

Meeting between PCC + CC 5th August 2013

PCC, CC, DPCC, ACC Farrell, CEO OPCC

- 1 The PCC updated the CC on a recent visit to South Tyneside where she had met with the MP Emma Lewell-Buck, the Leader of South Tyneside Council and local residents. The PCC made comment that all parties were complimentary about Northumbria Police involvement on their estate, however; passed on residents remarks that there appears at times to be a lack of communication between South Tyneside Council, South Tyneside Homes and Northumbria Police over anti-social behaviour incidents and tenancy matters. The PCC agreed to write to parties outlining the issues and the CC gave commitment that she would ensure Northumbria Police involvement.
- 2 The PCC discussed with the CC her desire to have the Northumbria Police Corporate Communications Department work more closely with her office. This would avoid duplication, save costs and lead to a greater understanding by the public of the role of the PCC as distinct from that of Northumbria Police. Both the PCC and CC agreed that it would not be cost effective to have two separate departments undertaking the same function. Whilst at times there may be a difference of opinion and message, this should not prevent closer joined up working in delivering public messages. The CC outlined that there had been a recent review of the Corporate Communications Department looking at staffing and costs and that a further review of joint working, especially as the public consultation survey work fell within the remit of the PCC, would be beneficial. The PCC and CC agreed to second staff from Corporate Communications Department to the Office of the PCC in the short term to facilitate joint working.
- 3 The CEO updated the CC on correspondence received from the National Audit Office (NAO) on their intention to look at the new police accountability arrangements for England and Wales following the introduction of PCCs. Northumbria would be one of the ten Forces involved in this scrutiny with a report being prepared for Parliament. The NAO sought co-operation from both the PCC and CC in their visits to discuss how the accountability system is working in practice. Both the PCC and CC agreed that they would co-operate fully with the NAO visits and pilot.
- 4 The PCC updated the CC that she had supported a petition on the Downing Street website calling for change to the legislation to allow local police, courts and prosecutors to keep more of the money seized from criminals. The PCC has asked for consideration for the police to receive more than 50% to assist in supporting falling police budgets as opposed to the current position where the monies go to central Government. The CC agreed to support the proposal and look internally at what resources are currently utilised by Northumbria police when balanced against revenue received.

- 5 The PCC updated the CC on a letter received from the Home Secretary to Bob Jones PCC on Stage 2 Transfers. The letter provided current Home Office thinking on what would be acceptable to the Home Secretary on the division of staff and resources between the PCC and CC following Stage 2 Transfer of staff.

The PCC and CC discussed the definition of 'operational staff' and what any split of resources and future Governance would look like. The CC agreed to draw up a draft Service Level Agreement between the CC and PCC on Governance of resources.

- 6 The PCC updated the CC on the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on the 23rd July and confirmed the appointment of her Chief Executive as Elaine Snaith and Joint Treasurer as Mike Tait.

- 7 ACC Farrell provided the PCC with an operational update;

An Extra Ordinary Safety Advisory Group meeting had been called with Sunderland Football Club and Sunderland Council by Northumbria Police to voice police concerns over the intention to hold the Sunderland v Newcastle derby match at 4pm on 27 October 2013.

ACC Farrell had voiced concerns at the meeting on behalf of the CC about the public safety implications of holding a derby match so late in the day and the likelihood of significant alcohol consumption beforehand. The Chair of the Group agreed to write to the Premier League outlining police/public safety concerns. The PCC agreed with police concerns over public safety and stated her intention to write also to the Premier League.

ACC Farrell updated the PCC on a serious sexual assault in Sunderland.

ACC Farrell updated the PCC on the Northumbria Police deployment to Northern Ireland and the CC updated the PCC on current discussions between all Chief Constables and the Chief Constable of Northern Ireland future use of mainland police resources.

An update was also provided in relation to an arrest of a male from South Tyneside following a case of national interest of Twitter 'trolling'.

- 5 The PCC updated the CC that she had met with the new head of Northumbria Police Professional Standards Department which had been positive. The PCC requested that the CC provide her with an action plan on how the department would move forward. The CC stated that this was being undertaken and agreed to provide this information, she noted the PCCs continuing interest in the handling of police complaints.