



NORTHUMBRIA OPCC MINUTES

Title

Special Joint Business Meeting

Date

22 June 2026

Location

Victory House

Duration

3pm–3.30pm

Present:

Susan Dungworth – Police and Crime Commissioner

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff (OPCC)

Vanessa Jardine – Chief Constable (CC)

Jayne Meir – Deputy Chief Constable

Clare Penny-Evans – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Gail Thompson – Joint Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

OPEN SESSION

1. Annual Governance Statement for the Financial Year 2025/26 – Police and Crime Commissioner

The Joint CFO highlighted the main points from the statement.

The statement covered the Commissioner's own office and the group position of the Commissioner and the Chief Constable. The Commissioner and Chief Constable shared most core systems of control including finance systems, internal policies and processes, the Chief Finance Officer (CFO), internal audit, and a Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC).

Under the Commissioner's Governance Framework, most of the staff, officers, and systems deployed in the systems of internal control were under the direction and control of the Chief Constable. The Commissioner had oversight and scrutiny of the Chief Constable's delivery including governance, risk management, and systems of internal control.

The Chief Constable was responsible for the direction and control of the Force. In discharging this function, the Chief Constable was accountable to the Commissioner in ensuring their business was conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money was safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently, and effectively.



The Commissioner therefore placed reliance and requirement on the Chief Constable to deliver and support the governance and risk management processes and the framework described in this statement.

The statement provided a summary of the extent to which the Chief Constable is supporting the aspirations set out in the Commissioner's Governance Framework.

The Commissioner's six principles of good governance were:

1. Focusing on the purpose of the Commissioner, on the outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.
2. Ensuring the Commissioner, officers of the Commissioner and partners work together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.
3. Good conduct and behaviour.
4. Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and risk management.
5. Developing the capacity and capability of the Commissioner and officers to the Commissioner to be effective.
6. Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

The Commissioner had a Police and Crime Plan; Safer Streets: Stronger Communities, for the period 2025 to 2029. The priorities were:

- Priority 1 – Engaged and responsive police force
- Priority 2 – Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Priority 3 – Serious violence and organised crime
- Priority 4 – Violence against women and girls
- Priority 5 – Hate crime and community cohesion
- Priority 6 – Victims and justice

The PCC, Chief of Staff, and Joint CFO agreed to sign the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Governance Statement.

2. Annual Governance Statement for the Financial Year 2025/26 – Chief Constable

The Joint CFO highlighted the main points from the statement.

As previously noted, the Chief Constable shared most core-systems of control with the Commissioner. The Commissioner's Statements of account included a similar statement which covered both the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) as well as the group position of the Commissioner and Chief Constable.

Along with the responsibility for the direction and control of the Force, the Chief Constable was also responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Force and ensuring that the arrangements complied with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Governance Framework. In doing so the Chief



Constable would be ensuring a sound system of internal control was maintained throughout the year, and that appropriate arrangements were in place for the management of risk.

The Commissioner and Chief Constable had adopted corporate governance principles which were consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE 'Good Governance: Framework'.

The principles of good governance where the Chief Constable has responsibility were:

1. Focusing upon the purpose of the Force, on outcomes for the community, and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.
2. Ensuring that the Force and partners work together to achieve a common purpose within clearly defined functions and roles.
3. Promoting values for the Force and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.
4. Taking informed and transparent decisions, which are subject to effective scrutiny and risk management.
5. Developing the capacity and capability of all to be effective in their roles.

The Force worked closely with all six local authorities in the Northumbria area and understood the policing needs in each area from city centres to rural communities. Northumbria Police worked with a range of partners and were represented on partnerships that focused on policing and crime, including Community Safety Partnerships. The Force was also a member of local children's and adult safeguarding boards that worked to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and adults in the Force area. The Commissioner had developed a Violence Reduction Unit which took a public health approach to tackling serious violence working with a range of partners.

The CC, DCC, and Joint CFO agreed to sign the Chief Constable's Annual Governance Statement.

3. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

4. Date and Time of Next Meeting

A special Joint Business Meeting would be held on Monday 6 July, 2pm-4pm at Middle Engine Lane and the next scheduled full meeting would be held on Thursday 13 August, 2pm-4pm, at Victory House.