



AGENDA ITEM I

NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

Business Meeting

Date

12 November 2024

Location

Teams/MEL

Duration

2pm-3.10pm

Present:

Susan Dungworth – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Clare Penny Evans – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Jayne Meir – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)
Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC
Kevin Laing – Joint Chief Finance Officer (JCFO)
Alastair Simpson – ACC (Crime and Safeguarding)
Andrew Hill – ACC (Communities)
Joscelin Lawson – ACO for Corporate Services
Will Kemp – Chief Inspector Staff Officer (NP)
Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)
Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

Apologies:

Vanessa Jardine – Chief Constable (CC)

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 15 October 2024

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that had not been included in the agenda.

There were no actions to be addressed on the Action Log.

3. National Issues Impacting on Policing

The DCC advised that the NPCC had now announced that Louisa Rolfe (Assistant Commissioner of Police for the London Metropolis) would be the Chief Officer Lead for Police Reform. A meeting was due to be held where more details of this role would be explained.

The staff Hive Survey had now closed and 67% of the force had taken part which was extremely positive. The results would be analysed and ready to share by December.



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The PCC advised that it was still planned to receive a settlement regarding the precept by 9 December 2024. Following a query, the JCFO felt that the grant information should also be received within the same timeframe.

It had now been made aware that the Home Affairs Committee would be examining policing during the 2024 disorder. The OPCC Chief of Staff would send the relevant information to the DCC in advance.

4. Capital Monitoring Q2

The JCFO highlighted the main points from the report.

The report set out the capital forecast for 2024/25 as at 30 September 2024.

The Northumbria Police Estates Strategy 2024-2030 was approved in April 2024, which included new Estates projects, some of which were built into the 2024/25 capital programme at Qtr 1. A full review of the capital programme was also undertaken to establish whether any of the original budgets and slippages needed to be re-profiled into future years, or if the estimates remained accurate and realistic in terms of delivery within this financial year, resulting in a revised capital programme of £36.705m which was approved on 3rd September 2024.

The Scheme Expenditure had been outlined covering aspects of Building Works, Digital Policing & Digital Transformation, Vehicles & Equipment, and NEROCU Schemes.

A table highlighting the Capital Financing 2024/25 had been outlined.

The sales of one vehicle and two horseboxes had resulted in capital receipts of £0.055m; there were no other capital receipts currently expected in-year. Capital receipts carried forward from previous years amounted to £11.926m.

The prudential indicators for the capital were set out in a separate appendix including the liability benchmark. All indicators were within the agreed limits as at 30 September 2024.

Following a query, the JCFO confirmed that North Tyneside continued to carry out the legal work regarding Estates, but this was more focused on the lease documents aspect. However, it had been noted that an external company had been used for one of the estates legal paperwork. A separate meeting would be held regarding the appropriate budget setting for future works.

The PCC noted the 2024/25 Capital monitoring position for Qtr. 2 as at 30 September 2024 and approved the Key Decision.

5. Group Revenue Monitoring Q2

The JCFO highlighted the main points from the report.



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The overall Group revenue budget for 2024/25 was agreed at £379.464m, this had now been revised to £378.104m.

Based on the Qtr 2 spend, the forecast outturn for the Chief Constable Revenue was an in-year underspend of £1.478m. Within this position there were some budgetary pressures and underspends resulting in the net outturn position.

Police Officers – The forecast at the end of the second quarter was an underspend of £0.176m (0.08%) against the budget. The variance reflected profiling adjustments to recruits and leavers against the budget set. The position reflected the current workforce planning projections, which ensured that the uplift checkpoints were met. The current profile maintained the +31 against Uplift.

Police Staff – Police Staff pay was forecast to be underspent by £0.077m (0.09%) against the budget. The position reflected current workforce plans, forecasts intakes and exits before the end of the year.

The projected year-end budget position of core OPCC revenue and Supporting Services was currently forecast to be an in-year underspend of £0.077m.

OPCC core budgets were reflecting an underspend of £0.042m (2.2%) due to underspends within the salary budgets as a result of vacant posts and a Secondment; this underspend was offset by increases in the Rent, APCC Annual contribution and External Audit fees. These increases were not known at the time of budget setting.

At Quarter 2 there remained a risk associated with the recent national period of unrest and the potential impact of claims under the Riot Compensation Act on the Group budget position. Whilst those affected Commissioners continue to lobby Government for funding, there remained a risk that an additional financial cost would fall to the Commissioner, which might require funding from reserves. An update would be provided at Q3.

The overall group position was forecast an underspend of £2.069m; no actions were recommended at this time.

The PCC approved the revised Group Revenue Budget of £378.104m, and noted the Group forecast outturn of £376.035m based on payments processed to date and current projections against a revised 2024/25 budget of £378.104m, which reflected an in-year underspend position of £2.069m.

The PCC approved the Key Decision.

6. Police and Crime Plan Refresh

The Chief of Staff at the OPCC advised that the plan remained in draft form but was close to being finalised. It consisted of six key priorities. There were still some minor amendments to be made regarding use of language, and an addition from the CC. Various draft forms would continue to be shared as this progressed.



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A brief discussion took place on expectations from partner agencies and the ways in which they could be held to account. This would be explored further.

7. HMICFRS: The policing response to anti-social behaviour – PEEL spotlight report

ACC (Communities) highlighted the main points from the report.

The report brought together findings from the police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) programme, force management statements, and a request for promising practice from the College of Policing to all forces in England and Wales. It found that police forces must do more to tackle antisocial behaviour and understand its prevalence in their local communities.

A summary of the findings had been outlined.

There were 8 recommendations from the report. A detailed breakdown of the current force position was given against each recommendation.

The PCC requested to join a training session with the Neighbourhood Policing Team. This would be arranged in the near future.

8. Baird Inquiry Report

ACC (Crime and Safeguarding) highlighted the main points from the report.

In July 2024 Dame Vera Baird produced a report into the experiences of people taken into custody in Manchester. Northumbria Police had scrutinised the findings from the report and from these, had created a list of 17 recommendations which had been presented to the Custody and Detention Scrutiny Panel which would be used as a self-assessment review.

Of the 17 recommendations, 14 were assessed as green with 3 amber, and 0 red. The 3 amber recommendations were as follows:

- Custody officers should be refreshed in training as to their independent role and their duty to represent the welfare of arrestees. If they were not already apprised of the potential harm that custody could inflict on individuals that should also be introduced in training/retraining.
- Prior to a strip-search being conducted the justification must be explained to the detainee by the Custody Sergeant in plain language. This conversation must be captured on video and retained.
- Strip-searching of children must never be done if it can be avoided, and an appropriate adult must always be made available.

Relevant plans had been actioned in order to convert the amber recommendations to green. A full RAG status had been included which outlined all 17 recommendations in further detail.



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The OPCC Chief of Staff queried whether Greater Manchester had published their response to the report, however this was not readily available at the meeting. The PCC would liaise with the Mayor of Greater Manchester if needed.

It had been suggested that a brief note should be added to the PCC website regarding this report and highlighting the work Northumbria were carrying out as areas for improvement. Following a discussion, it had been agreed to do the same for future reports, and recent backdated reports, only where appropriate, i.e. public confidence risk, substantial media attention, etc. It had also been agreed to draw up terms of reference for this task to ensure a streamlined approach. All narrative would be brought to the force for approval before being published on the PCC website.

9. Forward Plan – Open Session

The Forward Plan had been noted.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 21 January – 2pm – Middle Engine Lane/Teams.