

Agenda item 9a Police Charter

Dear Parish/Town Clerk

As you know, West Mercia Police launched our Local Policing Community Charter in 2021 which outlined our commitment to our communities and our partners. The Charter was subsequently updated in 2022 (as attached).

Our Charter seeks to increase police visibility and accessibility, enhance our response to the public, prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, reduce vulnerability and develop stronger more effective relationships with partners.

In recognition of our important relationship with town and parish councils, West Mercia Police made a Charter commitment to work with all councils in the development and focus, through joint working, of (up to) three local priorities. Many councils have benefitted through this joint work and shared priorities which have been progressed through the work of our Safer Neighbourhood Teams and other departments, working with councils and partners, and reviewed (and/or changed), each quarter.

I am aware that we have been unable to attend some parish and town council meetings across the area in recent months and as such have been unable to update you on some of the work we have been carrying out on the issues you highlighted in your contract submissions earlier in the year.

This situation was brought about owing to operational pressures and I want to offer my reassurances that we are working hard to address those issues and are looking to engage more proactively with our councils.

With that in mind I would ask that you consider discussing with your members the need to identify the **top three concerns in your parish or town area**.

We are writing to you now to agree your priorities for the next quarter. Please respond by confirming the priorities and your continuing desire to work with us by **30th September 2023**. We would also welcome your views as to the frequency and preferred method of engagement at future Parish Council meetings. We will commit to engaging at your meetings every quarter if you feel this is beneficial, where officers duty days allow. However, we are aware that if your priorities and our response has not changed from previous months our physical engagement in meetings may not be required.

Please return to us your policing priorities, preferred frequency of contact and preferred method of contact at your meetings (eg in person, digitally or not required). If we don't hear from you we will assume you do not wish to take up our charter offer. Thereafter, we shall reach out to you in January 2024 to agree the next set of priorities, or to confirm the council has decided not to take part in this joint work.

Please note the form is interactive and provides some drop down menus which you will see when hovering the cursor over the options boxes

Please see below the contact details for your Safer Neighbourhood Team:

Safer Neighbourhood Team name	
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Preventionhub@westmercia.police.uk	Prevention Hub

Kind regards

Inspector Claire Greenaway-Evans

Safer Neighbourhood Team for North Shropshire and Oswestry.