



**Title**

Business Meeting

**Date**

16 November 2021

**Location**

Middle Engine Lane/Teams

**Duration**

16:00-17:15

---

**Present:**

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner  
Winton Keenen – Chief Constable (CC)  
Debbie Ford – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)  
Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC  
Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery (OPCC)  
Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)  
Mike Tait – Chief Finance Officer (CFO)  
Laura Repton - OPCC Minute Taker

**Apologies:**

Paul Godden – Head of Corporate Development (NP)  
Neil Hutchison – T/Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) (Communities)

---

**OPEN SESSION**

**1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 23 September 2021**

The minutes were agreed as a **true** record.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**3. Violence Reduction Unit**

The Commissioner highlighted that the externally funding 'Teachable Moments custody intervention project is going very well.

Our education teams are fully back in schools after Covid. They have delivered 64 knife crime sessions, 5 relationship sessions, as well as other exploitation, county lines, malicious communication sessions.

Steven Hume and the Commissioner have been approached by Southern NPT to raise youth and serious violence in Sunderland City Centre. OPCC have a meeting with the

Leader and Chief Executive to focus on working with the LA and in particular the need to ensure that as individuals are identified that there are interventions available within their local area.

The Commissioner highlighted that it is key to make sure interventions are focused and responsive to issues. We want to ensure that the public understand what prevention elements we are undertaking.

DCC Ford outlined the inspection and explained T/ACC Neil Hutchinson and Steven Hume are working together on this. The OPCC confirmed there were no concerns to raise, only that there is value working with one another and providing as much information as needed.

#### **4. National Issues Impacting on Policing**

The Chief raised the perception of policing around vetting following the narrative on the back of the Sarah Everard case. Covid is coming back and at this point the force are not suffering major abstractions.

#### **5. National APCC Workforce Update**

The Commissioner highlighted that she has resigned from the APCC Board on Police Officer. In terms of the Policing Covenant, there has not been much movement, we would like to be awarded some funds for scoping, though this is yet to happen. From a family aspect, there is a need to offer focused support around mental health, education, teenagers and young people in policing families and also for families of those who are joining the force.

#### **6. Capital Monitoring Q2**

The Chief Finance Officer delivered the Capital Monitoring for Q2. The following information was highlighted:

- Forecast is £19.433, £1.9m underspend.
- Building works nearly £2m underspend as a result of delays in major schemes with contractors and other covid related delays.
- ICT, although there are emerging pressures on equipment, spend is currently on target.
- Fleet, the forecast is to breakeven, this is a tentative position we will ultimately be underspent as a result of the current market position with lead times growing up to 12 months.

The PCC asked if the issue with fleet markets is going to be a problem. The Head of Finance confirmed that the force have a relationship with manufacturers and are placing orders in advance of the usual timeline. From an operation perspective the CC confirmed that the issue is being managed but is aware that there will potentially be a more aging fleet which will lead to more abstractions and increased costs to keep the fleet going. Head of Finance confirmed that some of the new fleet will start to be delivered and cars replenished over the next few weeks and he is confident that the Fleet Manager is managing the situation and getting ahead of the issue.

## **7. Group Revenue Monitoring Q2**

Chief Finance Officer explained that the capital financing position outlined in the report is fairly certain.

The OPCC are set to breakeven which is a realistic position. The Force side will be slightly underspent. The report provides a reference to workforce overtime and in addition the force position will need to be adjusted next quarter to reflect the situation following funding for the policing of COP26.

The PCC asked for an update on the current position with the appointment of the new external auditors and the timeline for 20/21 final accounts. Head of Finance confirmed that the new auditors have been appointed and are bringing in senior auditors with extensive police experience but have not yet advised us what the timeline is, but the start does look like it will be in 2022.

## **8. HMICFRS final inspection report: Police response to violence against women**

In March 2021, the Home Secretary commissioned HMICFRS to inspect the effectiveness of police engagement with women and girls.

A comprehensive report was provided in response to the published report. The Deputy provided an overview of the report and confirmed that at present the force are comfortable with their position against this report. She highlighted that delivery against the recommendations will have significant resource implications as evidenced by data on police recorded crime, based on information from 36 forces for the year to March 2021, 82 percent of sexual grooming offences are against women and girls; 81 percent of sexual activity with children younger than 16 is against girls; and 80 percent of victims of stalking, voyeurism and exposure are female.

Demand on police from VAWG offences is rising. The number of sexual offences recorded by the police has almost tripled in recent years and there was a 9 percent increase in the total number of domestic abuse-related offences recorded by the police in the year ending March 2020.

DCC Ford explained that we will revisit this at the next meeting in January with a presentation on where we are with VAWG specifically around prevention.

The Commissioner questioned the minimum standards for investigation for VAWG offences and a further update will be provided at the next meeting.

## **9. Joint Strategic Risk Register**

From the OPCC perspective updates focus on public confidence as a reflection of national issues and the scrutiny of Northumbria Police in respect of the VAWG agenda.

From the Force perspective the updates highlight resource issues with a specific focus on workforce recruitment and retention which is a significant risk to capacity in force. The



Deputy has submitted a plan in response to this risk to HMIC how this will be mitigated and resource planning over the next 2-3years.

#### **10. Forward Plan - Open Session**

All agreed everything is included for the open session at the next meeting.

#### **11. Any other business**

There was no other business raised.

#### **12. Dates for next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 18 January at 2pm** at Middle Engine Lane/Teams.