

NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) – Business Meeting

Date

Thursday 5th August 2021

Location

Microsoft Teams

Duration

1pm – 1.30pm

Present:

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff

Mike Tait – Joint Chief Finance Officer

Kevin Laing – Head of Finance, Northumbria Police

Holly Thornton – OPCC Minute Taker

OPEN SESSION

1. Introductions

The PCC welcomed all members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Adrian Pearson.

2. Open Session Minutes from 14th April 2021 and Matters Arising

The minutes were **agreed** as a true and accurate record, with no matters arising.

3. Group Revenue Monitoring Report Qtr. I 2021-22 and Key Decision

The Chief Finance Officer highlighted that, in Quarter I, the group revenue forecast reflects a break-even position and there are no associated risks at the moment. Whilst there are a number of budget areas facing pressure the position of all parts of the Group position are break even.

The PCC **approved** the position presented in the Group Revenue Monitoring Report.

4. Capital Monitoring Report Qtr. I 2021-22 and Key Decision

The Chief Finance Officer outlined the capital position in Quarter I, which shows the forecast outturn being in line with the revised capital budget that was presented at the last Joint Business Meeting (JBM).

The Chief Finance Officer explained that whilst there is likely to be some movement on capital, primarily around estates and fleet, there is no reportable risk regarding delivery of the capital programme.

The PCC **approved** the position presented in the Capital Monitoring Report.

5. Treasury Management Annual Report 2020-21 and Key Decision

The Head of Finance highlighted that 2020-21 was an interesting year from an investment and borrowing point of view, particularly due to the cuts in interest rates as a result of the impact of Covid-19.

It was assumed an interest rate of 0.75% would be the base rate throughout the year, this was reduced in March 2020 to firstly 0.25% then 0.1%, which had a significant impact. During the year, there were some threats of negative interest rates, so the absolute focus was on investment security. Despite this, a positive outcome has still been achieved and an average interest rate of 0.37% was achieved, which was above the accepted benchmark 7-day London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) rate of -0.07%.

With regards to borrowing activity, the capital programme was impacted through not carrying out some of the schemes and therefore less borrowing took place. Internal sources were utilised wherever possible resulting in less interest pay-out in relation to borrowing. A final one-off bonus was received of £57k from the Heritable Bank which is a positive. Overall, a positive position on interest charges was delivered resulting in a benefit of £287k.

The PCC **approved** the position presented in the Treasury Management Annual Report 2020-21.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.