

Transport Delivery Committee

Date	6 February 2023
Report title	Safer Travel Partnership Update
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Report has been considered by	n/a

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Transport Delivery Committee is requested to:

- (1) Note the contents of the report and the progress being made across a number of key areas within the Safer Travel Partnership.

Purpose

1. This report provides an update against delivery towards the Safer Travel Plan 2021 – 2024 objectives. Safer Travel last attended Transport Delivery Committee in November 2022 and also briefed members about the partnership in January 2023.

Violence Against Women and Girls

2. Raising awareness and reporting of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) continues to be a priority for the partnership. Our Education Officer has been promoting our “See Something Say Something” campaign, reporting details through numerous events held recently at educational establishments and Business Improvement Districts meetings. Our new Transport Safety Officers (TSOs) are also encouraging reporting of concerns by women and girls so we have the best data available to allow effective tasking of our resources.

3. Additionally, The Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls (EMVAWG) Alliance has been established to ensure that there is senior, strategic ownership and oversight of the systems in place across the West Midlands to prevent, reduce and ensure effective responses to male violence against women and girls. We are currently reviewing our information/intelligence sources of data to consider how this could contribute to the overall understanding of this issue alongside other data.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

4. The Safer Travel Partnership consists of just over 100 staff brought together from several organisations including Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) West Midlands Police, British Transport Police, transport operators, and private security companies. Managed through TfWM, the Partnership has the main objectives of delivering the Safer Travel Plan, reducing/managing crime levels on public transport and making passengers feel safe.
5. The Safer Travel Partnership is unique and has received National and European praise for its innovative crime reduction methods and for bringing together a range of partners to deliver the results. The Safer Travel Partnership utilises deployment models such as SARA (Scan, Analyse, Respond, Assess) and POP (Problem Orientated Policing), following the Police National Intelligence Model (NIM). This approach has ensured that the right resource is in the right place, at the right times, doing the right things to reduce crime and make passengers feel safer. Monthly passenger journeys for December 2022 are 20 million on bus, 4.6 million on train and 540,000 on Metro.
6. Year to date (Dec 2022) crime figures for 2022/23 are as follows:
 - Bus 4073 (1.90 crimes per 100k journeys)
 - Rail 1728 (3.37 crimes per 100k journeys)
 - Metro 65 (1.11 crimes per 100k journeys)
7. Total recorded crime for 22/23 is currently showing an increase of 22% compared to 21/22. December 22 did however see the first decrease in recorded crime on bus down 17%, (541 crimes per month) and rail down 21% (380 crimes per month) Anti-Social behaviour incidents decreased with 243 reported in December 2022.
8. Crime types that account for the largest percentage of crime are Public Order, Damage/Arson and Violence Against The Person (non-injury) The majority of violent crime victims tend to be in the 15-24 age bracket where a large number of victims know the offender. The police team have completed the following work in Q3 to December 2022:

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3 TOTAL
Tasking Areas Patrolled	628	728	637	1993
Other areas Patrolled	48	61	31	140
Knife arches/weapon sweeps	2	8	9	19
Incidents/Operations	206	218	121	545

9. At the last TDC there was a request for data from each local authority area. The figures for December 2022 are as follows:

Local Authority	Bus	Rail	Total	Population Estimates)	(2021	Crimes per 100,000 population
Birmingham	166	88	254	1,144,900		22.19
Coventry	42	4	46	345,300		13.32
Dudley	37	1	38	323,500		11.75
Sandwell	38	9	47	341,900		13.75
Solihull	20	12	32	216,200		14.80
Walsall	39	9	48	284,100		16.90
Wolverhampton	38	14	52	263,700		19.72
Outside West Midlands	0	24	24			
Total	380	161	541	2,919,600		18.53

10. We continue to highlight positive results from the partnership teams operations using our social media channels to act as a deterrent to those intent on committing crime on the network.
11. The Combined Authority have committed to having a visible presence on the transport network in the form of Transport Safety Officers (TSOs) The original team of 3 officers has now grown to 11 following funding being received through the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The teamwork between 0800 and 2200hrs 6 days a week and have received a warm welcome from passengers and partner agencies.
12. The primary role of the TSOs is to provide a visible presence on the Public Transport Network in the West Midlands, providing good Customer Service to Staff and Passengers to tackle low level Anti-Social Behaviour and improve the perception of safety for users of the transport network. The approach to be followed by the TSOs can be summarised as **Engagement, Education, and where necessary Enforcement.**
13. Their deployment is driven by issues identified via the Safer Travel Tasking process held monthly and the TSOs have weekly patrol sheets focusing on key routes and locations, but they have the flexibility to respond to emerging trends identified by partners. This is also adapted and improved by our new weekly pace-setter meetings where we review emerging crime and anti-social behaviour issues. In December 2022 our TSOs spent 1,485 hours on patrol. Members are invited to join our TSOs on patrol to see first-hand their work across the region. Please contact Kerry Blakeman, Head of Security and Policing to arrange a visit.

Network

14. The Safer Travel team have been involved in activity on the network to help minimise congestion and improve safety. Examples include the use of our newly established drone team who deployed prior to Christmas in the Digbeth area to give a situational overview of traffic and congestion issues as well as at the recent Aston Villa v Wolverhampton (evening) football match, which took place during a rail strike. Live images from these deployments were also fed into the Regional Transport Coordination Centre, Local Authority CCTV control rooms and West Midlands Police.