

NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

Business Meeting

Date

13 June 2025

Location

Teams/Victory House

Duration

1.30pm-2.50pm

Present:

Susan Dungworth – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Clare Penny Evans – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)
Vanessa Jardine – Chief Constable (CC)
Jayne Meir – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)
Joscelin Lawson – ACO for Corporate Services
Alastair Simpson – ACC for Crime and Safeguarding
Sarah Robson – Staff Officer (NP)
Sarah Goodman – Senior Finance Lead – Deputy Chief Finance Officer
Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)
Rachel Snaith – Director of Commissioning and Policy (OPCC)
Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

Apologies:

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff (OPCC)
Gail Thompson – Joint Chief Finance Officer

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 15 May 2025

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Action Log had been outlined. All items had been completed or would be part of the agenda for this meeting.

3. National Issues Impacting on Policing

Chief Constable's Strategic Update



The Spending Review had been published however it was felt the information remained vague and further context would be needed with regards to how this would affect specific areas. It was hoped there would be more clarity to expand upon at the next meeting.

The CC advised that due to an ongoing matter, the force's position regarding Pride was not yet confirmed. A judicial hearing was due to take place.

Further detail was needed regarding the Neighbourhood Guarantee however this would not disrupt the force plans, specifically regarding recruitment. The Chief Constable was confident the targets would be met as relevant work was underway.

Police and Crime Commissioner's Strategic Update

The Keeping Town Centres Safe initiative had now changed its name to the Safer Streets Summer Initiative. All plans had been submitted and it was hoped the monitoring template would be received from the Home Office this week.

There was heightened media interest regarding the Group Based Child Sexual Exploitation review being led by Baroness Casey. The PCC queried whether any Northumbria cases had been included within the audit review. ACC Simpson explained that all the information requested from the force had been submitted.

4. HMICFRS: PEEL 2023-2025 Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy – An inspection of Northumbria Police

The DCC presented the report.

The inspection assessed how good Northumbria Police were in 9 areas of policing and graded judgements were made in 8 of these. The 8 graded areas showed 1 as 'good', and the other 7 as 'adequate'.

There were 9 areas for improvement (AFIs) identified. The DCC highlighted each AFI and explained the work in place. Overall, the force were already addressing the areas highlighted within the AFIs and would continue to address them through ongoing activity.

The DCC would challenge the Force Assurance Board with regards to the AFIs, especially those that had been long standing, but felt confident that progress would be made and the next inspection should result in a more positive outcome.

The DPCC referenced the AFI regarding the Police Powers External Scrutiny Panel and the suggestion of increasing the number of cases they viewed. The DPCC chaired this panel and felt a careful balance would be needed as to the time required for this due to the panel being made up of volunteers. The DCC would ensure this was carried out fairly and effectively.



The PCC advised that the AFIs would also be included in the scrutiny programme that would run throughout the year.

5. HMICFRS: An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024 - Tranche 2: use of an intelligence-led approach, tackling online content and social media, and crime investigations

The DCC presented the report.

Three further recommendations had been made regarding:

- How the police service collected, analysed and communicated intelligence about disorder;
- To better understand and respond to the risk associated with online content;
- To improve how the police service investigated offences associated with large-scale disorder.

The DCC highlighted some of the main findings from the report:

HMICFRS found that from the outset of the widespread national disorder, the police service did not have an effective strategy or plan that brought the network together for a common purpose. This made monitoring, gathering, analysing and sharing intelligence on the disorder slow and piecemeal. In turn this made developing disorder-related intelligence to help operational decision-making far more difficult.

The National Risk Register 2025 did not adequately reflect the future risk of disorder at the national strategic level. While the Cabinet Office and the Home Office stated that they would be considering the impact of the 2024 disorder within their next risk assessment in September 2025, this was considered too late; the process should be more dynamic and keep pace with a complex and ever-changing society.

The report found that the police service must improve its research capability for open and encrypted online platforms. Relentless identification and assessment of online illegal content was needed to produce up-to-date and accurate intelligence profiles and assessments. These were very much lacking before the outbreak of disorder that followed the Southport murders.

Forces also missed opportunities to secure intelligence from people arrested or interviewed in connection with the disorder; many forces did not carry out intelligence interviews. These would have helped forces to better understand intelligence on disorder, and more effectively inform local and national risk assessments. Investigators had ready opportunities to understand suspects' reasons and motivation for taking part in the disorder.

The report found that police services must be robust in countering online content that contained misinformation or disinformation and challenge illegal or harmful content. Northumbria Police was highlighted positively in a case study for responding to an online post showing an image of a mass gathering in Newcastle City Centre. The Force identified that the image was from a previous event and by using online platforms and



uploading CCTV images, they disproved the post and demonstrated that no demonstration was taking place.

The DCC understood many of the findings but also gave reasons as to why these issues had arisen. It was advised that work was in place to make improvements and the DCC was aware that planning was a priority improvement to ensure this was more pro-active.

6. HMICFRS: Improving the response to organised immigration crime (OIC)

The ACC for Crime and Safeguarding presented the report.

