

Northumbria PCC Business Meeting Minutes

Title: Business Meeting

Date: 7 March 2023

Duration: 11.30am-11.40am

Location: MS Teams

Present:

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC

Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery (OPCC)

Kevin Laing - Joint Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Gail Thompson – Finance Lead – Corporate Finance and Governance (NP)

Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 7 February 2023

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24-2026/27 (MTFS)

The CFO explained this was the proposed MTFS to be presented at the Police and Crime Panel and aligned with both the precept and budget reports presented at the previous Panel meeting.

The MTFS effectively agreed the four year plan and was fully balanced throughout. The CFO gave a brief overview of the narrative and drew particular attention to the following from the circulated report:

- The proposed increase to the Council Tax Precept for 2023/24 was supported by the results of a public consultation during January 2023. The PCC had therefore approved an increase in the Council Tax Precept of £15.00 per year for a Band D property, providing additional income to continue to support local policing services in the face of a challenging financial situation. This would reduce to £10 in the following year, and then £5 for the two years following that.
- The MTFS had made prudent assumptions about pay and price increases through national pay awards and inflation which would continue to be reviewed on an annual basis. Pay awards were included at 3% for 2023/24, and 2% for 2024/25 through to 2026/27. A £2 million pay reserve had been accounted for to allow for any fluctuations with this.
- The Quarter 3 revenue monitoring position as at 31 December 2022, showed a projected underspend of £2.758m.
- A significant programme of work commenced in the summer to review the capacity across the force operating model to deliver efficiencies whilst maintaining performance and identifying opportunities to improve policing services. Approved

efficiencies and budget reductions being delivered in 2023/24 were just over £9.600m with further savings planned across the medium-term.

- The forecast General Reserve balance of £10.6m had met one of the key MTFS principles to seek to maintain the General Reserve at a minimum of 2% of the net revenue budget. The closing General Reserves at 31 March 2027 were estimated to remain at £10.6m equating to 2.8% of the net revenue budget of £373.0m.

The PCC approved the MTFS for 2023/24 to 2026/27.

3. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.