

NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

BUSINESS MEETING

Date	Location	Duration
Scheduled 24 th March 2020 (Held 31 st March 2020)	Virtual Meeting	14:00 – 14:45

Present:

Kim McGuinness	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (<i>Chair</i>)
Ruth Durham	Chief of Staff, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
Adrian Pearson	Director of Planning and Delivery, OPCC
Rachel Snaith	Director of Commissioning and Policy, OPCC

Due to Covid-19, OPCC representatives attended a virtual meeting. Deputy Chief Constable Debbie Ford was available to respond in the event of query.

Apologies:

N/A

OPEN SESSION

1. MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF JOINT BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON 20th FEBRUARY 2020

Agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

3. VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

OPCC and Northumbria Police are currently working on the combined VRU and Police Surge Bid for the Home Office which is due to be submitted on 3rd April. The Home Office have asked for a combined bid to ensure that both elements complement each other and that activity is aligned to the wider response strategy.

The Head of the VRU is taking part in a teleconference with the Home Office March where he will find out more about plans for year 2 implementation in light of the current issues, and will be able to seek clarification on support and options available for interventions that have been affected by the current pandemic.

The Response Strategy and Problem Profile are on course to be completed and sent to the Home Office by the 31st March deadline.

4. TRANSFORMATION 2025

This item was deferred.

5. CIVIL CLAIMS PROCESS

This report outlines the decision making authority for Civil Claims in line with the Governance Framework and outlines the governance framework around the sign off of Civil Claims. The report provides the process within Northumbria Police including consideration by the Confidence and Standards Board to consider risk management issues, lessons learnt or other issues that may affect operational matters for Northumbria Police. In respect of the PCC specifically it is agreed that:

- In line with the Conditions set out in the Governance Framework exceptional claims as detailed in the report and those over £50,000 in value will be determined in consultation with the PCC on a case by case basis.
- A six-monthly update regarding the handling of civil claims brought against the Force will be provided to the PCC.

AGREED: The Commissioner approved the decision making authority in respect of Civil Claims and all the recommendations included in the report.

6. UPDATE FROM THE FEBRUARY JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE (JIAC) AND PROGRESS AGAINST THE INTERNAL AUDIT WORK PLAN

The Chief Finance Officer reported on the recent JIAC meeting and confirmed that the committee had considered and acknowledged the following:

- Identification in 'External Audit Strategy Memorandum' by Mazars, External Auditor of the additional risk for the Chief Constable in relation to Value For Money (VFM). The risk being as a result of the most recent HMICFRS report and the potential for the wrong VFM conclusion being provided.
- As part of the discussions re the process to review the Annual Governance Arrangements and Assurance Framework, the committee acknowledged and welcomed additional thematic areas - Wellbeing, Information Systems, Information Management and Business Planning.
- Risk Management, the committee was informed that an overarching review of the Strategic Risk Register is due to be completed in Summer 2020.

In addition the report confirmed that the JIAC conducted their normal thorough review of Internal Audit activity and was satisfied with the findings as reported by Internal Audit and also with the responses and agreed action to be taken as provided by Management. The JIAC concluded that there were no issues that needed to be brought to the attention of Joint Business Meeting.

AGREED: That the report was noted and the Commissioner welcomed the feedback from the JIAC.

7. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2023/24

This report presents the Capital Strategy for 2020/21 to 2023/24. The Capital Strategy fulfils the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requirement for PCC's to have in place a Capital Strategy. The Strategy supports the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the Northumbria Police Strategy 2025.

The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the strategy fully aligns with the budget for 2020/21 and Precept Report, as well as the Medium Term Financial Strategy. An additional point to note at the time of the meeting was that as a result of Covid-19 and current restrictions, there is an expectation that the capital programme will slip in 2020/21.

AGREED: The Commissioner agreed to adopt the Capital Strategy 2020/21 to 2023/24.

8. HMICFRS - EVIDENCE LED DOMESTIC ABUSE PROSECUTIONS

The report provides a summary overview from Northumbria Police in respect of the recommendations made by HMICFRS specifically for police forces to action outlining the action they currently take or where development plans are in place to respond to the recommendations on training, ensuring it is DA focused and up to date, sharing of good practice with CPS, ensuring quality standards for evidence led prosecutions and Domestic Abuse (DA) Champions within the workforce. These recommendations and delivery progress will be included in the six monthly DA scrutiny report.

AGREED: The Commissioner noted the report and will continue to receive Domestic Abuse Scrutiny reports on a six monthly basis.

9. HMICFRS - THE MULTI AGENCY RESPONSE TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

The report provides a summary of the findings from six joint targeted area inspections (JTAs) carried out between September 2018 and May 2019 by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) – none of the inspected areas were in Northumbria.

The findings are outlined in four categories Prevention, identification, protection and support. Northumbria Police report their response to the issues identified by the report.

AGREED: The Commissioner noted the report and welcomed the approach Northumbria Police were taking in response to this report.

10. FORWARD PLAN

AGREED: The Forward Plan was noted.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business to discuss.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

16th April 2020, 10:00 (*Venue/ format to be confirmed*)