

## NORTHUMBRIA OPCC MINUTES

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**Title**

Business Meeting.

**Date**

14 August 2025

**Location**

Teams/Victory House

**Duration**

16.23 – 16.51

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**Present:**

Susan Dungworth – Police and Crime Commissioner  
Clare Penny Evans – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner  
Vanessa Jardine – Chief Constable  
Jayne Meir – Deputy Chief Constable  
Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC  
Gail Thompson – Joint Head of Finance (NP)  
Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)  
Joscelin Lawson – ACO for Corporate Services (NP)  
Hannah Craig – Staff Officer (NP)  
Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

**Apologies:**

Vanessa Jardine – Chief Constable (CC)

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### **OPEN SESSION – 1.53**

#### **1. Capital Monitoring Q1**

The Joint Head of Finance presented the report.

The capital programme of £64.585m was approved on 27 March 2025 as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29. The Capital Outturn Report for 2024/25 reported slippage of £0.786m into 2025/26 financial year, bringing the capital programme 2025/26 to a total of £65.371m.

As at Quarter 1, a full review of the capital programme has taken place to establish whether any of the original budgets and slippages need to be re-profiled into future years, or if the estimates remain accurate and realistic in terms of delivery within this financial year.

A table highlighted the original capital programme, slippage from 2024/25, the adjustments to the capital programme at Q1, the revised capital programme and actual spend, as at 30 June 2025. The forecast outturn position at Q1 is therefore aligned with the revised capital programme requirement of £55.610m:



The report also highlighted building works, digital policing and digital transformation, vehicles and equipment, NEROCU schemes and funded capital schemes. The prudential indicators for capital are set out in Appendix 2. All indicators were within the agreed limits as at 30 June 2025.

The Police and Crime Commissioner noted the Capital Monitoring for Q1 as at 30 June 2025 and approved the adjustments to the capital programme 2025/26.

## **2. Group Revenue Monitoring Q1**

The joint Head of Finance presented the report.

The overall Group revenue budget for 2025/26 was agreed at £405.444m, this has now been revised to £400.780m, an overall budget reduction of £4.664m. Within the approved 2025/26 budget adjustments have been provided for:

- Budget reductions identified after the original budget was approved.
- Additional budget pressures, approved investment, capital expenditure moved to revenue and additional income.
- The impact of the Neighbourhood Guarantee delivery profile.

The report focused on key outcomes for the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner revenue.

The overall group position is a forecast underspend of £0.197m.

The reduction will result in the use of less reserves.

The Commissioner also advised that payments had started to be made in relation to the Riot Compensation Act Claims.

The Police and Crime Commissioner approved the revised Group Revenue Budget of £400.780m and noted the Group forecast outturn of £400.583m which is based on payments processed to date and current projections, against a 2025/26 budget of £400.780m which reflects an in-year underspend position of £0.197m

## **3. Update from Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) following JIAC on 25 June 2025 and Progress against the Internal Audit Work Plan.**

The Joint Head of Finance presented the report.

The report provided the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable with an update from the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC), held on 25 June 2025.



An overview of the meeting was discussed, included Terms of Reference, Auditors Annual Report (AAR) 2023/24, JIAC Annual Report 2024/25 and Annual Governance Review, along with questions asked by the JIAC members.

The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable were appreciative of the work undertaken by members of the JIAC.

#### **4. Joint Strategic Risk Register**

The report was presented by the Deputy Chief Constable and OPCC Chief of Staff.

The Office of Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Northumbria Police share a JSRR. Each strategic risk is assigned a Chief Officer or OPCC owner(s), who has responsibility for the management of controls and the implementation of new controls where necessary.

Key changes to the Force Strategic Risk Register were discussed along with several strategic risks. A similar discussion took place regarding the latest OPCC Strategic Risk Register. Current factors updated to reference events in national and local media to reflect a broader and relevant approach to the current factors around this risk.

The Chief Constable mentioned the discussion of accreditation was also covered and acknowledged to ensure at forensic level it is appropriate. The Chief of Staff gave an overview from an OPCC perspective.

#### **5. HMICFRS Publication: Joint case building by the Police and Crown Prosecution Service**

The report was presented by ACC Alastair Simpson.

The report provided an overview of the findings from an inspection of joint case building by the police and Crown Prosecution Service by His Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPPI) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

HMCPPI and HMICFRS carried out a joint thematic inspection of how the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) work together within the Criminal Justice System (CJS) to build cases through investigation and prosecution.

The report makes eighteen recommendations, which were presented as an Appendix, three for the attention of police forces: **Recommendation 5** - gatekeeping arrangements with the CPS; **Recommendation 7** – completion of a national supervisors' training course and assessment on case file building once developed by the College of Policing; and **Recommendation 9** – development of a joint local training plan to increase awareness and understanding of police and CPS roles, including the operation of IT systems. The remaining fifteen are for the attention of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), The



National Criminal Justice Board (NCJB), the Joint Operational Improvement Board (JOIB), the College of Policing and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). The appendix provided gave additional detail for each recommendation.

A discussion included the summary of findings, which included demand and complexity, Governance, Information Technology, People and Training,

The ACC mentioned accessibility of lawyers, the Commissioner asked about sentencing decision and timescales. Northumbria Police broadly support the recommendations.