

NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

Business Meeting

Date

22 November 2022

Location

Teams/MEL

Duration

3.35pm-4.10pm

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)
Kevin Laing – Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Laura Repton – Public Affairs and Governance Officer (OPCC)
Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

Apologies: There were no apologies.

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 3 October 2022

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. National Issues Impacting on Policing

The issues noted in the last meeting continued to be addressed. The DCC expressed concern over the leadership experience of those moving up into senior police roles.

4. Violence Reduction Unit

The PCC had attended a meeting in Newcastle to discuss what should and could be done to prevent serious violence. This had proven to be a valuable discussion and it was hoped Gateshead would also follow suit.

The Custody Diversion Project had gone back out to tender after initially failing to find a suitable partner.



The PCC and Steven Hume, Director of the VRU would be meeting Dame Jackie Daniel on 28 November to discuss the implementation of A&E Navigators, and improved access to data.

5. Joint Strategic Risk Register

The DCC advised the report had also been presented to the Joint Independent Audit Committee.

The JSSR captured risks in twelve thematic areas: Digital Policing, Finance, Governance, Information and Data Management, Information and Data Quality, Infrastructure and Assets, Operational, Partnership and Collaboration, Public Confidence, Regulation and Standards, Strategy and Workforce.

The main issue to note was the inability to deliver the Force Transformation Programme, particularly significant IT projects, due to a lack of specialist and/or technical skills. A summary of controls included bespoke work undertaken to target support to Digital Policing, due to the inability to match private sector pay and retain skilled staff.

Public Confidence also remained an issue however this would likely remain low risk.

6. HMICFRS – An inspection of vetting, misconduct and misogyny in the Police Service

The DCC felt overall the force were in a good position and outlined the work that had gone into the internal inspection. The force were awaiting further clarity on definitions of improper behaviour however the extensive work would continue in the meantime. Reassurance would be sought from the Public Confidence and Standards Board and further feedback would be given.

7. Review of the Governance Framework – Key Decision

The Chief Finance Officer explained that this was an interim review to reflect changes to roles and individually agreed delegations. It was in advance of the changes to procurement regulations anticipated in the spring of 2023, in-line with the exit from the European Union and as outlined within the Green Paper: Transforming public procurement.

The interim review reflected amended responsibilities as a result of staff changes. It was hoped that this review would include a focus on the changes to procurement legislation however these had not yet gone through parliament.

The PCC approved the revised Governance Framework.

8. Update from Joint Independent Audit Committee

The report had been noted for information.



9. Capital Monitoring Q2

The Chief Finance Officer highlighted the main points from the report.

The variance from Qtr1 to Qtr2 forecast positions was currently projecting a further £4.412m underspend.

A revised Estates strategy was currently in discussion and as a result, the proposed refurbishments of Byker, Alnwick and Whickham police stations had been moved to 2023/24.

The planning for the new SARC at St-Georges House was complete, with work due to commence as soon as the new lease has completed.

Further brief highlights were given as outlined in the report.

The PCC noted the Capital Monitoring for Qtr. 2 as at 30 September 2022.

10. Group Revenue Monitoring Q2

The Chief Finance Officer highlighted the main points from the report.

The overall Group revenue budget for 2022/23 was agreed at £339.332m, this being the second monitoring report of the Group position for 2022/23.

Within the approved 2022/23 budget the following was provided for:

- £322.788m to fund the cost of Policing in the Force area by the Chief Constable.
- £1.829m to meet the costs of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- £1.121m to meet the costs of OPPC Supporting Services.
- £13.594m to cover the costs of capital financing.

Further brief highlights were given as outlined in the report.

The PCC noted the Group forecast outturn of £337.806m which was based on payments processed to date and current projections, against a 2022/23 budget of £339.332m which reflected an in-year underspend position of £1.526m.

11. Forward Plan – Open Session

The Forward Plan had been noted.

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.