor Bob Piper

Seconder: Councillor Jackie Taylor

“Council notes that the national system of police funding has long been acknowledged to be outdated and unfair. There is a widespread disparity in the funding and allocation of resources between police forces across the country. Whilst rural areas with older populations have tended to receive higher shares of funding than they were estimated to need, the West Midlands is estimated to be 19% below estimated needs. Funding should be distributed so it goes to where it is needed most. But currently that is not the case. More deprived, higher population densities with higher crime rates are disadvantaged and underfunded compared to their needs.

Council further notes that is particularly noticeable in the West Midlands. West Midlands Police receives £40m a year less than the formula says it should. In order to prevent and tackle crime, keep people safe and secure and deliver access to justice, West Midlands Police is further from receiving the funding it needs than any other police force.

Council places on record its concerns that whilst some police force areas have seen a growth in police numbers and now have more police officers than they have ever had in their force histories, West Midlands Police has 800 fewer police officers than in 2010 and 500 fewer PCSOs.

Council therefore calls on the Leader and Cabinet to write to the Home Secretary, calling for:

1. The return of 800 police officers, to return officer numbers to 2010 levels.
2. The national Police Funding Formula to be reviewed urgently and replaced as soon as possible.
3. Assurances that the increase in resources promised by the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee should prioritise those areas that are still smaller than they were in 2010.”