

Meeting between PCC & CC 12th July 2013

Present: PCC, CC, DPCC, DCC, ACO, Head of HR, PCC CEO, PCC Treasurer.

- 1 ACO McCardle on behalf of the CC presented a paper to the PCC entitled; Street to Strategic, Intelligence Led and Mobilised Policing.

He outlined the Northumbria Police desire to have a more mobilised work-force where officers and staff can interact with information when they need it and in the place where they need it. Together with redesigned processes this would improve the Force's intelligence led policing capability, better inform operational tasking and briefing to achieve positive outcomes that make communities safer.

Presently officers rely upon support from colleagues in the Communications centres to access information whilst they are out in communities, they also have to return to police buildings to access and update information.

Making information available to officers when and where they need it using mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets will enable officers to be more productive and more visible in their communities, thus improving the quality of service provided to those communities, reduce crime and reduce costs.

Northumbria Police have carried out a project to ascertain the potential interconnectivity with mobile devices, of their current IT technology, which is ageing and because of many upgrades, disjointed and old fashioned. Happily the system can be adapted to this purpose with a further upgrade, but without the need for wholesale replacement or renewal. The PCC was delighted that this detailed work had borne fruit, in the interests of economy with efficiency.

Up to this point Northumbria Police have dealt with this issue as an internal project, they believed it was now time to involve the wider Senior Leaders group and seek procurement options to upgrade, not replace the current technology. The benefits include reduced technology revenue maintenance costs and more productive and visible work-force as outlined. The costs are initial capital provision of @ £2 million.

The CC sought approval from the PCC to progress the proposal from project to procurement options in order to provide a full capital investment proposal report for consideration by the PCC.

The PCC discussed current national procurement options being considered by the Home Office and other Forces together with future requirements for the Exchequer and Payroll functions of Northumbria Police linking HR and payroll. The CC agreed that these issues would be factored into procurement options and considerations.

The PCC gave support for the CC to progress as requested.

- 2 THE CC provided an update on the current officer establishment and succession planning. Police officer numbers in Northumbria have reduced year on year, through funding cuts. Currently there is a greater turnover of officers than predicted, approximately 200 officers per year are leaving through retirement or resignations.

Northumbria Police have exhausted their internal recruiting pool and after the last recruit intake in September 2013 will have no recruits to draw upon. From recruiting to street takes 6 months, any new recruiting would therefore have a 6 month lead in time from the date of recruiting.

The PCC outlined the Affordability issue given the Government's July announcement that the police funding settlement for 2014/15 will equate to a further 5.75% reduction. Although individual Forces have not received their specific information, as Northumbria relies heavily on central government funding, we will be significantly affected. Funding from the government provides 83% of the budget. Whereas 10% only, comes from the precept.

Following a lengthy discussion the PCC and CC agreed jointly to explore broader options around how any potential recruiting could be undertaken against the backdrop of a significantly reduced policing budget from years 15/16 onwards and will meet again on this topic in September.

- 3 The PCC updated the CC on discussions with the District Valuer and Northumberland Council on the situation around the Ponteland Police HQ Site.

The DPCC also updated the CC on early discussions with the Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service on shared use of buildings in Northumberland.

- 4 The DCC updated the PCC on a referral by Northumbria Police to the Independent Police Complaints Commission following police involvement in a case of Death or Serious Injury. The PCC agreed with the referral.

- 5 The DCC updated the PCC on the current request from the Police Service of Northern Ireland request for mutual aid. A total of 35 officers had been requested and approved.

The CC expressed concern that this national issue required further discussion, however, would not prevent her sending support to a UK Force when required. The PCC agreed with her decision.