
NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) - BUSINESS MEETING

Date

Thursday 16 July 2020

Location

Microsoft Teams

Duration

1pm – 2pm

Present:

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff

Kevin Laing – Head of Finance, NP

John Leslie – Estates Manager

Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery

Mike Tait – Joint Chief Finance Officer

Vicki Wilson – Executive Coordinator

OPEN SESSION**1. Welcome**

The PCC welcomed all members to the virtual meeting.

2. Treasury Management Report

Kevin Laing highlighted the main points from the report.

The report was the final of three reports presented across the year, and had been submitted to JIAC previous to this meeting.

The budget was in a very good position regarding borrowing costs. Due to borrowing at lower interest rates, a saving of £399k had been made.

Following a query from the PCC, Kevin advised that this would have a lasting positive impact into the following year, given the interest rates remain low.

An extra £129k had been generated in 19/20 and overall the budget showed a surplus of approx. half a million pounds.

The prudential indicators all remained green; none had been exceeded and all had been complied with.

Overall there had been £56m of loans taken out. All but one of these loans was on a short term period and all had been re-paid.

Following a query from the Chief of Staff, Kevin advised that a one day loan had to be taken out due to the Home Office being late with refunding money owed to the Force.

All members **agreed** to the report. This would be signed by the Commissioner and published on the website by 30 September 2020.

3. Lease Renewals

John Leslie highlighted the two proposals as follows:

Austin House – The Neighbourhood Policing Team and relevant partners planned to use this on a short term basis to effectively deal with anti-social behaviour in Sunderland.

There would be no costs for the lease, and no set up costs aside from legal fees. All staff would be using their laptops and therefore would prevent any ICT costs.

Wallsend Customer First Centre – The Neighbourhood Team and relevant partners planned to use this as a base on a longer term basis from the end of August 2020.

The building was currently occupied by Council employees however funding from the VRU had allowed the Force to rent a space. The Council would cover the cost of the rent for 10 years at £9850pa.

There would be a service charge of £15kpa and contributions to legal fees. There would also be costs for airwave enhancement and ICT incurred.

The PCC **agreed** to these proposals.

Kevin Laing and John Leslie both left the meeting.

4. Extension of Occupational Health Contract

Mike Tait outlined the proposal. It was hoped an extension of 12 months would be granted and reviewed again in April 2021.

The PCC **agreed** to the proposal.

5. Police Property Fund

Mike Tait outlined the key points as follows:

In the 2019/20 financial year the total balance available for disposal was £156,025. Following donations, there was a sum of £119,221 available for future disbursements.

Subject to approval of the 2019/20 Statement of Account, there would be additional funds of £128,224, bringing the total balance available for disposal in 2020/21 to £247,445.

There were three considerations for disposals outlined as follows:

Police Treatment Centre – This would provide recuperation for all Police and Staff. All police bodies had been asked to make a donation of £10k.

Police Arboretum Memorial Trust – Seven Forces had not yet donated £20k including Northumbria. A previous agreement had been to make a £1k donation for five years, however it was hoped the remaining £15k would still be paid.

Police Charities Fund – There had been no donation requests in recent times as there was a comfortable budget, however this was now reducing and therefore a request had been made for £15k. It was planned that £5k would be allocated to each of the command strands.

Mike advised that the Property Fund currently stood at £245k.

Following a discussion, the PCC **agreed** to all three payments as above.

6. Any Other Business

The PCC advised she had now joined the Bluelight Commercial Board and would be assisting with recruitment.

Confirmation was given that a response would be submitted to the Home Office Special Grants for Policing Consultation exercise.

The Home Office Spending Review Consultation would be added to the Joint Business and Scrutiny agenda for 22.7.20.

Reference was made to an HMICFRS Inspection published this week and recommendations included that by autumn 2021, the Department for Transport Circular 1/2007 would include a requirement that forces, or local road safety partnerships should publish the annual revenue received as a result of the provision of driver offending-related training and how that revenue had been spent.

Mike advised that the Q1 revenue expenditure report would be presented at the JBM in July 2020.

The meeting closed at 2pm.