![West Midlands police and crime commissioner logo]

Strategic Policing and Crime Board

28th February 2023

Questions from members of the public

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1. Policing on Erdington High Street is failing.

   Retail outlets are under siege from violence and shoplifters, and members of the public are increasingly too frightened to visit or shop there. Brazen drug dealing, street drinking, sexual harassment, and aggressive anti-social behaviour now define the culture of the Town Centre.

   What's more, repeat and violent offenders, even when detained by shop security – with evidence of their crimes, or who are known to local law enforcement – are routinely not arrested or processed.

   The current message to local retailers and residents alike is clear: Erdington High Street is not policed, and offenders will not be brought to justice. Erdington High Street is, in real terms, lawless.

   But there are many who believe it can be changed, starting with a stronger and more effective working partnership between the local police teams and the existing High Street infrastructure – such as the Street Warden and shop security personnel.

   Keeping in line with his mandate to 'rebuild neighbourhood policing', will the Chief Constable commit his force operating in Erdington to engage in solution, action, and outcome focused talks with local representatives – to reform the relationship between the local police and local community, and change the message to one of 'no tolerance' to crime on Erdington High Street?

   (To be asked by Edward King)

2. One of our PCC's stated objectives is to ensure "road danger reduction and deliver a safe and secure road network" including an intention to "prioritise reductions in speeding and nuisance driving".

   How is the board supporting him in holding West Midlands Police to account on this and setting the strategic direction of the force, and, what steps is the PCC undertaking with partners from across the public sector to ensure "a road network that is denied to criminal use such as speeding and road racing"?

   (To be asked by Clare McArthur)