

## AGENDA ITEM 1

### NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

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**Title**

Business Meeting

**Date**

8 June 2023

**Location**

Teams/MEL

**Duration**

2pm-3pm

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**Present:**

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner  
Vanessa Jardine – Chief Constable (CC)  
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)  
Alastair Simpson – ACC Crime and Safeguarding (NP)  
Scott Young – ACC - Force Coordination (NP)  
Paul Godden – Head of Corporate Development (NP)  
Brad Howe – ACC Communities (NP)  
Steve Ammari – Detective Superintendent – Professional Standards (NP)  
Steven Hume – Director of Violence Reduction Unit (OPCC)  
Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

**Apologies:** Debbie Ford – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)

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### OPEN SESSION

**1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 20 April 2023**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**3. Violence Reduction Unit**

The Director for the VRU highlighted the main points from the report.

Focus work regarding sexual offences, and robbery, would commence due to recent spikes in the data.

The VRU Board had now approved this year's Needs Assessment and Response Strategy as well as ongoing plans for implementation of the Serious Violence Duty.



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National discussions had commenced regarding seasonal violence and it was highlighted that Northumbria were ahead of the curve in this area, working heavily with partner agencies. All relevant data had now been sent to the Home Office.

Work relating to Growing Rights Instead of Poverty Partnership (GRIPP) had received excellent feedback from the Home Office, particularly the work carried out by the Knife Crime and Serious Violence programme manager from Northumbria Police.

The PCC stressed the importance of focussing and educating on knife crime. The VRU Director advised that work with the Community Safety Partnerships was taking place to further strengthen this area.

### **4. HMICFRS Publication: Review of the Police Services progress on Vetting, Misconduct and Counter Corruption**

The Detective Superintendent for Professional Standards highlighted the main points from the report.

There were 43 recommendations which had been grouped into 8 key areas. 29 recommendations had been allocated to the Chief Constable, with the remainder allocated to stakeholders. There were 5 areas for improvement (AFIs) identified, none of which had been assigned a target date.

HMICFRS examined the self-assessments forces provided to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and considered whether they accurately reflected the grading each force had given itself. Northumbria Police had been downgraded in 5 areas but with no explanation, and were upgraded in 3 areas. However, relevant work had taken place to improve the downgraded areas and the force were satisfied that all 5 areas would now be fully upgraded.

A thorough RAG rating of the recommendations had been outlined in the report, along with the AFIs. Focus work was in place to improve all areas where needed and it was felt the force were currently in a good position.

The PCC requested an update of this report be brought back in December to ensure the necessary progress was being made.

The PCC also requested an update of serious misconduct cases within the force are shared on a regular basis.

### **5. HMICFRS Publication: Online Child Sexual Exploitation**

The ACC for Crime and Safeguarding highlighted the main points from the report.

This inspection took place between February and August 2022 and set out to identify how effective police forces, the National Crime Agency (NCA) and regional organised crime units (ROCU) were at identifying and safeguarding children affected by online



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sexual abuse and exploitation and assessed how effectively these organisations prevented and investigated this type of crime.

The report made 17 recommendations and an update of Northumbria's position had been given against each point.

It had been noted there would be additional capacity put into POLIT to assist with the high risk timescales and be fully compliant from July 2023.

### **6. National Issues Impacting on Policing**

The PCC advised there were potential issues of the partnerships between forces and the National Police Air Service (NPAS) due to financial implications. The force would remain vigilant on the national progress and outcomes of this issue.

### **7. Provisional Capital Outturn 2022/23**

The CFO highlighted the main points from the report.

The PCC was asked to note the provisional outturn position of £16.291m, against the capital programme of £39.387m including funded schemes, and the decrease in spend of £6.073m against the Qtr3 forecast of £22.364m.

The reasons for the under-spend had been outlined in detail and covered the following areas:

Building Works, Digital Transformation, Vehicles and Equipment, NEROCU Schemes, and the Funded Capital Scheme.

