



## NORTHUMBRIA OPCC MINUTES

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**Title**

Joint Business Meeting

**Date**

11 June 2026

**Location**

Victory House

**Duration**

2pm–4pm

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**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  
Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)  
Gail Thompson – Joint Chief Finance Officer (CFO)  
Joscelin Lawson – Assistant Chief Officer Corporate Services  
Kyle Brewis – Sergeant Staff Officer  
Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

**Apologies:**

Alastair Simpson – ACC Crime and Safeguarding

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**OPEN SESSION****1. Minutes of the Open Session of the Business Meeting held on 18 May 2026**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**3. National Issues Impacting on Policing****Chief Constable's and Police and Crime Commissioner's Strategic Update**

The Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner discussed the national Police Reform. Concerns were raised regarding the financial aspects of the plan, with particular emphasis on the requirement from the HM Treasury for a clear business case demonstrating value for money and long-term savings before additional funding would be considered. Reference was also made to the potential significance of a National Police Service Commissioner role and the need to preserve operational independence within any revised structure.



It was noted that an annual allocation of £2.494m had been confirmed in relation to the Prevention Programme, together with confirmation of a further two years of funding through to March 2029, albeit with an indication that future reductions were likely and that further clarity was expected in September.

Due to safety concerns relating to the A1, a meeting would be convened with relevant stakeholders to discuss long term plans moving forward. Short-term solutions included improved signage and cutting back obstructions, i.e. trees, bushes etc.

Community reassurance activity with specific communities had been highlighted, alongside recognition of emerging national tensions.

#### **4. Provisional Year End Capital Outturn 2025/26**

The Joint Chief Finance Officer presented the provisional capital outturn position of £17.875m including funded schemes, and a decrease in spend of £9.414m against the Q3 revised capital programme of £27.289m.

It was indicated that this reflected slippage into 2026/27, including property-related expenditure and smaller movements across digital policing, vehicles and equipment, including Taser refresh and ANPR.

Treasury management prudential indicators had also been highlighted and it was noted that these remained within the required limits.

The report had been noted and a final version would be presented at a special Joint Business Meeting on 6 July.

#### **5. Provisional Year End Revenue Outturn 2025/26**

The Joint Chief Finance Officer presented the provisional revenue outturn position.

The provisional revenue outturn position had an underspend of £4.438m, which reflected an increase in underspend of £2.230m since the position reported at the end of Quarter 3.

The Chief Constable's position reported at Quarter 3 was a forecast underspend of £1.207m. The provisional outturn position had an underspend of £2.258m reflecting a further underspend of £1.051m.

OPCC salary costs were underspent at year end by £0.086m. This was largely due to vacancies throughout the year, and time taken to recruit, partly offset by £0.035m funding of staffing costs to ensure full utilisation of external funding grants.

The main points from the report had been highlighted including a table detailing the movement of Reserves for 2025-2026.



The report had been noted and a final version would be presented at a special Joint Business Meeting on 6 July.

## **6. Sustainability Strategy**

The ACO for Corporate Services provided an update on the delivery of the Sustainability Strategy and reported steady, measurable progress. It was noted that the net zero target had been reset to 2040 to provide a more realistic and proportionate trajectory. The strongest progress was said to have been made through the estates programme, with growing reductions in emissions linked to refurbishment activity and estate rationalisation.

Further progress was reported in relation to fleet transition, with 53 charging locations currently in place, although it was noted that substantially more infrastructure would ultimately be required and that national funding constraints remained a limiting factor.

It was advised that waste and recycling remained a more challenging area, and the next stage of the strategy would need to focus more strongly on organisational behaviours and culture change, but that this would require additional capacity and support.

Staff travel had been discussed including parking pressures, opportunities for car sharing, and public transport use.

## **7. Forward Plan**

It was noted that items listed in the forward plan would be reviewed to ensure appropriate separation between open and closed items.

## **8. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

## **9. 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.