

## NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

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**Title**

Business Meeting

**Date**

29 October 2020

**Location**

Middle Engine Lane/Skype

**Duration**

10am-12pm

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**Present:**

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner  
Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC  
Debbie Ford – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)  
Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery  
Mike Tait – Chief Finance Officer  
Jill Coleman – Governance and Planning Manager  
Vicki Wilson – OPCC - Minute Taker

**Apologies:**

Winton Keenan – Chief Constable

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### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **1. Minutes of the Open Session of the Business Meeting held on 15 September 2020**

The minutes were **agreed** as a true record.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Violence Reduction Unit**

The PCC gave a verbal update of the VRU. Planning for Year 3 was underway, and there had been positive responses regarding funding. The plan for Year 3 would involve more direct delivery and the VRU had linked in with NERSOU.

The effectiveness and impact of Year 2 was being analysed and would help shape Year 3.

Operation Payback had been launched with a targeted approach.

The PCC had met with external partners via virtual calls and these had proven to be extremely positive.

The PCC planned to scrutinise the funding given to Local Authorities specifically for ASB.

#### **4. Op Talla (Covid 19) Response and Recovery**

The Chief of Staff gave a verbal update of outcomes from the LCJB Recovery Group as follows:



- Staffing levels remained buoyant
- Social distancing within Court Staff had encountered issues
- Four jury trials currently running. Hope to have six by the end of the year
- There were ongoing discussions about a four week pilot of a Domestic Abuse Court in South Tyneside
- Rob Bosson was carrying out work with the Youth Courts
- Hoping to find more space to use for Remote Evidence Suites

The DCC gave a verbal update:

Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued to students and payment for a number of these was yet to be received. It had transpired that the Universities had also been issuing their own fines which may have caused confusion with students who believe they had already paid. The DCC would investigate this further.

Regarding the Four E's approach, there had been a lot more usage of the Enforcement aspect since Easter.

There was potential of a National Lockdown and relevant plans were in place for this.

Following a query from the PCC regarding Force absence, the DCC advised there were currently between 6% and 9% of staff absent however this was low enough not to impact any of the services.

## **5. National Issues Impacting Policing**

The DCC gave a verbal update:

The Force had plans in place for a worst case scenario regarding the EU Exit. Plans were in place for potential civil unrest and public disorder. The DCC was working with Scott Hall on a frequent basis regarding EU Exit updates.

Locally, there had been a number of small scale protests including right wing activity regarding immigration. These had been dealt with accordingly.

## **6. National APCC Workforce Update**

The APCC had sent the PCC a list of questions for Force scrutiny regarding the EU Exit. The PCC agreed to send these directly to the DCC.

The Chief of Staff had sent a query to Paul Godden, from the APCC, regarding police cases awaiting charge. The DCC advised this would be difficult to gather due to the complex recording process.

A discussion took place regarding pay issues with staff, and staff moving up through the ranks. The PCC advised remuneration meetings were ongoing with the aim of a formal consultation in 2021.

Discussions were ongoing regarding Covid Death in Service. The aim of this was to ensure those in high risk roles had the relevant benefits. This was a complex issue.



## **7. Joint Strategic Risk Register**

There were no updates to reference from the previously circulated report, which had also been sent to JIAC.

## **8. Group Revenue Monitoring Position – as at 30 September 2020**

The Chief Finance Officer highlighted the main points from the previously circulated report, as follows:

The PCC had overall responsibility for Capital Finance costs with a budget of £10.747m. The net underspend on the Capital Financing Budget was estimated to be £0.719m and would be needed in future years to fund re-phased capital projects.

All core budgets of the PCC and CC were in balance however, there was a forecast over-spend of £1.177m primarily due to Covid. The PCC had set aside £1.000m in the General Reserve to manage the cost impact of Covid-19 should these costs not be fully met by the Government.

Covid related spends could change if the region moved into Tier 3, or if there was a national lockdown.

The PCC **approved** the Group Revenue Monitoring Key Decision.

## **9. Forward Plan – Open Session**

It was **agreed** to remove the Late Night Levy from the November Forward Plan as this would be discussed within the Closed Session of this meeting.

## **10. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

## **11. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place on 25 November 2020 at 9am via Skype and/or Middle Engine Lane.