

NORTHUMBRIA OPCC MINUTES

Title

Business Meeting

Date

9th October 2025

Location

Middle Engine Lane

Duration

14.00 – 15:20

Present:

Susan Dungworth – Police and Crime Commissioner
Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff (OPCC)
Vanessa Jardine – Chief Constable (CC)
Joscelin Lawson – ACO Corporate Services (NP)
Jayne Meir – Deputy Chief Constable
Clare Penny-Evans – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)
Sarah Robson – Chief Inspector Staff Officer
Gail Thompson – Joint Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Steve Wykes T/ACC (Force Innovation)

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the Open Session of Joint Business Meeting for 13 June 2025, 8 July 2025 and 14 August 2025

The minutes were agreed as true record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. National Issues Impacting on Policing

HMICFRS Publication: State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2024-25

This report was presented by the Chief Constable.

This is the first report since the new government, detailing the outcomes of inspections conducted between 1 April 2024 and 31 July 2025, covering all 43 police forces in England and Wales as part of the 2023-25 PEEL inspection programme.



The report highlighted that the decline in public confidence in policing appears to be stabilising and the Government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee is a positive step toward strengthening local policing.

68% of police forces received judgements rated 'adequate' or better, including all judgements for Northumbria Police. The Chief Constable noted that Northumbria Police were one of the better performing police forces in the PEEL inspection programme.

Chief Constable's Strategic Update

Prior to this meeting there was a Panorama documentary released by the BBC exposing examples of misconduct by some London Metropolitan Police officers.

The Deputy Chief Constable offered her reassurances that she believes Northumbria Police does not have this type of behaviour in systemic way. Northumbria Police are developing their procedures to identify similar conduct as well as measures to prevent this culture amongst officers.

The Police and Crime Commissioner added that she will continue to reassure the public as poor behaviour from individual officers negatively affects the public's trust and confidence across the whole organisation.

The Deputy Chief Constable and Chief of Staff mentioned that contact was made with partner organisations to offer reassurances and to remind them to report misconduct from police officers and staff.

The ACO Corporate Services recognised the impact that this may have on recruitment as this culture may demotivate aspiring police officers.

Prior to this meeting there was a terrorist attack on a Synagogue in Manchester.

The Chief Constable shared that on the day that some Northumbria Police officers were temporarily moved to Manchester to support their operational demands.

The Police and Crime Commissioner mentioned that the office wrote to synagogues across the region offering support and visited the Jewish community in Gateshead.

The Deputy Chief Constable provided reassurance that Northumbria Police continue to engage with the Jewish community during their religious festivals and will apply any learning from the police's response to the terrorist attack in Manchester.

Police and Crime Commissioner's Strategic Update



The Police and Crime Commissioner shared that she met with the new Policing Minister at Labour Party Conference where she has raised the concern of the cost of policing protests across the country.

The Home Office visited the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner to meet their commissioned services who provide therapeutic support to children affected by domestic abuse.

Prior to this meeting, the government had announced a 'Winter of Action'. The Police and Crime Commissioner will attend a briefing meeting to inform initiatives and will share updates with the Executive Team at Northumbria Police.

The Chief of Staff shared that a submission bid has been sent to the Judiciary for Intensive Supervision Courts in the region. At this time a response has not been received.

4. HMICFRS Publication: PEEL Spotlight Report: How effectively do the police record crime?

The Deputy Chief Constable presented this report.

This report brings together findings from HMICFRS 2016-20 Crime Data Integrity (CDI) and 2021/22 and 2023-25 PEEL inspection programme to assess how well police forces, in England and Wales, record the reports of crimes they receive.

This report makes three recommendations for all police forces in England and Wales, which focus on the accuracy, timeliness and scrutiny of forces' crime recording.

The level of under-recording in Northumbria Police has improved since the last crime data integrity audit by HMICFRS. Although there remains area for improvement.

The Deputy Chief Constable raised concern that in local context, sexual and rape offences is under-recorded by 5%. Several departments across Northumbria Police are undertaking learning to improve their understanding and identification of offences.

The Force's current processes for crime recording at first point of contact ensures that most crimes are recorded within 24 hours. However this can be impacted when officers or staff fail to identify the crime during the initial contact or delay crime recording for further information gathering or investigation.

The Deputy Chief Constable also provided the confidence that the recording of crimes is monitored and audited.



5. Update from Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) following JIAC on 22 September 2025 and Progress Against the Internal Audit Work Plan

The Joint Chief Finance Officer presented this report.

The Joint Chief Finance Officer provided an overview of recommendations from the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) following their assessment of Northumbria Police.

However a number of recommendations being considered for areas of improvements were already fully implemented or has commenced.

The Joint Chief Finance Officer updated that the outcome of the annual review of risk will be reported to the Committee in February 2026.

Key changes to the Force Strategic Risk Register include updates to:

- Thematic risk areas for Workforce and Infrastructure and Assets updated following the UK Supreme Court Judgement that the terms 'man,' 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010 refers to biological sex. The Judgement has been added as a current factor in the assessment of risk pending further guidance.
- Finance risk updated to reflect delays in receiving further information around specific grants, funding settlements and the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) until the settlement publication in December 2025.
- Current factors for the thematic risk area for Regulations and Standards updated to reflect the Force's ability to demonstrate compliance with relevant International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) standards to maintain accredited status.

Key changes to the OPCC's Risk Register include updates to:

- Finance – as per Force Strategic Risk Register update.
- Governance - reference to the white paper removed as the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill has been introduced that enacts plans to widen and deepen devolution across England. Removed reference to pending outcome of the PEEL report following publication.
- Public Confidence - updated to reference events in national and local media to reflect a broader and relevant approach.

6. Joint Strategic Risk Register

This report was presented by the Deputy Chief Constable.

The Joint Strategic Risk Register identifies each risk, provides context to the risk and identifies current factors affecting thematic areas and captures the consequences if it



were to happen. All risks are regularly reviewed by the respective owners and updated, where necessary.

Information and Data Management is a thematic area in Northumbria Police's Force Strategic Risk Register. The Deputy Chief Constable provided an update that the risk of non-compliance with Records and Product Management (RPM) has been considered and included as a current factor.

The Chief of Staff at the OPCC shared that there are no substantial changes to the OPCC Strategic Risk Register.

For their thematic risk area of public confidence, the Police and Crime Commissioner is alert to the role of events in the media and on social media in shaping public perceptions and the impact this can have on confidence in policing.

7. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan has been noted.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9. The next Joint Business Meeting will be held 11 December 2025, 14:00 – 16:00 at Executive Team Meeting Room, Middle Engine Lane.