



## NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

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**Title**

Business Meeting

**Date**

7 July 2021

**Location**

Middle Engine Lane/Teams

**Duration**

3pm-4pm

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**Present:**

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) (Chair)

Winton Keenen– Chief Constable (CC)

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC

Debbie Ford – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)

Mike Tait – Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)

Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery (OPCC)

Dean Lowery – OPCC - Minute Taker

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### **OPEN SESSION**

**1. Minutes of the Open Session Business Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**

The minutes had been **agreed** as a true record.

**2. Matters Arising – Action Log**

There were no matters arising and no action log.

**3. Violence Reduction Unit**

The PCC highlighted the Shadow Ministerial visit that had recently taken place. Future funding confirmation is still to be agreed and no notification has of yet been received.

The work of the VRU is progressing well however the PCC highlighted that discussions will be taking place within the board and VRU team to highlight the work of the unit and the successes that it is having on impacting serious violence.

**4. Op Talla (Covid 19) Response and Recovery Planning**

The Chief Constable highlighted the work that the force are undertaking in tracking Covid infection rates across the region and the plans the force have in place to deal with the lifting of current restrictions.

The Chief of Staff confirmed that a Covid Recovery Group Meeting had not taken place since the last JBM meeting however she highlighted that the Courts are looking to increase capacity on



dealing with the backlog of cases. The Chief of Staff will ensure that this is discussed in more detail at the next LCJB pre meeting with a focus on performance.

## **5. National Issues Impacting Policing**

The Chief Constable confirmed that the force had seen an increase in demonstration/protest activity, mainly focussed on the Newcastle city centre area. The force do have plans in place to deal with an increase in these protests during the summer period.

## **6. Specified Information Order**

The Chief of Staff highlighted the main points from the report.

It was noted that the statements and information specified in the report must be published by 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

In relation to HMICFRS Reporting there is a requirement that a link to the 2021-23 PEEL performance report is published within one month of its publication and if this has not currently been received that a link be provided to the previous PEEL report.

In relation to Complaints Handling, contact has been made with the force Professional Standards Department to ensure that this information will be made available on the PCC website. The DCC will ensure that this is looked from a quality control perspective.

In relation to the National Priorities of Policing, DCC Ford will raise this during her meeting with Home Office representatives in the coming week. There is a specific point that requires that a summary of planned action for the next quarter to drive force performance against applicable measures. The DCC highlighted that certain areas will have differing responses dependent on a number of factors. The Commissioner felt that as this has to be published on a quarterly basis, work undertaken by the force in certain areas might run over multiple reporting periods.

The Chief of Staff and Director of Planning and Delivery will meet with Paul Godden (NP) to discuss what is being developed by the force and how this can link in or be adapted for the PCC.

It was agreed that the National Priorities Statement and Complaints Information statement would be presented to a future Scrutiny meeting prior to their publication.

## **7. Joint Strategic Risk Register**

The DCC presented a report which contained the current strategic risk register within the 12 thematic areas.

The DCC felt that the majority of areas were functioning well and the risk had not changed however highlighted that in relation to Information and Data Management. This area continues to be a focus for the force and continues to be a significant area of risk for the force. The DCC confirmed that a review of this area is currently being undertaken and following this review it is hoped that the risk will reduce by the next reporting period.



The Chief of Staff confirmed that the four OPCC areas risk had remained unchanged with work undertaken to during the annual review to tweak areas including the PCC review and the transferring of victim's services to Northumbria Police. It was noted that following discussions at the recent Joint Independent Audit Committee Governance pre meeting, work will be undertaken to the governance of partnerships and assess the governance framework.

## **8. HMICFRS: The Hidden Victims Report on Hestia's Super Complaint on the Police Response to Modern Slavery**

The DCC highlighted the main points from the report.

The report presented an overview of the findings following a joint investigation between Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, College of Policing and the Independent Office for Police Conduct focussed on 6 forces with Northumbria not being one of these forces.

The findings were presented in 5 specific areas which were:

- Approach taken by Police Forces to planning and prioritising their responses to modern slavery
- The initial response to victims of Modern Slavery
- How victims are treated for offences they have committed, including immigration offences
- Investigation into Modern Slavery offences
- Training

Three recommendations were made directly to Chief Constables, including a joint recommendation for Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners. A further two recommendations were made to the Home Office and two actions allocated to the CoP and HMICFRS respectively.

The DCC highlighted the current force position which was positive in relation to the Chief Constable and PCC recommendations with specific focus given to the intelligence gaps for proactive opportunities which are noted as a key challenge. This is being addressed by the force with a plan in place, a new dashboard being developed and increased awareness training to achieve this.

## **9. DRAFT FINAL CAPITAL OUTTURN 2020/21**

The Chief Finance Officer presented the draft final Capital outturn for 2020/21 which also confirmed the proposed slippage to be carried forward to 2021/22.

It was noted that the final outturn for 2020/21 of £10.706m which is subject to audit, £3.849m of identified slippage and £4.765m as a variance to the budget.



In relation to the Revised Capital Programme 2021/22 the CFO confirmed that variances to the budget reflected in the year end outturn for 2020/21 have been rephrased into the following year of the capital programme. As previously highlighted the year end slippage of £3.849m will be added to the Capital Programme for 2021/22.

The revised Capital Programme for 2021/22 therefore stands at £21.536m.

The Commissioner agreed the key decision which noted the Capital Programme outturn position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and approved the required Capital Programme slippage into 2021/22.

#### **10. Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan was noted with the addition of the following item:

- Specified Information Order.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

#### **12. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place on 29<sup>th</sup> July at 1pm.