



Northumbria PCC Minutes

Title: Business Meeting

Date: 22 February 2023

Duration: 2:00-5:00pm

Location: Middle Engine
Lane/Teams

Present:

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Winton Keenen – Chief Constable (CC)

Debbie Ford – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)

Kevin Laing – Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Brad Howe – T/Assistant Chief Constable (T/ACC) (Communities) *present for agenda item 13.*

Joscelin Lawson – Assistant Chief Officer (ACO), Corporate Services *present for the closed session.*

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC (CoS)

Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery (OPCC)

Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)

Laura Repton - OPCC Minute Taker

Apologies: No apologies received.

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 19 January 2023

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

The PCC made note to the meeting that this is the last Business and Scrutiny meeting with current Chief Constable Winton Keenen. The PCC shared her huge thanks to the CC for all he has done in this role and wished him all the best for retirement.

3. National Issues Impacting on Policing

CC highlighted new expectations on Chief Constable's and police forces on governance and assurance around the Strategic Policing Requirement.

There is a publication of data later this week around homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime. A plan is in place to deliver communication to the public on this.

DCC informed the PCC that the HMICFRS Super-complaint into misogyny within the police force is progressing as it should with training commencing next week, a further update will be provided following this training.

4. Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

PCC delivered the update on behalf of the VRU. The full paper will be circulated to all attendees following this meeting.

PCC explained the Serious Violence Duty is now in place and came into effect on 31st January 2023. A key amendment of the duty is that Serious Violence is now a statutory priority for all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). This makes sense considering all specified authorities should be represented on all CSP's. To support the implementation process, the Home Office have commissioned 'Crest Advisory' to assist local areas to familiarise themselves with the Duty. The PCC confirmed herself and the Director of the VRU have met with all Local Authorities and have agreement on this Duty being implemented and for this to be tackled force-wide through the VRU. The resource element is out of our control, in some areas this will be more difficult than others and could have an impact on the ability to deliver the Duty. Finally, the PCC noted that Crest will also be arranging workshops in the coming weeks to support areas with familiarisation as well as sharing early best practise in terms of area readiness.

Furthermore, the PCC referred to the new data hub that has been created. The VRU commissioned the Public Health Institute at Liverpool John Moore's University to develop a data hub and dashboard, and the supporting Data Processing Agreements (DPAs). This enables all partners to show regional story to be broadened out. T/ACC (Communities) is involved and working on this.

Following a formal procurement process 'Rocket Science' have been appointed to conduct the evaluation of the VRU. This is a three-year contract which will commence on 1st March 2023. The contract included external evaluations on the following interventions, CASPS, YOLO and Focused Deterrence. A further update will be provided in full following this evaluation.

5. Police and Crime Plan Refresh

Director of Planning and Delivery updated the meeting on the Police and Crime Plan refresh. This is part of the annual refresh the PCC committed to following the election, where the plan would be reviewed each year to ensure it's up to date and reflective of the public's concerns and priorities. The results of the survey showed little change, and that the current focus should continue. There will be no variation to the plan and the public have endorsed that the plan is right. The feedback touched on more visible policing, tackling anti-social behaviour and references to safety and policing on our roads.

6. Approval of the Council Tax Precept Revenue Budget 2023/24

CFO highlighted the main points from the report.

AGENDA ITEM I

As required by statute as PCC the annual precept increase and revenue budget for 2023/2024 needed to be presented to the Police and Crime Panel by 8th February each year, this was presented and formally agreed at the panel held on 7th February 2023. In summary the report set out and agreed the following:

- To raise the Police Council Tax Precept by £15 for a Band D property and set out the proportionate increases for the other bands (equating to £1.25 per month for a Band D property and 83p per month for a Band A property).
- The group revenue budget for 2023/24 of £355.584m, which includes £339.645m for the Chief Constable.
- Agreed the overarching reserves strategy for 2023/24 to maintain the general reserve at a minimum of 2% of the net revenue budget for the year (estimated to be £10.563m).

The intention following the agreement of the precept and revenue budget is to finalise the Medium-Term Financial Strategy along with the supporting Reserves, Treasury Management and Capital Strategies and update these to the Panel at their meeting on 21 March.

7. Forward Plan – Open Session

The forward plan was noted.

8. Any other business

No other business was identified.

9. Date, time and venue for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20 April, 12pm, Executive Room at Middle Engine Lane/Teams.