

NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

Business Meeting

Date

25 June 2020

Location

Virtual

Duration

1pm-2pm

Present:

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner

Winton Keenen – Chief Constable

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC

Debbie Ford – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)

Joscelin Lawson – Director of People and Development

Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery

Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager, NP

Mike Tait - Joint Chief Finance Officer (Joint CFO)

Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the Open Session of the Business Meeting held on 14 May and 1 June 2020

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Violence Reduction Unit

The PCC advised that Phase Two had now been publicly launched. Covid-19 had stalled certain projects however these were now gaining traction and the Home Office was allowing specific funding to roll over.

There had recently been three online sessions to speak with external partners. These had been a huge success however one of the main issues that had arisen was how much the pandemic had affected young people. The new virtual ways of

working would continue as young people had responded positively to this style of communication.

The VRU Strategic Board meeting was scheduled for 1 July.

The CC and DCC felt that further clarity was needed regarding the VRU and the Joint Evaluation. It was important that the VRU and the Force were consistent in their understanding of the work, the outcomes and the impacts. The PCC agreed to tackle this issue to ensure a mutual understanding and a consistent approach.

A brief discussion regarding the funding provided by each of the VRU and the Force for evaluation took place. It was agreed this had no adverse impact on ensuring effective collaborative working.

4. Transformation 2025

The DCC highlighted the main points of the Transformation Programme as follows:

There were two platforms; Operations and Technology.

It was felt that Business Analytics could benefit from more financial input.

Northgate Connect remained on track for April/ May 2021.

The ICT projects had benefitted greatly due to the intervention of consultants and David Sadler, Masons Advisory who would also be attending JIAC to give an overview of all ICT work in progress.

The road map of activity across the coming year looked very positive.

There was further work to be carried out with the Organisational Platform.

Overall, the Transformation Project was going very well. There were challenges involved however no risks to report.

5. Op Talla – Covid-19 – Recovery Planning

The DCC highlighted the main points as follows:

Recovery planning discussions would be held on a weekly basis. A Recovery Group had also been set up across the Region, and the Force would be involved in chairing one of these events.

The current Force Co-ordination Group continued to plan for future events with the main focus at this time being the opening of pubs, football re-starting, etc.

The PCC queried the involvement the Force had with other Chief Constables and the Home Office. The CC explained that the exclusive CC meetings were coming to an end; however, it was advised that involvement with the HO would remain and it was likely that the Force would be invited in different ways to offer local feedback.

The Chief of Staff gave an update of the OPCC work as follows:

The team remained working from home; however plans were being put into place to ensure the office would be a safe working space.

The first LCJB Recovery Group meeting had been held and had been focussed around sharing best practice methods. The next meeting would take place in four weeks.

The LCJB were continuing to gather further CPS information, and it was agreed this would be beneficial for the Force to receive too.

6. Brexit

The DCC advised that the Force were planning for a no deal Brexit and preparing for Interpol work to ensure all outcomes were covered. Work with the LRF was taking place. It was felt that the summer may be a challenging period for the Force due to the current affairs of Brexit and post Covid issues including the easing of lockdown. Further protests regarding Black Lives Matter and opposing groups were expected to take place again on the coming weekend.

It was agreed that Brexit would remain on the agendas for future meetings, however, within a broader subject heading facilitating discussion of other national issues impacting on policing as appropriate.

7. Group Revenue Final Outturn 19/20

The Joint CFO highlighted the main points as follows:

There had been limited movement with the Revenue figure since the last meeting. There was no intention of changing this unless there was a significant impact from either Covid-19 or Pensions, which were presently being nationally discussed.

Particular attention had been drawn to point 3.4 in the report:

‘The forecast position reported at Quarter 3 was an underspend of £2.868m; the actual position at 31 March 2020 is a reduction on the forecast underspend of £0.165m which includes the impact of Covid-19.’

Further updates would be given in August as the draft accounts were drawn up.

8. Capital Final Outturn Report 19/20

The Joint CFO highlighted the main points as follows:

The final outturn figure remained at £15.035m.

Appendix I provided detailed broken down costings.

Appendix II made reference to capital receipts for 2021/ 22; however this was now not consistent with current discussions and may change. This would have no impact on the 20/ 21 figures.

9. Forward Plan

Brexit would remain on the agendas, but within a broader heading to cover national issues.

Op Talla may change but Recovery would remain.

There were no further changes to the Forward Plan.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 22 July 2020 – 9am – Middle Engine Lane.