
Title: Business Meeting

Date: 22 February 2022 **Duration:** 10:30am-12:30pm **Location:** Middle Engine Lane/Teams

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)
Paul Godden – Head of Corporate Development (NP)
Mike Tait – Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)
Laura Repton - OPCC Minute Taker

Apologies: No apologies.

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 18 January 2022

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

No matters were raised. All noted that the Late Night levy report was deferred and is now on this meeting agenda.

3. Violence Reduction Unit

The PCC delivered the updated information on the work of the Violence Reduction Unit. The Home Office have announced a three-year settlement for VRU's, broken down as follows:

- Year 1: £2.89m. (+10% match funding/'in-kind' support required, based on 21/22 allocation) £160,000
- Year 2: £2.16m. (15% requirement £240,000)
- Year 3: £2.14m. (20% requirement £320,000)

The additional funding has been added to each VRU's allocation to replace last year's Youth Intervention Fund. This follows feedback from VRU's. An additional 2 areas have also allocated VRU funding (Cleveland and Humberside).

We are still awaiting further details on the application process, although it is anticipated that all applications will need to be submitted by the end of March 2022.

The Chief highlighted that the force are seeing increased focus on homicide reduction and the need to see joined up work on GRIP funding and the VRUs year 4 approach

interventions and serious violence strategies need to be aligned and should show better outcomes around targeting and homicide reductions. The serious violence strategy and VRU target work is clear and the Chief would like to see strength in increasing services around youth provision. It was agreed that a meeting will take place with the VRU/PCC and Chief to discuss GRIP funding further. ACC Hutchinson is looking into a spend plan for GRIP spending and the VRU are looking at the year 4 approach.

The Commissioner highlighted as we move into the fourth year of our VRU Response Strategy, the approach will continue to build on what has worked well to date as well as explore further opportunities to take more of a direct approach to dealing with our most vulnerable and problematic individuals.

We are currently reviewing the performance and impact of all year 3 interventions, adopting a 'Theory of Change' process. We are committed to continuing our approach and over the past 12 months we have seen the positive impact that interventions have had. The current process will seek to review the referral processes, timescales and overall through-put of interventions as well as review the current local success measures to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Taking into account the revised data from our Strategic Needs Assessment we will also review whether interventions are still being targeted within priority areas.

A full detailed proposal for Year 4 interventions will be presented at the next VRU Board meeting for approval. We also plan to provide an updated Needs Assessment and Response Strategy for approval at the Board meeting in April.

4. National Issues Impacting on Policing

DCC Ford highlighted current national issues impacting on policing. All officers have had a survey from the College of Policing on pay and morale. The Commissioner asked for an update as to where we are with the national diversity action plan and the Chief confirmed this is continuing to be developed within the force. DCC Ford confirmed Northumbria Police are looking at disproportionality more broadly and the action plan comes in as part of this ongoing work, this has been agreed at the public confidence and standards board. This work will also be looking at defining institutional racism and equality vs inequality, especially around victims and offenders. The next meeting will take place mid-March and a diversity action plan will be submitted for approval in draft form in line with the National piece.

5. Approval of the Council Tax Precept and Revenue Budget 2022/23

Mike Tait delivered the update on approval of the Council Tax Precept following agreement from the Police and Crime panel. There are specific recommendations that that need approving before informing the 6 Local Authorities and in the public domain. All in attendance agreed the confirmed clear vision and appropriate level of reserves and accepted the recommendations. We will aim to operate at 3% reserves to provide a further buffer for issues where there is no option for a special grant claim and considering the risk of higher inflation costs.

The PCC agreed the proposals in the report to issue a Band D Council Tax Precept for the Northumbria area of £153.84 for 2022/23.

6. Police and Crime Plan refresh

Adrian Pearson delivered the update regarding the Police and Crime Plan refresh. The PCC is committed to an annual refresh of the plan and recent public consultations with residents and key sectors asked respondents to endorse existing priorities in the three key areas and also asked to rank crime in their local area. Overall participants were in favour of agreeing with the existing priorities. The next steps are for this draft plan to be reviewed by the Police and Crime Panel. There will be an addition of transport commitments included within the refresh, mainly that the OPCC are looking into resources on transport particularly in passenger safety.

DCC Ford will commission a problem profile of crime and call data to identify if there is an issue with the sudden rise of reporting on transport. The DCC needs to look at this from a force perspective to ensure that the right operational activity is aligned to this.

7. Forward Plan – Open Session

The forward plan was noted. It was discussed that the 19th May plan may need looking into as we get nearer the time due to timing of receiving financial information and once auditor work is completed.

8. Any other business

There was no other business to discuss.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 7th April at 2pm, Middle Engine Lane/Teams.