At the time of inspection, the National Crime Agency (NCA) was responsible for leading the UK law enforcement response to OIC. The NCA created a strategic action plan to manage progress on actions allocated however not everyone spoken to was fully aware which body was responsible for different activities. The NCA director general used his legal powers to improve the response of police forces to OIC and wrote to the chief constables of police forces in England and Wales directing them to carry out specific tasks. The resultant activities had contributed significantly to improving law enforcement agencies' responses to OIC, but not everything the director general requested had been done.

The report found that not all police forces and regional organised crime units (ROCU) had satisfactory arrangements for collecting and analysing intelligence. Some had prioritised OIC and included it in their strategic governance arrangements, but others had not. Some had no intelligence collection plans, lacked dedicated analytical resources and had limited access to other relevant organisations' information.

The Modern Slavery and Organised Crime Immigration Unit had developed an immersive Hydra training package primarily aimed at managers and investigators and had started to train police force personnel to manage training in their own forces.

At the time of inspection, the College of Policing had not provided any OIC-specific training, however it was using its online learning resource 'College Learn' to host an e-learning course aimed at raising awareness of OIC for police officers most likely to deal with immigration crime incidents. Completion of this training varied between forces and some leaders and HMICFRS considered that this should be mandatory training for relevant personnel.

The PCC noted that the first meeting of the Anti-Slavery Network had recently taken place. This did not have OIC included however should the force wish for this to be added, the PCC would ensure this was carried out.

7. Northumbria Road Safety Partnership

The DCC presented the report.



There was now agreed governance in place, and the procurement of new cameras was now underway.

A draft Communication and Engagement Plan had been developed and had been circulated for consultation by members with a deadline of 14 June 2025 for final sign off by all partners. The PCC had not yet received this. The DCC ensured a copy would be sent at the earliest opportunity.

The tender process had been finalised and a market engagement exercise was scheduled for 16 June 2025 after which a decision would be made to proceed with the successful provider. A meeting was due to take place regarding the timeline of the rollout. Further meetings would need to take place regarding locations of the three cameras, and due to their demand, the DCC felt the locations should be chosen via a date driven process which indicated the places where there was the most risk to the public.

8. Provisional Capital Outturn Position 2024/25

The Deputy CFO presented the report.

The PCC had been asked to note the provisional outturn position of £14.125m against a budget of £20.012m including funded schemes, and the decrease in spend of £5.888m against the Quarter3 revised capital programme of £20.012m.

The provisional capital outturn and variations to the capital programme, as at 31 March 2025 had been highlighted in a table with accompanying narrative against each category.

The capital programme for 2024/25 financing had been outlined in a table with Total Funding standing at £5.888m.

The prudential indicators for capital were set out in a separate Appendix. All indicators were within the agreed limits as at 31 March 2025.

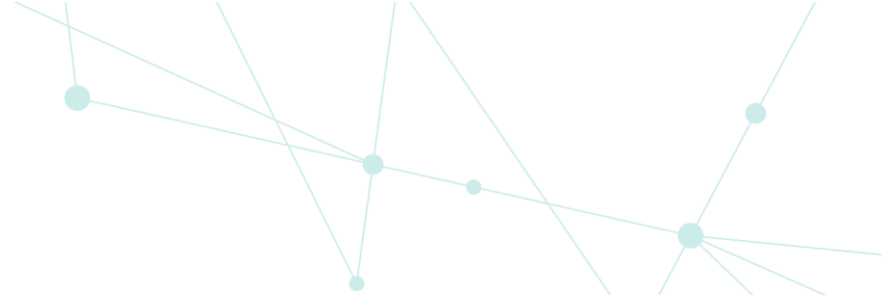
9. Provisional Group Revenue Outturn 2024/25

The Deputy CFO presented the report.

The original Group revenue budget for 2024/25 was agreed at £379.464m. The budget was revised at the end of Quarter 2 to £378.104m.

Within the revised 2024/25 budget the following was provided for:

- £362.122m to fund the cost of Policing in the Force area by the Chief Constable.
- £1.907m to meet the costs of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- £1.442m to meet the costs of OPCC Supporting Services.
- £12.633m to cover the costs of capital financing.



On 14 April 2025, a report was presented outlining a review of the Capital Investment Strategy with a recommendation to finance specific high volume, low value capital refresh schemes from revenue. In the longer term, this would reduce borrowing costs and the reliance on funding through Capital for short term assets. The decision was made to place a number of items into revenue from capital to realise longer term gains. Costs were subsequently transferred to the following account headings:

- Body Armour (Uniform) £0.367m
- Body Worn Video £1.010m
- TSU Refresh £0.061m

As a result of the transfer of costs from capital accounts, the impact to revenue was £1.438m.

10. Forward Plan (Open)

The Forward Plan had been noted. Business issues would be included at Scrutiny meetings where there was a timing requirement.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

12. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting would take place on 9 October 2025 – 2pm-4pm – Middle Engine Lane/Teams.