

Northumbria PCC Business Meeting Minutes

Title: Business Meeting

Date: 4 March 2026

Duration: 2pm-2.10pm

Location: Teams

Present:

Clare Penny Evans – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)

Hayley Bradford – Procurement Manager (NP)

Gail Thompson – Joint Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff (OPCC)

Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the Business Meeting Open Session held on 26 February 2026

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Contracts and Key Decisions

There were no Awards, Tenders, Extensions or Estates contracts in the open agenda.

The closed agenda would include:

- Tender – Legal Case Management System

3. Any Other Business

Motor Insurance Bureau – Donation for Special Constabulary Response Vehicle

The purpose of this report was to seek a decision to secure the offer of £30,000 funding from the Motor insurance Bureau (MIB) for the purchase of a dedicated standard response vehicle for use by the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) Special Constabulary (SC).

The Joint CFO had presented the report on behalf of the Operations Department and advised that this had also been through the correct force governance procedures in advance.

The RPU currently had a dedicated team of 11 Special Constables, supervised by an RPU SC Sergeant. Each SC committed to well over the 200 mandatory working hours per year, with some officers dedicating over 500 hours of deployment time.

The RPU SCs were currently standard drivers. To be able to drive the RPU advanced fleet in a policing capacity the driver must have passed an advanced drive course. Due to the time required to commit to the advanced course this was not currently possible for the SCs, as it would require taking a considerable period of absence from their employment to commit to the course.

The MIB donated funding to Devon and Cornwall Police in 2025 for the purchase of a dedicated vehicle for the use by their SC. They had approached Northumbria Police and had offered to donate £30,000 to do the same. Northumbria Police were selected for the funding offer due to the proactive work they had undertaken to support MIB in tackling the issue of uninsured drivers across the region.

The purchase of a dedicated SC vehicle would enhance the capability of the existing fleet whilst contributing towards achieving the Road Safety Strategy. Securing a dedicated vehicle for the SC would represent a significant investment in the volunteers, whilst empowering them to take ownership of policing activity independently. RPU SCs contributed significant time to the department, but an inability to use the current fleet frustrated their independent deployment.

The funding would be for the purchase of a standard response vehicle and would cover the cost of livery and modification. MIB had confirmed that Northumbria Police would be able to use the vehicle for its lifetime. The only stipulation from MIB was that the vehicle must include a reference to MIB in its livery.

In line with Governance Framework and Northumbria Police Sponsorship Policy, the aim was to seek approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria to accept the sponsorship of £30,000 from the MIB to allow the purchase of a vehicle for use by the SC.

The DPCC queried the transaction and whether it would be a case of being given the funds, and the force purchase the vehicle. The CFO would need to verify this and would ensure that if the funds were being paid directly, this would be accounted for correctly as a donated asset and would need to be reflected as a grant.

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner approved the Key Decision.