The Capital Programme for 22/23 had been outlined. In-year capital receipts related to the sale of BMWs and amounted to £0.658m. Capital receipts carried forward from previous years amounted to £22.173m and were planned for use within the current MTFS.

The prudential indicators for capital were set out in a separate Appendix, all of which were within the agreed limits as at 31 March 2023.

The PCC felt that the under-spend of over 50% was alarmingly high and queried whether further monitoring and spending plans needed to take place to ensure this trend did not continue. The CC advised that plans were in place for the CFO to work more closely with the Estates Department and felt this area would benefit from more capital input.

### **8. Provision Group Revenue Outturn 22/23**

The CFO highlighted the main points from the report.

The PCC was asked to note the final Group Revenue Budget outturn position (subject to audit) of £335.454m, as at 31 March 2023.



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As at the end of the financial year the final outturn position for the overall Group revenue budget, subject to audit, was an under-spend of £3.878m. The forecast position reported at 28 February 2023 was an under-spend of £3.228m; the actual position at 31 March 2023 seen an increase in the forecast under-spend of £0.650m.

Key movements had been outlined in detail and included the following areas: Dog Handlers, NEROCU, Contributions and Subscriptions, Fleet and Income.

The final outturn position maintained the general reserve level above the 2% minimum for 2022/23 in accordance with the reserves policy.

### **9. Annual Governance Statement: Chief Constable / PCC**

The CFO presented both Annual Governance Statements (AGS) from the CC and the PCC, both of which had already been reviewed by the Joint Independent Audit Committee with no issues identified.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 required an AGS to be published along with the annual Statements of Account and a narrative statement that set out financial performance and economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Both Statements would be signed and published once the LGPS Pensions issue had been resolved.

### **10. Public Confidence – Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and Safer Communities Survey (SCS) Results**

The Head of Corporate Development highlighted the main points from the report.

The report provided a summary of the measures relating to residents' perceptions of public confidence in the Northumbria force area, from the CSEW and SCS.

Current results from the CSEW showed that the 'police treat fairly' and 'police do a good or excellent job' measures were the most favourable for Northumbria compared to other forces (placed 7th and 10th nationally). However, there had been a significant reduction across all the measures compared to March 2020.

The largest discrepancy between the results was the proportion of residents that agreed that the 'police and council deal with ASB/crime issues' (less residents were in agreement).

A graph displayed the results of the SCS confidence measures over time and showed that while levels of agreement remained relatively high, the results had been decreasing since late 2021, with more significant reductions throughout 2022. The current results also showed statistically significant reductions compared to the same period last year (12 months to April 2022 results).



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Residents were also asked if they felt confident that Northumbria Police could effectively deal with an emergency incident, a non-emergency incident, a request for advice or information and on-line crime. Current results showed statistically significant decreases for all these measures compared to the same period last year and gradual decreases in levels of residents' confidence over time.

Qualitative feedback was also captured during the SCS survey. The most reoccurring comments relating to the confidence survey measures had been grouped into the following themes:

Lack of police visibility, limited resources, current provision, and ongoing issues in local areas.

There were measures in place to tackle these issues and improve performance which included improving the efficiency of the force operating model, call handling, and response times.

### **11. Joint Strategic Risk Register**

The Head of Corporate Development highlighted the main points from the report.

Recent updates included:

Digital Policing – Risk remained medium

Information and Data Quality – Risk reduced from high to medium

Loss of Public Confidence – Ownership had now been transferred to the DCC

Strategy – Risk remained medium

The Chief of Staff for the OPCC highlighted the risks from the OPCC Strategic Risk Register. Finance had been the only area which had been deemed as high risk. This was due to the now shorter-term certainty around the scope of precept increases.

Other risks outlined included:

OPCC Governance – Risk remained low

OPCC Partnership and Collaboration – Risk remained medium

OPCC Public Confidence – Risk remained medium

### **12. Forward Plan – Open Session**

The Forward Plan had been noted.

### **13. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

### **14. Date and Time of next meeting**

The next meeting would take place on Thursday 3 August 2023 – 2pm – Middle Engine Lane/Teams.