



NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

Business Meeting

Date:

28 July 2020

Location:

Collingwood Room,
Middle Engine Lane / Skype

Duration:

16:40 – 17:50

Present:

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner
Winton Keenen – Chief Constable
Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer
Debbie Ford – Deputy Chief Constable
Dean Lowery – Officer of the PCC (Secretary)
Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery
Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager, Northumbria Police
Mike Tait – Joint Chief Finance Officer

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 25 June 2020

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Violence Reduction Unit

The Commissioner provided an update on the work of the unit including a recent virtual board meeting where there was broad agreement for the direction of travel.

The Commissioner has also held virtual meetings with organisations supporting the VRU to ensure that they are managing to deliver projects during the current pandemic. All organisations have now delivered on their priorities.

The Commissioner discussed the evaluation of the VRU and was keen to use local organisations to undertake this work.



4. National APCC Workforce Update

The Commissioner provided a verbal update of recent work being undertaken by the National APCC workforce group.

The Commissioner highlighted the main areas being:

- Police Officer and Police Staff Pay Awards
- Chief Officer Pay and Review Body

The Chief Constable offered the force's support to assist the Commissioner in her role on the APCC workforce group.

5. Op Talla (COVID-19) Recovery Planning

The Chief Constable provided a verbal update and discussed a significant piece of work that is ongoing to look at the implications of COVID-19 and future opportunities to work together regionally with forces.

The Deputy Chief Constable highlighted issues that the ongoing pandemic is causing including budget costs, staffing and remand hearings. Structures currently in place are good but this will be a challenge going forward. In relation to the backlog of court hearings discussions are ongoing with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service in relation to this.

The Chief of Staff provided an update on the Local Criminal Justice Recovery Group where demand mapping was discussed and setting future business priorities. It was confirmed that many of the priorities overlap with the concerns raised by COVID-19 such as court waiting times.

6. National Issues Impacting on Policing

The Deputy Chief Constable provided a brief update in relation to the impact of the UK exiting Europe.

7. Joint Strategic Risk Register

The Deputy Chief Constable discussed work that had been undertaken in reviewing and reformatting the Strategic Risk Register to make the register more succinct and user friendly with the draft register being shared with the OPCC for comment.

It was noted that the draft register now has risks that clearly separate ownership or shared ownership between the PCC and Chief Constable.

The draft document has been supplied to the PCC for her comments with a meeting to discuss this further being diarised for the coming weeks.

Once the draft register has been confirmed this will be presented to the Joint Independent Audit Committee.



8. Hate Crime Update

The Deputy Chief Constable presented the hate crime update which is due to be presented to the upcoming Police and Crime Panel.

The Commissioner requested that Supt Wilson attend the panel to provide additional context to panel members including the issues in relation to Northumbria and the work that the force are undertaking to combat Hate Crime.

The Deputy Chief Constable is to meet with the Chief of Staff to discuss context of the presentation.

9. Update from Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) following JIAC on 22nd June 2020 and Progress against the Internal Audit Work Plan

The Joint Chief Finance Officer provided an update of the JIAC meeting on the 22nd June 2020.

It was noted that following discussion it was agreed that a separate briefing would be provided for Committee Members to cover ICT change, HMICFRS reports and to explain the Force approach to new ways of working in the workplace.

The Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20 was received, discussed and recommended for presentation to the PCC for final approval.

A revised Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 was presented and agreed. The revised plan took into account COVID-19 and proposed a reduced overall plan, with assurance being achieved remotely where possible. Members also received audit reports finalised since the previous meeting and concluded that there were no issues that needed to be brought to the attention of the PCC and CC.

AGREED: It was agreed that contact be made with the Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee with a request that he provides approval of updates or produces his update to the PCC and Chief Constable following each meeting of the JIAC.

10. Group Revenue Monitoring Position – as at 30th June 2020

The Joint Chief Finance Officer presented the Group Revenue position and key decision for approval by the Commissioner.

The report highlighted that the group forecast outturn of £299.082m inclusive of COVID-19 related expenditure, which is based on payments processed to date and current projections, against a 2020/21 budget of £296.393 and reflecting an in-year projected overspend of 0.907% which equates to £2.689m.

It was also noted that there is still no definitive position from the Home Office regarding the reimbursement of costs associated with COVID-19 in 2020/21.

AGREED: The Commissioner agreed the key decision presented with further discussions to be taken regarding the financial position in relation to COVID-19.



11. Capital Monitoring Report Qtr. I 2020/21 – as at 30 June 2020

The Joint Chief Finance Officer presented the Capital Monitoring Report Qtr.I for 2020/21 and key decision for approval by the Commissioner.

The overall year-end forecast position is currently projecting an underspend of £0.692m excluding funded schemes, which is likely to slip to 2021/22.

AGREED: The Commissioner agreed the key decision presented with further discussions to be taken regarding the financial position in relation to COVID-19.

12. Forward Plan

The forward plan was agreed as presented.

It was agreed that the Workforce Update from the APCC would be presented on a quarterly basis.

13. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

14. Date, Time and Venue of Next meeting

27 August 2020, 13:00, Stephenson/ Armstrong Rooms, Middle Engine Lane/ Skype,